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KIMPTON'S LEGENDARY SIR FRANCIS DRAKE HOTEL & SCALA'S BISTRO OFFER GUESTS THE CHANCE TO COOK ALONGSIDE EXECUTIVE CHEF JENNIFER BIESTY— RENOWNED FOR HER RECENT PARTICIPATION ON BRAVO TV'S *TOP CHEF*

SAN FRANCISCO — Foodies traveling to the Bay Area will delight in the new *Top Chef Culinary Package* being offered at the legendary Sir Francis Drake Hotel in Union Square. Scala's Executive Chef and *Top Chef* contestant Jennifer Biesty is providing guests with a rare and educational opportunity to shop together at San Francisco's bountiful farmers markets and cook a magnificent meal together, side by side, that will be served either in Scala's dining room or the hotel's Presidential Suite.

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 Jennifer 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 Top Chef Culinary Package includes: deluxe accommodations at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel; a trip to the Ferry Building Farmer's Market and cooking "class" with Jen Biesty, dinner for four in Scala's; photos to commemorate the day and after-dinner drinks at Bar Drake. The property is also offering The "Over the Top" Chef Package which includes the trip to the farmer's market with Chef Jen; accommodations in the Presidential Penthouse Suite; a cooking class taught by Jen; dinner for eight in the Presidential Suite and dessert and champagne in Harry Denton's Starlight Room. **These packages are only offered on Fridays and Saturdays, are subject to**

availability, and must be booked in advance by calling 415-395-8500 or by emailing anna.dimaggio@sirfrancisdrake.com.

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 Jennifer 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.

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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. Privately held Kimpton has consistently earned high customer satisfaction scores by the Market Metrix Hospitality Index, exceeding other hotel companies including those in luxury and upscale segments. Among the company's newest properties are the LEED certified Hotel Palomar and LEED certified Square 1682 restaurant by Chef Guillermo Tellez in Philadelphia, PA, which opened in September 2009. Currently, projects are underway in New York City and Chicago. For more information, please visit www.KimptonHotels.com or call 1-800-KIMPTON.