



Edward Thomas Collection

## **CHEF MICHAEL REARDON NAMED CORPORATE CHEF OF THE EDWARD THOMAS COLLECTION**

**Santa Monica, Calif. (October 15, 2007)**– Entertaining a rich and impressive history with the Edward Thomas Collection (ETC) of hotels, Hotel Casa del Mar’s Executive Chef Michael Reardon, the top-toque at Catch Restaurant and Sushi Bar, has just been appointed Corporate Chef for their three properties - Shutters on the Beach and Hotel Casa del Mar in Santa Monica, and Hotel Andalucia in Santa Barbara. While Chef Reardon will still stand at the helm of the kitchen at Catch, he will now also assume responsibility for the culinary direction and tone of food and beverage operations at all ETC properties.

“Michael has consistently brought a level of professionalism and imagination to each of our restaurant kitchens,” says Vice President and Managing Director Klaus Mennekes. “His recent success at Catch, impressive background, and wealth of experience deem him an invaluable asset to these properties.”

Chef Reardon joined the luxurious beachfront hotel, Casa del Mar in February 2006, bringing his exquisite fare and gourmand talent to Catch Restaurant and Sushi Bar, Veranda, Lobby Lounge and banquet facilities. Since the opening of Catch in March 2006, Michael Reardon has steered the restaurant through a glowing review in *The Los Angeles Times*, as well as *Angeleno Magazine's* August 2007 "Los Angeles Restaurant Awards," which named Catch "Restaurant Design of the Year" and "Runner Up: Best New Restaurant."

In his last position, Reardon served as executive chef of Casa’s sister property, Hotel Andalucia in Santa Barbara, Calif. Andalucia’s restaurant and bar, 31 West, helped to lead the restaurant scene with fresh ingredients, simple preparations and complex flavors, all with a distinct California flare. Reardon conceptually developed the restaurant, bar and banquet facilities and hired and trained its full food and beverage staff, a feat he has successfully completed in other cities such as St. Helena, Calif. and Middletown, New York. Along the way, he continued to influence gastronomes with his menus based on select meats, seasonal produce and exceptional flavors, including his favorite ingredients of high-quality fish, vegetables, salt and olive oil.

Prior to joining Hotel Andalucia, Chef Reardon served as executive chef at Tra Vigne Ristorante, Cantinetta and Wine Bar in St. Helena, Calif., for three years. And from 1998 to 2001, he was owner and executive chef of Bistro Zella in New York State.

The chef with experience in everything from curing meats to creating crudo gained his earliest experience at such restaurants as Le Bernardin in New York and Bowden Square in Southampton, New York. The single, 32-year-old has permanently relocated to Los Angeles from Santa Barbara.

## **THE EDWARD THOMAS COLLECTION OF HOTELS**

### ***Owner and Operator of Hotel Casa Del Mar, Shutters on the Beach, and Hotel Andalucia***

The Edward Thomas Collection of Hotels was founded in 1982 by third-generation hotel and real estate investors Edward and Thomas Slatkin, whose family previously owned the legendary Beverly Hills Hotel. In 1994, Beverly Hills-based ETC opened exclusive Shutters on the Beach in Santa Monica. In 1999, after a \$50+ million renovation, ETC opened a hotel with a history as Santa Monica's "Grande Dame," Hotel Casa Del Mar. Both members of *The Leading Hotels of the World*, the adjacent, sister and luxury properties are the only hotels in the Los Angeles area located right on the sand. Additionally, ETC acquired Hotel Andalucia, the only full-service luxury hotel in downtown Santa Barbara, and has owned and operated it since it opened in December 2004. Hotel Andalucia is a member of *The Leading Small Hotels of The World*. ETC's management team includes Partners and Co-Founders Edward and Thomas Slatkin and President/Chief Operating Officer Timothy S. Dubois.

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### **PRESS INFORMATION**

Murphy O'Brien, Inc.  
Pieter Ruig 310-586-7140  
Leah Goldstein 310-586-7124

[pruig@murphyobrien.com](mailto:pruig@murphyobrien.com)  
[lgoldstein@murphyobrien.com](mailto:lgoldstein@murphyobrien.com)