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KIMPTON'S SIR FRANCIS DRAKE HOTEL & SCALA'S BISTRO OFFER GUESTS THE "FARM TO TABLE CULINARY PACKAGE" WITH EXECUTIVE CHEF & *TOP CHEF* ALUM JEN BIESTY

SAN FRANCISCO — Foodies traveling to the Bay Area will delight in the new *Farm To Table Culinary Package* being offered at the legendary Sir Francis Drake Hotel in Union Square. Scala's Executive Chef and *Top Chef* contestant Jen Biesty is providing guests with a rare and educational opportunity to shop together at San Francisco's bountiful farmers markets and enjoy a magnificent personalized meal in Scala's dining room prepared with the ingredients from the market by Jen herself.



Scala's Bistro, located adjacent to the hotel lobby, brought a fresh face to the helm of the kitchen in 2008, marrying the history of the renowned San Francisco restaurant with Executive Chef Jen Biesty's ingredient-driven sensibility. At Scala's Bistro, Biesty showcases her philosophy in modern Italian

dishes that integrate a rustic approach with her use and preparation of local ingredients. "Each dish is reminiscent of traditional Italy," says Biesty, "but is modernized by incorporating the freshest ingredients in an adventurous and sophisticated way. The Bay Area offers some of the most wonderful and abundant locally-sourced ingredients in the world, which we take great pride in using in all of our dishes at Scala's."

The Farm to Table Culinary Package includes: two nights in an executive room at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel; two cocktails in Bar Drake (prepared with local fruits and herbs) purchased at the farmer's market); a trip (and transportation) to the Ferry Building Farmer's Market to explore with Scala's Executive Chef Jen Biesty, personalized four-course wine dinner for two in Scala's cooked by Jen Biesty; personalized menu, framed and autographed to commemorate the day; and a signed copy of the *Top Chef: Quick Fire* cook book. A two-night stay starting on Friday is required to book this package as guests must be present at the hotel on Saturday morning (when the farmer's market is open).

Guests at the Sir Francis Drake are greeted by the property's celebrated doormen in their customary Beefeater uniforms, which are one of the most photographed spectacles in San Francisco. Upon entering the magnificent hotel lobby, they will delight in the sophisticated and sleek new bar—Bar Drake, reminiscent of a speakeasy evoking the ambiance of another era. The Bar Drake bartenders, under the tutelage of acclaimed mixologist Jacques Bezuindenhout, are on-hand providing expertly mixed cocktails and bringing the craft of the cocktail to life. Guests are offered a variety of interactive options, from whisky blendings to the weekend Make Your Own Bloody Mary Bar. The mood at the bar shifts throughout the day, ranging from calming in the mornings, to a more upbeat and urban chic vibe in the evenings.

Nestled in the elegant and historic Sir Francis Drake Hotel just steps from Union Square, Scala's Bistro offers delicious dishes inspired by the Italian and French countryside. "Top Chef" season four alum Jen Biesty serves as executive chef, showcasing her technique and talent in modern Italian dishes that integrate a rustic approach with the use and preparation of local, market-fresh ingredients. Since 1995, Scala's Bistro has impressed locals and visitors alike with its timeless atmosphere and menu of classic, approachable fare, including fresh seafood, meat, salads, pizza, and hearty, housemade pasta. At Scala's, guests are enveloped in warm earth tones, surrounded by original murals, gilt mirrors, beaded bistro lamps, and rich, mahogany booths that evoke a cozy, Old World café feel. Scala's serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, as well as bar bites and weekend brunch.

This package is only offered on Friday and Saturday night stays and must be booked in advance by calling Anna DiMaggio at (415) 395-8500. The package starts at \$1500.

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Note to Editor: High resolutions images are available upon request.

ABOUT SIR FRANCIS DRAKE HOTEL

For information and reservations visit www.sirfrancisdrake.com or call (415) 392-7755 locally or (800) 227-5480 in the U.S. The **Sir Francis Drake Hotel** is located at 450 Powell Street, San Francisco, California 94102.

ABOUT KIMPTON

San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, a collection of boutique hotels and chef-driven restaurants in the US, is an acknowledged industry pioneer and was the first to bring the boutique hotel concept to America. Founded in 1981 by Bill Kimpton, the company is well-known for making travelers feel welcomed and comfortable while away from home through intuitive and unscripted customer care, stylish ambience and having a certain playfulness in its approach to programs and amenities. Each hotel provides a range of exciting culinary experiences through locally-loved, top-rated, destination, chef-driven restaurants. Kimpton leads the hospitality industry in ecological practices through its innovative EarthCare program that spans all hotels and restaurants. Market Metrix, a recognized authority and leader in feedback solutions, consistently ranks Kimpton above other hotel companies in luxury and upper upscale segments for customer satisfaction. Privately held Kimpton operates 50 hotels and 54 restaurants in 16 states. For more information visit www.KimptonHotels.com or call 1-800-KIMPTON.