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**CHEF JEFF AXLINE JOINS HOTEL ZAZA FROM BROOKLYN ATHLETIC CLUB
BRINGS EXTENSIVE RESTAURANT, HOTEL EXPERIENCE TO NEW ROLE AS
EXECUTIVE BANQUET CHEF**

HOUSTON – Jeff Axline has left his position as executive chef at Brooklyn Athletic Club to join Hotel ZaZa as executive banquet chef at one of Houston’s most popular luxury hotels. Axline was a co-founder of Brooklyn Athletic Club with friend and owner Shepard Ross in September 2012. He previously partnered with Ross at BRC GastroPub and Glass Wall the Restaurant in the Heights and worked at Lakeway Resort and Spa in Austin and The Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa.

In his new role with ZaZa, Axline oversees the hotel’s catering, social functions, weddings, fundraisers, galas and other special events for which ZaZa is renowned – forming a formidable culinary duo with Monarch Restaurant & Lounge executive chef Jonathan Jones.

“Jeff is the perfect addition to our team, a great guy and an even better culinarian,” Z Resorts Executive Vice President Matthew Nuss said. “A lot of hotels hire one executive chef to lead both the banquet and the restaurant kitchens. We looked at it differently. We went after the best. Jeff and JJ give us amazing talent and food in very important venues for us.”

Axline arrives at ZaZa with more than 18 years of restaurant and hotel experience. He served as executive chef at Lakeway Resort and Spa from November 2010 until September 2012 and was executive sous chef at The Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa from January 2008 to April 2010. He was named “Up and Coming Chef of the Year” by *My Table Magazine* in 2008.

“I’m excited about being with the ZaZa,” Chef Axline said. “It’s a great hotel. I’d like to bring restaurant-style food to large catering events. That’s kind of our goal throughout the company: Getting away from what you would typically get at large catering events or banquets.”

At Lakeway, Axline oversaw the operations of four outlets, room service and banquets/catering food & beverage for the 168-room resort. He overhauled the existing menu and implemented new items, including a farm-to-table initiative and in-house pastries and baked goods. He partnered with other members of senior management to help Lakeway earn AAA's Prestigious Four-Diamond Award in April 2012.

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At The Houstonian, Axline led a team that performed all aspects of F&B operations in a fast-paced environment for three restaurants, room service, banquets/catering and the employee diner. His work helped the four-diamond hotel earn the #11 ranking among top resorts in the U.S. and Canada by *Travel and Leisure* in their “World’s Best Awards 2010” a few months after Axline’s 28-month tenure.

Axline also served as opening executive chef at BRC in 2010 – again partnering with Shepard Ross to begin a start-up casual dining concept near the Washington Avenue corridor that became a high-volume, highly recognized restaurant – after having been opening chef de cuisine at Glass Wall from 2006 to 2008, teaming with Ross to handle all operational needs of the independent restaurant. *My Table* named Glass Wall a “Best New Restaurant” in 2006 and “Best Restaurateurs” in 2007.

Born in San Diego, Axline graduated from high school in Oak Harbor, Wash. He studied at the Art Institute of Seattle School of Culinary Arts from 1997-99. After moving to Houston in 2001, he worked with chef Tim Keating at the Four Seasons Hotel downtown before working with the same ownership group of Glass Wall at Trevisio Restaurant in the Medical Center.

ABOUT HOTEL ZAZA

Hotel ZaZa is a sensory experience that is refined yet relaxed. Its sophisticated and sensual interior design and culinary excellence is completed by a staff that pays impeccable attention to each and every guest, making them feel at home. Whether for business, a romantic weekend, or world-famous celebrities, both hotels blend intimate comfort with Stay ZaZa-style to create inspired accommodations, one-of-a-kind themed suites, and award-winning restaurants and spas.

Nestled in the fashionable Uptown neighborhood and next to downtown, Hotel ZaZa Dallas is a creative mix of warm, Mediterranean elegance and comfortable chic. This exceptional boutique hotel offers 4,500 square feet of function space, 152 rooms, 17 concept suites, the Magnificent Seven Suites, the award-winning Dragonfly Restaurant and Lounge, the relaxing ZaSpa and the Art House & Social Gallery. Reservations may be made at hotelzazadallas.com or by calling 888.880.3244.

Located in the heart of the vibrant Museum District and minutes from the world renowned Texas Medical Center, Hotel ZaZa Houston boasts 17,000 square feet of function space and is the perfect backdrop for any business meeting - not to mention home to some of Houston’s most memorable weddings and galas. Monarch Bistro and the tranquil ZaSpa combine to create the hotel’s breadth of impressive amenities. With more than 300 rooms, including Pool Villas, Concept Suites and The Magnificent Seven Suites, ZaZa exceeds all expectations. Reservations may be made at hotelzazahouston.com or by calling 888.880.3244.

Hotel ZaZa, a member of the Preferred Hotel Group™, was created by Charles S. Givens and Jeff Records and is owned by Givens-Records Developments. Operations management and marketing are provided by Z Resorts, LLC, led by Z Resorts President Benji Homsey.

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