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**CONNECTICUT RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES  
FIRST ANNUAL CT HOSPITALITY EXPO**

***Mia McSherry of Michael Jordan Restaurants named Show Chairman***

**MIDDLETOWN, Conn. (March 21, 2008)** – The Connecticut Restaurant Association today announced the launch of its first annual CT Hospitality Expo, to be held at the Mohegan Sun Convention Center in Uncasville, Conn. on September 2-3, 2008. The Expo is the official trade show of the Connecticut Restaurant Association and Connecticut's vibrant hospitality industry. Nearly 200 exhibitors will present their products and services to several thousand industry attendees. Restaurant owners, managers, chefs, bartenders, servers and buyers representing restaurants throughout southern New England are expected to attend.

**Mia McSherry**, Regional General Manager of Michael Jordan's s Steak House and 23.sportcafe both located in Mohegan Sun Casino and Resort in Uncasville, CT, has been named Chairperson of this year's Expo. A successful, upbeat, and talented hospitality professional, McSherry has won many prestigious business awards and recognitions throughout her career. Her positive and motivational leadership, managerial approach and community involvement has made a strong impact in the Connecticut hospitality industry.

"Mia is a talented restaurateur and highly esteemed Connecticut Restaurant Association board member. The association is confident that her leadership and savvy industry knowledge will guide this year's Expo to a huge success," stated Richard Rosenthal, Owner and Chief Executive Officer of the Max Restaurant Group. Rosenthal currently serves as chairman of the Board of the Connecticut Restaurant Association and is a member of the board of directors of the National Restaurant Association.

Said McSherry: "I am proud to be part of a show that will attract thousands of hospitality experts to the Convention Center at Mohegan Sun. This trade show has been created to better service the needs of the Connecticut hospitality industry and we want it to be known as the premier show in Southern New England".

In addition to spotlighting the industry's premier vendors and suppliers, the Expo will include a full schedule of center-stage educational seminars, demonstrations and employee challenges including a Bartending Competition and Chef Relay Race.

"Designed to engage as well as involve the industry professionals in attendance, center-stage events provide operators with business building and cost savings advice," noted McSherry.

The CT Hospitality Expo will take place on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday evening's social events will include the Industry Leadership Reception from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm and the Connecticut Restaurant Association's "Salute to Excellence in Hospitality" Dinner at 7:30 pm. These prestigious annual events honor the best and brightest of the hospitality industry and raise scholarship funds for deserving hospitality students attending Connecticut colleges.

**ABOUT THE CONNECTICUT RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION**

The Connecticut Restaurant Association, in partnership with the National Restaurant Association, is the state's hospitality industry advocate, representing nearly 1,000 of Connecticut's finest restaurants. Its advocacy efforts are focused in the areas of legislation, marketing, and education.

For more information about the CT Hospitality Expo or booth space, call (860) 635-3334 or visit [www.cthospitalityexpo.com](http://www.cthospitalityexpo.com).

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