FRANCINE Restaurant Puts Profits Aside and Donates More Than \$26,000 to Local Charit

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The French Mediterranean Fine Dining Restaurant Offered Complimentary Dinners with donations supporting American Heart Association, PANDA and Phoenix Heart Ball

FRANCINE, the highly anticipated fine dining French-Mediterranean restaurant located in the Luxury Wing of Scottsdale Fashion Square, donated three evenings of complimentary dinners to support PANDA and the Phoenix Heart Ball benefitting the American Heart Association on August 11th, 12th, and 13th.

As part of the Friends and Family Nights prior to opening to the public, FRANCINE provided complimentary meals to guests to benefit three local charities and provide practice for their staff.

In lieu of paying a traditional check, patrons were encouraged to make a donation to one of these three charities on their respective night. Every penny donated over the three-nights went directly to the Phoenix Heart Ball for American Heart Association and PANDA, which is a great opportunity for these charities since both had to postpone their 2020 fundraising events.

Heart disease is still the number one killer in the country. In addition to research and education for heart disease, the American Heart Association and Phoenix Heart Ball are helping to provide food to underprivileged children, research for COVID, a vaping campaign and education, support for other organizations in need and much more.

PANDA, an organization that supports the discovery process to improve treatments and cures for devastating childhood diseases also received a generous donation.

"We are so grateful to the FRANCINE family and everyone who dined at the restaurant on these special evenings," said Phoenix Heart Ball 2021 Chairman Jennifer Moser. "The cuisine, service, and ambiance are a great addition to Scottsdale's culinary scene. The donations will go a long way to provide support to these organizations that have been significantly impacted by the pandemic."

Anchored by the cuisine and inspired design from the South of France, FRANCINE, which officially opened for dinner on August 14th, is nestled in the luxury wing at Scottsdale Fashion Square near other notable fine dining establishments including Ocean 44 and Nobu.

The restaurant is the brainchild of Laurent Halasz, who is a Scottsdale resident himself and known nationally for his highly successful Fig and Olive. Leading Halasz's culinary team is classically French-trained Chef Brian Archibald. The Executive Chef brings more than three decades of culinary leadership experience, including tenures at some of the Valley's finest restaurants and resorts.

"These are unprecedented times and FRANCINE is grateful to be in a position to assist local causes and charities that provide essential resources and services to those in need," said Halasz. "We hope everyone enjoyed their amazing dinner service at FRANCINE while also giving back to the community."

Those still wishing to donate can visit PANDA at www.azpanda.org or the American Heart Association at www.phoenixheartball.heart.org

FRANCINE is open for dinner every night starting at 5 pm. Lunch and brunch service will begin in the fall.

In response to Covid-19, the restaurant will be following strict safety protocols and has implemented all the CDC guidelines, including social distancing.

FRANCINE's is located at Scottsdale Fashion Square at **4710 N Goldwater Boulevard Scottsdale**, **AZ 85251**. The restaurant phone number is **(480) 690-6180** or visit <u>francinerestaurant.com</u>.