

FIRST ANNUAL ST. LUCIA FOOD & RUM FESTIVAL TO DEBUT OCTOBER 26-29

Contact:

Sara Geen / Ashley MontBlanc

Laura Davidson Public Relations

Tel: 212.696.0660

Email: sara@ldpr.com / ashley@ldpr.com

****Coco Palm Hotel Offers Special Festival Package****

Rodney Bay Village, St. Lucia (August 3, 2006) – The first ever St. Lucia Food & Rum Festival will be held this October 26-29, attracting food and rum aficionados and travelers seeking a one-of-a-kind authentic Caribbean experience. To celebrate, Coco Palm hotel is offering a special package that includes an all-access pass to the weekend's featured events including music concerts by Third World, Monty Alexander and Arrow.

"St. Lucia is thrilled to host the first gastronomic event of this kind in the Caribbean, which will showcase the islands' innovative cuisine and talented chefs," said Allen Chastanet, owner of Coco Resorts and president of the St. Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association. "Not only will local chefs be able to demonstrate their skills and introduce Caribbean fare, rums, and restaurants to a broad audience, but international chefs will also participate to highlight new cooking methods that utilize island ingredients."

The St. Lucia Food & Rum Festival will attract the best chefs, wine connoisseurs, rum fanatics, food critics and music fans from across the Caribbean and internationally. This fun-packed weekend will feature food demonstrations, rum and wine tastings, nights at top restaurants with visiting chefs, rum boat cruises to the Piton twin peaks and music concerts on the "Caribbean Boulevard" with live performances from Third World, Monty Alexander, and Arrow among others. Featured chefs include Andy Rose (chef/owner of La Floridita, UK), Jason Inniss (Barbados native and chef/owner of the acclaimed Amuse Bouche, Toronto), Kahlid Mohammed (chef/owner of Batty Mamzel, Trinidad), Bobo Bergström (native of Sweden and chef/owner of The Edge, St. Lucia), and Richardson Skinner (Trinidad native and executive chef of Ti Bananne at Coco Palm hotel, St. Lucia). Festival hosts will be cookbook author and TV personality Judy Bastyra, as well as culinary critic Rosemary Parkinson.

For complete information about the St. Lucia Food & Rum Festival, please visit www.foodandrumfestival.com.