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NEWS RELEASE

HOTEL GRAND PACIFIC WELCOMES TAKUMI KITAMURA AS RESTAURANT CHEF *Chef Kitamura returns to Victoria and will take over The Pacific Restaurant* www.hotelgrandpacific.com

October 30, 2014; Victoria, B.C. – The **Hotel Grand Pacific** is happy to announce the appointment of **Takumi Kitamura** as the property's new **Restaurant Chef**, taking over the reins of **The Pacific Restaurant**. Chef Kitamura will work under Executive Chef Rick Choy, and will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the restaurant's kitchen, as well as menu development, bringing his experience with Japanese cuisine and Pacific Rim flavours to The Pacific.

Chef Kitamura is returning to Victoria after working as Chef de Partie at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise in Alberta this past summer. Prior to that, he held the same position at The Fairmont Empress in Victoria, and has also worked in the kitchen at Victoria's Inn at Laurel Point and the now-closed Sanuk. "I'm very pleased to be back in Victoria," he said. "The access that we have to ingredients here on Vancouver Island is such a gift for a chef, and I'm excited to once again explore our region's bounty." Before moving to Canada, Chef Kitamura worked in restaurants and hotels in Japan and New Zealand, including the Ritz-Carlton Osaka. He also competed in an episode of Food Network's *Chopped Canada* in 2013, during the show's first season.

"We're proud to welcome Chef Kitamura to the team at the Hotel Grand Pacific," said the property's General Manager, Reid James. "The Pacific Restaurant has recently put more of a focus on seafood, and his experience makes him a perfect fit for the position. We're looking forward to seeing his influence in the restaurant."

Conveniently located on the Inner Harbour in downtown Victoria, the Hotel Grand Pacific is the perfect choice for the lifestyle traveller seeking an alternative from the traditional branded hotel stay. With 304 spacious guestrooms and suites, the Hotel Grand Pacific is renowned for delivering an exceptional and personalized guest service experience. With a focus on health and wellness, the hotel offers complimentary access to the Victoria Athletic Club, located on-site. Relax at our Asian inspired SORA Spa or enjoy West Coast fare in the Pacific Restaurant & Lounge. The Hotel Grand Pacific is a proud member of Preferred Hotels & Resorts Worldwide.



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