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Julie & Julia & Jamie

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2009 (Ojai, CA)— Ojai Valley Inn & Spa’s Executive Chef Jamie West reminisces about his experiences cooking for Julia Child, portrayed by Meryl Streep in the current Hollywood blockbuster “Julie & Julia” from Sony Pictures.

“Julia told me that butter is good for your hair and good for your skin,” said Chef West, “and her recipes and requests were never short of this ingredient!”

Chef West continues, “A few years before her death, I drove her to a Masters of Food and Wine Event in Carmel. She talked and I did all the work! On the way to Carmel, we stopped and ate at the In-N-Out Burger in Santa Maria. A young woman at the counter quietly inquired if this really was Julia Child. It was great to see how people of all ages knew and respected her.”

Julia Child frequently dined in Chef West’s restaurants. She was also a surprise guest on Chef West’s weekly cooking show on ABC-TV in Santa Barbara. Chef West often ate lunch at her apartment that as expected, even had her famous shadow board for utensils on the wall.

“One night Julia was having dinner in our casual restaurant, and Chad Smith of the Red Hot Chili Peppers was having dinner at the same time in our formal restaurant.” Chef West remembers, “I would go back and forth between Julia having Steamed Mussels and Chad having Lobster Roll that was made especially for him.”

Chef West’s best advice from Julia Child, “Lamb and Pinot Noir. These were her favorites.”

The Oak Grill, as well as all the dining outlets at the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa under Chef West’s direction, continues to capture the essence and spirit of the iconic Julia Child.

About Ojai Valley Inn & Spa

Since 1923, vacationing guests have sought the tranquil pleasures of the historic Ojai Valley Inn & Spa, an AAA Five Diamond property located on 220 tree-shaded acres offering an incredible golf course ranked as one of the finest in North America. Located 35 minutes south of Santa Barbara, Ojai Valley Inn & Spa is approximately 90 minutes north of LAX. Affirmed by its many prestigious awards, this legendary Inn is one of North America’s unique hidden treasures. For reservations, contact 1-800-422-6524 or visit www.ojairesort.com.

Note to editors: Images and press visits are available upon request.