Hilton
SANDESTIN BEACH
GOLF RESORT & SPA

Media contact:
Zapwater Communications
hiltonsandestin@zapwater.com

HILTON SANDESTIN BEACH EXECUTIVE CHEF RETURNS TO CHICAGO GOURMET

Fleetwood Covington to participate in the Grand Cru event and collaborate with Chef Art Smith on a Florida-inspired culinary demonstration

SOUTH WALTON, Florida – September 22, 2026 – Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa, a premier destination resort along Northwest Florida's Emerald Coast, will showcase the flavors of the region at Chicago Gourmet this September as Executive Chef Fleetwood Covington of the resort's AAA Four-Diamond steakhouse, Seagar's Prime Steaks & Seafood, returns to the festival for the third consecutive year. Covington will independently participate in the festival's Grand Cru events before joining fellow Florida culinarian Chef Art Smith for a collaborative Chef Demonstration at Millennium Park.

"Chicago has such a deep appreciation for food, and it's exciting to return for a third year to showcase the flavors of Florida's Gulf Coast while connecting with a key Midwest market that has a strong affinity for the Panhandle's beaches and coastal experiences," said Fleetwood Covington, Executive Chef of Seagar's Prime Steaks & Seafood at Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa. "I'm especially looking forward to collaborating with Chef Art and highlighting how our shared Florida roots have shaped our approach to Southern and fresh coastal cuisine."

As part of Chicago Gourmet's 2026 Chef Demo series, Covington and Smith will take the stage for the "Soul Food Shuffle" Chef Demonstration on Saturday, September 26, from 5–5:30 p.m. at Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. The chefs will prepare Southern-style shrimp and grits while discussing the region's culinary traditions, fresh seafood from the Gulf, and locally sourced ingredients that have influenced their professional paths. Smith, a native to Jasper, Florida, is recognized for his work celebrating Southern cuisine, while Covington draws inspiration from the coastal setting of Northwest Florida in his tenure at Seagar's.

Covington's continued participation in Chicago Gourmet highlights the connection between Chicago and South Walton through travel along with unique food and drink experiences. Since joining Seagar's in 2017 and rising to Executive Chef in 2022, Covington has established himself as a respected culinary expert, leading the area's only AAA Four-Diamond steakhouse and blending Northwest Florida flavors with global influences. Through seasonally driven menus, an innovative twist on classic favorites and his role as Honorary Chef for the local Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation in 2024, have further solidified his notable local and national presence. His involvement in the event further highlights South Walton's appeal to Midwest travelers and positions Hilton Sandestin as an ideal destination where exceptional culinary experiences, crystal-clear waters, powdery white-sand beaches and warm hospitality come together.

The collaboration between Covington and Smith will extend beyond Chicago Gourmet, with the chefs launching special collaborative menu items post event simultaneously at Reunion in Chicago and Seagar's Prime Steaks & Seafood at Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa.

Blending high-quality service with an exceptional menu and pairing offerings, Seagar's Prime Steaks & Seafood is Northwest Florida's longest-standing AAA Four-Diamond steakhouse. Located within Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa, Seagar's is known for its exceptional cuts of meat, fresh seafood and more than 600 wine labels. For more information on Seagar's Prime Steaks & Seafood or to make a reservation visit www.seagars.com or call 1-850-622-1500. For more information on Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa or to book your stay at the resort visit www.hiltonsandestinbeach.com or call 1-850-267-9500.

###

About Seagar's Prime Steaks & Seafood

Seagar's Prime Steaks & Seafood is Northwest Florida's longest standing AAA Four-Diamond Steakhouse and has been extolled by critics as one of the finest dining destinations in the region. Located in the beachfront Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa, Seagar's blends its commitment to excellence with attentive service and exceptional menu offerings for an unforgettable dining experience. Since the doors first opened in 1998, Seagar's has made service its number one priority. Best known for its exceptional cuts of meat, Seagar's proudly boasts 100 percent of its beef is graded prime, the highest designation of the eight grades given to beef and other meats by the U.S. government. To complete any meal, whether it is steak or seafood, the knowledgeable staff at Seagar's can also recommend a wine from the restaurant's more than 600-label collection to best accentuate the selected dish, causing a sensory experience like no other. For more information, or to make a reservation, call 850-622-1500, or visit Seagars.com.

About Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa

Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa, managed by Sandcastle Resorts & Hotels, is located on the sugar-white sands and emerald-green waters of Northwest Florida's Gulf Coast near Destin in South Walton, Fla. Northwest Florida's largest full-service beachfront resort hotel boasts 590 spacious accommodations, more than 62,500 square feet of award-winning meeting and event space, a world-class spa and state-of-the-art fitness center, six on-site seasonal dining venues – including the Emerald Coast's only AAA Four-Diamond steakhouse – abundant resort recreation options, access to championship golf courses, and close proximity to the area's best attractions. For more information on the premier hotel, visit HiltonSandestinBeach.com, or stay up to date with its latest news and promotions on its Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.