

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vue on 30a Heats Up as Its Executive Chef Giovanni Filippone Returns to Season 17 of HELL'S KITCHEN Sept. 29 on FOX

Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. (September 19, 2017) – Giovanni Filippone (Gio), executive chef at Vue on 30a, one of South Walton's awarded Gulf front dining restaurants, will compete on Season 17 of HELL'S KITCHEN which premieres Friday, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. CST on FOX.

Celebrity Chef Gordon Ramsay invited 16 all-star contestants back for a second chance at proving they have what it takes. Chef Gio was among those invited back on the show after nearly 10 years since his last appearance on season five. The winner of Season 17 will earn a head chef position at Gordon Ramsay Hell's Kitchen Restaurant at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.

Working his way to top six in Season Five was extremely challenging but rewarding all at the same time. When the call came from Chef Ramsay earlier in the year to come back as an All-Star cast member, chef didn't hesitate. "This time around, I wanted to do this for my kids," Gio said. "My kids and my wife mean the world to me and this was an opportunity of a lifetime to show them that I still have what it takes."

Vue on 30a invites everyone to join in the celebration on Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. CST as the restaurant transforms into a multi-viewing setting to cheer on Chef Gio. The party will begin at 6 p.m. where guests are invited to order HELL'S KITCHEN inspired dishes and drinks. In addition, Chef Gio will share some of his experience working with Gordon Ramsey and what it is like to be on a nationally acclaimed reality show setting. Photographs and autographs will also be available upon request.

Reservations for Chef Gio's HELL'S KITCHEN premiere party on Sept. 29 are highly recommended by calling 850.267.2305. Join in the fun by using hashtag #TEAMGIO.

About Chef Giovanni Filippone

Giovanni Lucio Filippone was born in 1970 in Givet, France and when he was 10, immigrated to Bayonne, NJ where he grew up. The strongest memories of his youth were always about family meal time and cooking together. "We never ate fast food and rarely ate out," says Filippone. Filippone learned the essentials of cooking as a teenager. Later that culinary introduction led him to pursue formal training where he attended the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York and completed their chef program in 1997.

Chef Filippone is currently the Executive Chef for Vue on 30a located in Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. Before joining Vue on 30a, Chef Filippone's career began at the Sheraton and Wyndam hotels where he served under experienced chefs and was able to fine-tune his skills and gain an understanding of his own abilities leading to his quick promotion to sous-chef. "When working in the hotels, I was surrounded by great talent each day which pushed me to work hard and do my absolute best," says Filippone. "The hotel industry helped me gain a great deal of experience and was hard work, but helped me confirm cooking was always what I knew I wanted to do."

After his five years in the hotel industry, Chef Filippone took an opportunity for an internship at Beach

Walk in Destin, Fla., and moved to the Emerald Coast shortly after in 2012.

Chef has incorporated all of his experiences into a refreshed menu which blends his twist of 'American northern cuisine-meets American southern cuisine-meets southern Italy,' with the fresh ingredients available in the area. Dishes like Pistachio Grouper have become a favorite for guests as well as his Fruits de Mer. These menu items plus others have reinvented Vue on 30a as a notable place to dine on 30A and has gained it notoriety by Florida Travel + Life Magazine naming Vue on 30a as "Best Waterfront Dining."

About the Show

Season 17 of HELL'S KITCHEN will welcome the newest batch of determined chefs who will brave Chef Gordon Ramsay and his fiery command of the kitchen as he puts them through an intense culinary academy. Throughout the season, the competitors will face a series of Ramsay's grueling challenges to prove they possess the right combination of ingredients to win a life-changing grand prize. The chefs will leave the pleasantries at the door as the pressure to impress Chef Ramsay will reach a boiling point. Before Chef Ramsay determines which individual chefs are worthy of a black jacket, the contestants must prove their ability to work in teams. The rewards for winners of upcoming challenges will be lavish and memorable, while the punishments will be hellish. Over the course of the competition, the number of contestants will be whittled down until only two chefs are left to compete head-to-head for the ultimate prize and fulfill their dreams of working in the culinary industry as the winner of HELL'S KITCHEN.

HELL'S KITCHEN is produced by ITV Entertainment in association with A. Smith & Co. Productions, Inc. Arthur Smith, Kent Weed, Gordon Ramsay, Kenny Rosen and David Eilenberg serve as executive producers. "Like" HELL'S KITCHEN on Facebook. Follow the series on Twitter @HellsKitchenFOX and join the discussion using #HellsKitchen.

About Vue on 30a

Vue on 30a, Santa Rosa Golf & Beach Club's signature restaurant located directly on the Gulf of Mexico, showcases one of the best views for dining in all of South Walton. The restaurant is open to the public and serves lunch, dinner and happy hour throughout the week as well as Sunday brunch. Voted "Best Waterfront Dining" by Florida Travel + Life Magazine and "Best Place to Watch a Sunset" by Destin Magazine, Vue on 30a offers the ultimate dining experience. The restaurant also features Celebrity Chef Giovanni Filippone who is known for his role in the culinary reality show, *Hell's Kitchen Season Five and Season 17*. For more information on Vue on 30a visit www.vueon30a.com. Like Vue on 30a on Facebook and follow them on Instagram and Twitter.

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