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# News Release

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## **Maggiano's Creates *California Roasted Grape Risotto***

*FRESNO, California* – Maggiano's Little Italy, the Dallas-based chain of upscale casual dining restaurants with 45 stores in 20 markets nationwide, recently created a *California Roasted Grape Risotto* to be paired with seafood for its Chef's Fall Features menu. This menu item will run for six weeks beginning in mid-October 2010 at most Maggiano units.

The *California Roasted Grape Risotto* was developed at the San Jose, California location by Chef Daniel Grice. The original recipe features diver scallops as the seafood item, but each Maggiano restaurant has the flexibility to choose the best local seafood or freshwater item for its region. Whatever the accompanying protein may be, the risotto recipe will remain the same for all units. Key ingredients include carnaroli rice, roasted California grapes, smoked, hard mozzarella, paprika butter with lemon oil, and chopped fresh chives.

Keith Brunell, Senior Culinary Director at Maggiano's describes the dish as one that "captures both sweet and smoky flavors, with the roasted grapes providing just the right acidity, sweetness and an overall 'pop' of flavor." Brunell also notes that the grapes add a rich color to the risotto and the paprika "warms" the entire dish.

"We're seeing a significant increase in the use of fresh grapes from California in salads, sandwiches and entrees in restaurants across the country," said Cindy Plummer, the vice president of domestic marketing for the California Table Grape Commission. "Chefs are finding that grapes are a versatile ingredient and we expect to see continued innovation in restaurants and foodservice venues."

The California Table Grape Commission was created by the California legislature in 1967 to increase worldwide demand for fresh California grapes through a variety of research and promotional programs. More information can be found at [www.grapesfromcalifornia.com](http://www.grapesfromcalifornia.com).

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