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Valentino VinBar Grills Houston Hunger with Gourmet Southern Italian Cuisine

Award-winning restaurant joins forces with the Houston Food Bank during Restaurant Week 2010

(HOUSTON – July 27, 2010) – To combat the ever-present reality of hunger in our community, award-winning Valentino VinBar, at the Hotel Derek, is joining forces with the Houston Food Bank during Restaurant Week 2010. From August 1 through 21, Valentino VinBar will donate \$5 for each specialty, three-course, \$35 gourmet dinner ordered by patrons in its chic, modern Galleria-area venue. Also new to this year’s Restaurant Week, the Southern Italian eatery will donate \$2 for each two-course, \$20 lunch served throughout the fundraising event.

“I always enjoy catering to the exquisite tastes of my diners, but knowing my work also will comfort hungry families in our community is a great bonus,” said Cunningham West, executive chef of Valentino VinBar. “Because so many of our fellow Houstonians struggle daily to put food on the table, I encourage food lovers to indulge both their taste buds and their hearts by participating in Restaurant Week 2010.”

Lunch or dinner patrons may choose one dish from delectable, pre-selected courses, including succulent lobster mezzelune with vodka pink sauce and slow-smoked Texas quail, griddled crab and potato cakes and seared salmon fillet. For a full listing of the featured menu selections please visit the Valentino Vin Bar website at: <http://www.valentinorestaurantgroup.com/valentinohouston>.

According to the Houston Food Bank, 60 percent of its clients are forced each month to choose between paying their utility bills and feeding their families. Similarly, 43 percent of its clients must choose to either visit the doctor and fill their prescriptions or fill their families’ stomachs.

Hunger definitely has a face. Nearly half of these Houston faces are children and more than 90 percent of them are not homeless. They are loving families struggling to make ends meet in a challenging economy. With the help of dozens of participating restaurants and charitable Houstonians, the collaborative teams of Restaurant Week 2010 are fighting hunger – one delicious meal at a time.

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About Valentino

The award-winning Valentino Vin Bar, at Houston’s Hotel Derek near the Galleria, is a tour de force of Italian cuisine – a distinctive treat for the taste buds and soul, alike. Owned by Piero Selvaggio, widely considered one of the modern fathers of Italian cuisine in America, and re-known James Beard award-winning chef, Luciano Pellegrini, this outpost of the flagship restaurant boasts a chic atmosphere, excellent wine list, outstanding Sicilian and Tuscan menu selections and incomparable service. The Vin Bar concept, specially designed to create a social environment complimentary to Valentino, provides the legacy of Italian culture with a hip, modern ambiance. Also offering free Wi-Fi and valet parking for guests, Valentino Vin Bar makes for an integral addition to Houston’s vibrant night life and collection of world-class cuisine.