

SOFITEL MINNEAPOLIS

For Immediate Release

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Sofitel Minneapolis Offers Bûche de Noël in Time for Holiday Season *Le Petit Marché Starting on December 1st for French “Yule Log Cake”*

Minneapolis, MN (October X, 2007) – Celebrate the holidays with French flair – come to Le Petit Marché at Sofitel Minneapolis for the Bûche de Noël cake available all through December. Place your order now to ensure you will have this special treat for your holiday get-together. Rumored to have been created as a substitute for the traditional hearth, Bûche de Noël cakes have become a mainstay in the French Christmas festivities.

“The layers of cake and frosting are the perfect rich dessert for the holidays,” said Francisco Gonzalez, Pastry Chef for Sofitel Minneapolis. “We are proud to be a part of such a wonderful French tradition, which is perfect for all types of celebrations this season.”

Also known as “Yule Log Cakes,” Bûches de Noël are made to resemble logs. Usually, the Bûche de Noël is made from chocolate buttercream and a yellow sponge cake, which is baked and frosted, then rolled into a cylinder and frosted again. Many times, one end of the cake is cut off and placed on top as a chopped off branch.

Le Petit Marché is offering three different kinds of Bûche de Noël: chocolate and Grand Marnier, mocha and vanilla. The Bûches de Noël come in medium (serves six to eight) for \$34 and in large (serves 10-12) for \$38; or for a special treat, try an individual portion for just \$5. The individual portions will also be a special dessert feature at Chez Collete. These cakes are available at Sofitel Minneapolis from Dec. 1 through 31.

To truly appreciate the special touches that go into this festive pastry, come see Sofitel Minneapolis’ Chef Francisco Gonzalez in action as he creates a **chocolate and Grand Marnier or mocha** Bûche de Noël as part of a Kitchen Demonstration at the Twin Cities Chocolate Extravaganza on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2007 at 1 p.m. in the Minnesota Convention Center.

It has been said that French bakers created Bûches de Noël as a replacement for the hearth when Napoleon I of France ordered Parisian households to close their chimneys during the winter. Without the use of fireplaces, many families could not participate in their Christmas traditions, which often centered around the hearth. These cakes then became the centerpieces of the French Christmas celebration.

To place an order with Sofitel Minneapolis’ Le Petit Marché or to find out more information, please call 952-835-1900 or visit www.sofitelmplsdining.com for details the Bûche de Noël promotions.

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