

Restaurant Associates

DELIVERING HOSPITALITY EXCELLENCE
TO PREMIER CLIENTS

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MARCUS SAMUELSSON AND RESTAURANT ASSOCIATES JOIN TO DEVELOP EXCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIP

*Award-Winning, Nationally Acclaimed Chef Will Develop
Exclusive Culinary Concept entitled Global Street Foods*

New York, April 18, 2011 – Marcus Samuelsson and Restaurant Associates are pleased to announce that Chef Samuelsson will be developing a brand new culinary concept, *Global Street Foods by Marcus Samuelsson*, exclusively for Restaurant Associates' corporate cafes and cultural dining outlets.

Chef Marcus Samuelsson is an internationally acclaimed chef, restaurateur, humanitarian and cookbook author. Celebrated as one of “*The Great Chefs of America*” by the Culinary Institute of America, the Ethiopian-born, Swedish-raised chef holds the record for being the youngest chef to ever receive two three-star ratings from *The New York Times*. Chef Samuelsson has been honored by the prestigious James Beard Foundation on multiple occasions including “*Rising Star Chef*” (1999), “*Best Chef: New York City*” (2003), and “*Best International Cookbook*” (2007), and his many achievements include cooking the first State dinner for the Obama administration. Chef Samuelsson continues to maintain humility to the art of food and his UNICEF endeavors, working towards immunization and curbing malnutrition for children throughout the world.

The *Global Street Foods by Marcus Samuelsson* program will allow Restaurant Associates' guests a chance to try the authentic tastes of twelve different cultures with menus created by Chef Samuelsson himself. From squid grilled on a stick in Thailand, fresh grilled bánh mì with shredded pork, cucumber, and mango in Vietnam to spicy, crunchy pani puri in India, these are some of the dishes guests can expect to see. Every country around the world has some food to which its rushed commuters, hungry students & harried shoppers turn. From mayo-drenched fries in Belgium to beefy anticuchos in Peru, street food often gives insight into the food history & culture of a place. This unique and exclusive partnership will look to capture the essence of this food philosophy.

"To be able to partner with a chef of Marcus Samuelsson's caliber is such an incredible opportunity for Restaurant Associates," says Dick Cattani, CEO of Restaurant Associates. "His dedication to quality and unparalleled culinary vision seamlessly fit with RA's mission of *Delivering Hospitality Excellence to Premier Clients.*"

"I'm honored to work with the prestigious team at Restaurant Associates, who share in my passion for culinary excellence," says Chef Samuelsson. "I've travelled the world exploring the street food of different cultures, and I'm very excited to serve such a dynamic and unique cuisine to Restaurant Associates' discerning guests."

About Marcus Samuelsson Group

Marcus Samuelsson Group (MSG) is a New York City-based, hospitality management and food media company. From high-end restaurants to fast-casual cafés, MSG is committed to providing an exceptional and distinct culinary experience at culinary venues and events all over the world. A commitment to excellence, community and diversity is core to the group's beliefs and offerings. MSG strives to honor the many farmers, ranchers, fishermen, growers, producers and artisans who make up the global food and beverage marketplace.

About Restaurant Associates

Restaurant Associates is recognized as the nation's premier hospitality company, operating over 100 prestigious locations. Restaurant Associates, based in New York City, provides premium food services to museums, performing arts centers, aquariums, corporate dining, educational facilities and off-premise catering events in New York City, Boston, Hartford, Atlanta, Washington D.C., Philadelphia and Toronto. Restaurant Associates is a subsidiary of, Compass Group North America, the leading foodservice and support services company with \$9.9 billion in revenues in 2010.

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