



**THE RITZ-CARLTON**  
ORLANDO, GRANDE LAKES

# GRANDE LAKES ORLANDO



**JW MARRIOTT**  
ORLANDO GRANDE LAKES®

## **THE RITZ-CARLTON ORLANDO, GRANDE LAKES ANNOUNCES KNIFE & SPOON, A SIGNATURE RESTAURANT BY ACCLAIMED CHEF JOHN TESAR**

**Orlando, Fla. – December 13, 2019 – [The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes](#)** announces new restaurant, Knife & Spoon, a new signature steak & seafood restaurant conceived and led by award-winning Chef John Tesar. Set to begin welcoming guests in spring 2020, Knife & Spoon will add to the luxury resort’s diverse collection of food & beverage outlets.

Celebrating the bounty of Florida on land and at sea, Knife & Spoon will merge Chef Tesar’s cutting-edge meat and seafood techniques. The restaurant will offer an array of steakhouse favorites while emphasizing local seafood dishes, showcasing the abundance of the region.

“We’re very excited to welcome Chef Tesar to central Florida and to add Knife & Spoon to our roster of incredible dining options. Innovation and the delivery of excellence in service across our food and beverage offerings has long been a universal focus point for Grande Lakes Orlando. We are certain that Knife & Spoon will become a favorite among both locals and visitors to Orlando, reaffirming the luxury resort as the pinnacle of destination dining,” said Jon McGavin, Area General Manager of The Ritz-Carlton and JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes.

Bringing a multitude of talent, a long record of success, and widespread recognition to The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Chef Tesar is a four-time James Beard “Best of Southwest Chef” semifinalist, a two-time contestant on Bravo’s “Top Chef,” and the winner of the inaugural season of Food Network’s “Extreme Chef”.

Specializing in modern American cuisine prepared with authentic European techniques, Chef Tesar began his career at Club Pierre in Westhampton, NY following classical French training at Paris’ La Varenne Ecole de Cuisine. After cooking in some of New York City’s most successful kitchens, Chef Tesar moved to Las Vegas to work alongside Chef Rick Moonen. In 2006, Chef Tesar took the helm of Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas, where he earned two five-star reviews. The authority on both seafood and steak, Chef Tesar is the genius behind menus at several restaurants in Dallas and has expanded with new concepts on the West Coast.

*Fall room rates start at \$400 at The Ritz-Carlton and \$275 at JW Marriott. For more information or to make reservations, please call 866-435-7627, or visit [GrandeLakes.com](http://GrandeLakes.com).*

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### **About Grande Lakes Orlando**

The 500-acre Grande Lakes Orlando estate features a 582-room Ritz-Carlton and 1,000-room JW Marriott hotel situated at the headwaters of the Florida Everglades. Guests at both hotels can enjoy all the facilities and services at Grande Lakes Orlando, including an 18-hole Greg Norman-designed championship golf course and the 40,000-square-foot Ritz-Carlton Spa as well as three pools including the winding lazy river at JW Marriott and the new AquaCourse 360 interactive water feature. Experience a wealth of dining options throughout Grande Lakes Orlando, where the cuisine is as diverse as the resort. Twelve outlets to choose from featuring everything from southern-inspired cuisine and handcrafted cocktails to the culinary mastery of James Beard award-winning chef Melissa Kelly at PRIMO, a leader in the city's farm-to-fork movement. The resort sources ingredients from its on-site apiaries and 18,000-square-foot Whisper Creek Farm.

On-property activities include Grande Lakes Sports Experiences offering kayaking, eco-tours on Shingle Creek, and falconry and fishing school. Conference and meeting attendees have their pick of a selection of meeting space options located across 150,000 square feet that connects the two properties plus more than 100,000 square feet of outdoor space.

Grande Lakes is located 15 minutes from the Orlando International Airport, five minutes from the Orange County Convention Center and minutes from the major theme parks. For more information about Grande Lakes Orlando, visit [www.grandelakes.com](http://www.grandelakes.com). Follow Grande Lakes Orlando on Twitter at [@RCOrlando](https://twitter.com/RCOrlando) and [@JWOrlando](https://twitter.com/JWOrlando).

### **About JW Marriott**

JW Marriott is part of Marriott International's luxury portfolio of brands and consists of beautiful properties and distinctive resort locations around the world. The impressive array of award-winning hotels cater to sophisticated, mindful travelers seeking The JW Treatment™ – the brand's philosophy that true luxury is created by people who are passionate about what they do. These experiences help guests to be fully present, foster connections and feed the soul. Inspired by the principles of mindfulness, JW Marriott is a haven designed to allow guests to focus on feeling whole – present in mind, nourished in body, and revitalized in spirit – through programs and offerings that encourage them to come together, act with intention and experience every moment to the fullest. Today there are over 80 JW Marriott hotels in more than 25 countries and territories. Visit JW Marriott [online](#), and on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). JW Marriott is proud to participate in Marriott Bonvoy™, the new name of Marriott's travel program replacing Marriott

Rewards®, The Ritz-Carlton Rewards®, and Starwood Preferred Guest®(SPG). The program offers members an extraordinary portfolio of global brands, experiences on Marriott Bonvoy Moments and unparalleled benefits including earning points toward free hotel stays and nights toward Elite status recognition. To enroll for free or for more information about the program, visit [MarriottBonvoy.marriott.com](https://MarriottBonvoy.marriott.com).

**About The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, LLC**

About The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, LLC The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C., of Chevy Chase, MD., currently operates more than 90 hotels in over 30 countries and territories. More than 40 hotel and residential projects are under development around the globe. The Ritz-Carlton is proud to offer The Ritz-Carlton Rewards® in which members can link accounts with Marriott Rewards® and Starwood Preferred Guest® for instant elite status matching and unlimited points transfer. For more information or reservations, visit the company web site at [www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com), for the latest company updates, visit [news.ritzcarlton.com](http://news.ritzcarlton.com) and to join the live conversation, use #RCMemories. The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Marriott International, Inc. (NASDAQ:MAR).