



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **A Passion for Local & Pastry Chef of the Year!**

The American Culinary Federation, Michigan Chapter named Royal Park Hotel, Mark Slessor **2017 Pastry Chef of the Year**. Slessor, a Michigan native has a deep passion for home-grown and love for culinary arts. Chef Mark's ACF award winning Citrus Poached Pear & Almond Financier Cake was a sweet show stopper and judge favorite. The dessert featured six intense layered flavor profiles including orange caramel, toffee nib crunch and raspberry foam which complemented a pear, poached in citrus segments, lavender and Sauvignon Blanc. "Many of the farm to dessert flavors selected are inspired by local sourced ingredients", says Slessor.

As Executive Pastry Chef Mark prepares for his next step in the ACF regional competition, Mark and his team are busy creating a life-size Royal Park Express Gingerbread Train located in the hotel lobby. The hotel partners with The Salvation Army during the holiday season and has raised over \$50,000 the past seven years. "It's all about giving back to our local community, being part of a magical experience and creating family traditions", says Slessor.

Starting on November 15<sup>th</sup> a portion of all dessert sales featured in Park 600 bar + kitchen will be donated to The Salvation Army. The perfect opportunity to taste Chef Mark's festive confectionary creations. The new dessert menu features house favorites such as Dutch Apple Strudel, Traverse City Cherry Torte and Sticky Toffee Pudding.

After dessert, celebrate all things local at the hotel and experience Downtown Rochester. The hotel's popular "**Travel Like a Local**" overnight package is available November and December. Guests enjoy exclusive discounts to many downtown shops, services and restaurants by simply showing their room key to local merchants. After shopping don't forget the Big, Bright, Light Show starting November 20<sup>th</sup> – January 7<sup>th</sup> on Main Street!

**Royal Park Hotel** <http://www.royalparkhotel.net>

**Travel Like a Local** <http://www.royalparkhotel.net/travel-like-a-local.htm>

**The Big, Bright, Light Show** <https://www.downtownrochestermi.com/the-big-bright-light-show>

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