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**Le Meritage Offers a Fresh New Concept for New Orleans Diners**  
*Introducing Chef Michael Farrell and Wine-Inspired Cuisine*

**NEW ORLEANS, LA, February 23, 2009** – Morty Valldejuli, general manger of the Maison Dupuy Hotel, is proud to unveil Le Meritage, an exciting new dining concept whereby fresh seasonal cuisine is impeccably matched to the primary characteristics of wine.

All dishes on the menu are available in large and small plates and wines by the glass are offered in full and half pours, encouraging guests to savor different pairings at one sitting.

After a nationwide search, Michael Farrell, a veteran restaurateur with New Orleans roots, has been chosen as Executive Chef. Chef Farrell brings a wealth of culinary experience to the new endeavor. He served as Executive Chef in a number of acclaimed eateries throughout the nation including Alto in Denver, The Summer House on Nantucket Island, Anthem in Las Vegas and Beano's Cabin in Beaver Creek, Co. The style he brings to Le Meritage evolved over the course of his career beginning with his coastal Virginia upbringing. Chef Farrell will utilize the very finest meats, Louisiana Gulf seafood, game and classic local ingredients in the creation of dishes such as **Pan-Roasted Drum with Fava Bean Succotash & Fried Green Tomatoes** and Braised **Beef Short Rib with Parsnip Puree & Sorrel Gremolata**. The menu items have been created to compliment and pair with six specific wine categories - Light Whites, Full Body Reds, Sparklers, Full Body Whites, Fruity Reds and Spicy-Earthy Reds.

“At its essence, Le Meritage is a reflection of innovative techniques inspired by Louisiana culture, authentic flavors and vineyards across the globe,” Chef Farrell said.

Le Meritage located off the courtyard at the Maison Dupuy is an elegant, yet relaxed dining room offering a light-filled and airy environment. The restaurant will cater to the demands of today's discerning diners for fresh, inventive foods and refined wines served in a memorable way at reasonable prices.

“Diners' tastes and interests are changing and evolving,” said Morty Valldejuli, general manger of the Maison Dupuy “Le Meritage will deliver a fresh, modern experience with the excitement of food and wine one would expect in New Orleans - the ultimate food city.”

For more information please visit [www.lemeritage.com](http://www.lemeritage.com)

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**About The Maison Dupuy**

Located in the heart of the French Quarter, the **Maison Dupuy** is a boutique destination hotel with 200 well-appointed guest rooms, meeting and social catering facilities. Rooms have views of the French Quarter or the garden courtyard. Also featured is Le Meritage for upscale dining,

the French Quarter Bistro for casual dining, in room dining, an outdoor heated pool, fitness center, business center and on site valet parking. The Maison Dupuy Hotel is owned and operated by Pyramid Hotel Group. Visit [www.maisondupuy.com](http://www.maisondupuy.com)

#### **About The French Quarter Wine Festival**

The French Quarter Wine Festival founded in 2006 was created thru the collaborative efforts of the ownership group and executive chef and restaurateur Daniel Bruce. Daniel utilized his wine makers' contacts to create a new food & wine festival in the French Quarter as part of the rebirth of New Orleans post Katrina. In its 3<sup>rd</sup> year the French quarter, wine festival will feature 13 exciting wine events for 2009. Visit [www.frenchquarterfestival.com](http://www.frenchquarterfestival.com).

#### **About Le Meritage**

An exciting new wine-inspired dining concept, this unique approach features seasonal cuisine impeccably matched to the primary characteristics of wine. All dishes on the menu are available in large and small plates and wines by the glass are offered in full and half pours, encouraging guests to savor many different pairings. Chef Michael Farrell, with the assistance of Le Meritage co-founder and restaurateur Chef Daniel Bruce, will utilize the very freshest Louisiana Gulf seafood, game and classic local ingredients in the creation of his cuisine. Visit [www.lemeritage.com](http://www.lemeritage.com).

#### **About Pyramid Hotel Group**

**Pyramid Hotel Group LLC**, founded in 1999, is a Boston-based, full-service hotel company that owns, manages and asset manages hotels and manages hotel construction/renovation projects. Visit [www.pyramidhotelgroup.com](http://www.pyramidhotelgroup.com).