

ALAIN DUCASSE AND JUMEIRAH ESSEX HOUSE ANNOUNCE RELOCATION PLANS

Restaurant Will Relocate in New York City

New York, NY (September 27, 2006) – In a joint statement from Groupe Alain Ducasse and the Jumeirah Essex House, it was announced today that the Alain Ducasse restaurant will relocate in early 2007.

“Alain Ducasse has been a valued and prestigious part of the Essex House in New York, and we wish him the very best with his future plans,” said Bruce Blum of Oxford Lodging Advisory & Investment Group, whom represents the owners of the Jumeirah Essex House. “Our decision to part is amicable, collaborative and cooperative. Our plans call for developing a new destination restaurant operation in early 2007. As such, the restaurant will be part of an integrated hotel food and beverage approach that can support hotel guests and local patrons for breakfast, lunch, cocktails and dinner, as well as meetings and room service.”

Commenting on the announcement, Alain Ducasse stated, “We wish Jumeirah the best of luck in all their endeavors and goals for the Essex House hotel, a truly special place in New York City. In the meantime, I remain committed as ever to continuing to contribute to the exciting New York culinary community of which we are so proud to be a part.”

Alain Ducasse at the Essex House will close on or before January 15, 2007.

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