

SOFITEL MINNEAPOLIS

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Jennie Roberts
Elmore Public Relations
Tel: 713-524-0661
jennie@elmorepr.com

La Fougasse Brings Lebanon to Sofitel Minneapolis *New fall menu centers around exotic flavors of the Middle East*

Minneapolis, MN (July 9, 2007) – La Fougasse, Sofitel Minneapolis' energetic and trendy restaurant, celebrates the rich flavors and storied cuisine of Lebanon in the new fall menu. Starting September 1, Chef Devesa will infuse the sophistication of European food with the vibrant ingredients of the Middle East.

"The Lebanese culture is an amalgam of the European and Arab worlds, which makes these dishes particularly fun and interesting," said Serge Devesa, executive chef, Sofitel Minneapolis. "The menu is also great for fall because of these eclectic cultural influences. It combines light flavors with rich spices, bringing together elements from both summer and winter seasons."

Chef Devesa, a native of Marseille, France, has been executive chef for Sofitel Minneapolis' restaurants—La Fougasse and Chez Colette—since 2005. Chef Devesa specializes in provençale-style cuisine, but also enjoys combining the styles and flavors from his experience cooking around the world in locales such as the French Riviera, Vietnam, the Middle East, the Caribbean and Paris.

To start the fall menu, the **Tasting Tree** showcases Mediterranean dishes such as **Babaganouche** and **Hummus** along side the spices found in the Middle Eastern beef dish **Sambousik with harisa sauce**. The Tasting Tree is a great way to experience the various flavors and ingredients found in this traditional cuisine.

Chef Devesa's sophisticated take on Lebanese food continues throughout the new menu. With a focus on lighter dishes with strong flavors, Chef Devesa remains true to the culture by bringing spice to nearly every plate. The **Cauliflower and Chick Pea Salad** comes with a cumin dressing; the **Fatouches Salad** is made of romaine with pepper, tomato, lemon dressing and red radish and spices; and the **Lentil Soup** is not complete without Lebanese spices. The entrees are no exception: **Halibut with spicy sesame sauce** comes with almond rice, and the **Sauteed Lemon Chicken** is combined with coco bean.

During fall days, enjoy La Fougasse's stylish patio, which features comfortable dining amenities in a vibrant red and yellow color scheme, fresh flowers and a water fountain. In chilly evenings, come inside and discover the warmth of La Fougasse's open kitchen. This unique experience gives diners the chance to watch all the behind-the-scenes action of a first-class restaurant in an elegant and relaxing atmosphere.

La Fougasse is located inside the Sofitel Minneapolis at 5601 West 78th Street, Bloomington, Minn., 55439. For hotel and restaurant reservations, please call (952) 835-1900.

Sofitel Hotels are in major destinations across North America: Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Montreal, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Miami and Washington, D.C.

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The complete fall menu and La Fougasse photography are available upon request.

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