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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LON'S NAMES CHEF RUSCONI**

**PARADISE VALLEY** - Lon's at the Hermosa has named Michael Rusconi new Executive Chef.

Rusconi comes to The Hermosa Inn from the Royal Palms Resort where he was Executive Sous Chef.

Chef Rusconi was born in Fresno (CA), and grew up in Chicago. His culinary degree is from the New England Culinary Institute, Montpelier, Vermont.

He moved to Phoenix in 1986, and has since worked with several award-winning chefs in the Valley, including Vincent Guerithault of Vincent's on Camelback, and Alex Stratta and James Boyce of The Phoenician Resort. Rusconi was Chef Tournant at The Phoenician's Mary Elaine's, a Mobil Five-Star and AAA Five-Diamond restaurant. While he was there, Mary Elaine's received the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence.

He joined the Royal Palms in early 2001 under Executive Chef Derek Morgan.

"We are very excited to have a chef of Michael's caliber join our staff," said Hermosa Inn general manager Michael P. Gildersleeve. "He brings a high level of culinary expertise along with superior management skills.

"Chef Divina did an excellent job for us, and we wish him well in his new endeavors. He made valuable culinary contributions to Lon's, which will serve as a tribute to the history of our property."

"I am thrilled to join Lon's at the Hermosa," said Chef Rusconi. "It's an unbelievable opportunity. I have always been impressed by the ambience and rustic edge of Lon's. The dining public enjoys a warm, embracing atmosphere there, almost like you're in your grandfather's house.

"The quality of the food that has been established at Lon's is the highest, and I'm looking forward to continuing that tradition."

The Hermosa Inn is a boutique hotel centrally located between Phoenix and Scottsdale in the exclusive residential neighborhood of Paradise Valley. Built by artist Lon Megargee in the 1930s, the authentic Southwestern hacienda features 35 suites and casitas.

Desert gardens, juniper fireplaces, adobe courtyards and patios dot the property. Flower-lined stone walkways guide guests to Lon's at the Hermosa, the inn's award-winning restaurant, the underground stone Wine Cellar and private dining spaces.

Lon's wood-beamed ceilings and white plaster walls decorated with the artwork of Lon Megargee and vintage Navajo rugs provide a unique dining experience. The menu is a fresh, contemporary take on the variety of foods indigenous to the area. Much of the produce used is harvested from the on-property herb and vegetable gardens tended by the chef and staff.

Purchased and renovated by Paradise Valley residents Fred and Jennifer Unger in 1992, the Hermosa Inn has won numerous awards including the Top 50 Small Hotels and Top 25 Small Hotels for Dining, Zagat Survey 2003 & 2004.

The Hermosa Inn is a member of Historic Hotels of America.

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