



Press Release

For more information:

Margaret Wilcox

228-348-6563/

Margaret@thewilcoxagency.com

The View Casino Resorts' Executive Chef Ranked 17 by the Leader in Food Sport

GULFPORT, Miss. (March 22, 2021) – More than 1,500 chefs, home cooks and pro teams will convene for an epic culinary battle known as the [World Food Championships \(WFC\)](#) this November in Dallas, Texas. The event has a \$350,000 prize-purse — which is the biggest in Food Sport history — and just ranked its [Top 100 Competitors](#). David Crabtree, executive chef for The View Casino Resorts made the list and is currently ranked 17 among WFC's most talented competitors in the culinary industry.

This year's competition marks the 5th time that David Crabtree has competed at WFC. His best finish came in 2018 when he took home 3rd place in the seafood category. Chef Crabtree also has over 60 career awards, which helped him in the official rankings.

"In the past three competitions, I have finished in third and fourth place," said Chef Crabtree. "One of these years I'll get a shot at the Final Table."

To help compare the talented field, WFC recently surveyed its registered contestants and released competitor standings, based on its one-of-a-kind Food Sport ranking system. After calculating 20 key parameters such as cooking background, competition victories and culinary experiences, WFC's ranking system used a special algorithm to quantify each competitor's world ranking.

In addition to Chef Crabtree, three of his chefs will also be heading to the competition this year in Dallas. Jackie Seavey, executive sous chef and former 2019 World Food Champion, will compete in the dessert category; Calvin Lipe, room chef Docksider Deli, in the soup category; and Deborah Thomas, assistant room chef, The Buffet will compete in the bacon category.

"Our Food Champs are some of the best chefs, home cooks and pro teams in the world, so being in the top 100 is truly a remarkable achievement," said Mike McCloud, President and CEO of WFC. "These rankings are sure to satisfy all of our competitors on the list and motivate those who aren't."

"After having to cancel our 2020 food fight, we felt it was important to share as much information about, and for, our competitors as possible," said McCloud. "It's always surprising to see who excels, who doesn't, and who comes out of the blue to snag a category

championship. So, we hope these new rankings will help add some sizzle to an already exciting and sometimes heated competition!”

While David Crabtree battles against 39 other competitors in his category, this food fest also offers exciting attractions for food fans to enjoy. From chowing down on some of the best barbecues to attending fantastic demonstrations and learning about the newest food trends, there’s something for everyone at WFC. Ticketing options for the foodie event will be released by July 1st. If you’d like to be one of the first to be notified when tickets go on sale, [click here](#).

As Executive Chef for The View Casino Resorts in Gulfport, Mississippi, Chef David Crabtree oversees more than 100 back of the house culinary professionals for the property’s 14 food service outlets, covering everything from offsite catering to fine dining. Chef Crabtree has over 42 years in the restaurant industry with numerous awards and medals to his credit. He has also organized and judged culinary competitions throughout the southern United States.

About Island View Casino Resort:

The View Casino Resorts opened on Sept. 18, 2006 as the only casino in Gulfport, Miss. On June 21, 2018, The View opened the fourth phase of expansion with Beach View Casino, a \$75 million smoke-free casino. The land-based casinos, located on 40 acres of waterfront property, currently offer 126,000 square-feet of casino gaming with approximately 2,700 slots and 49 table games. This fourth phase of expansion gives Island View 1,000,000 square-feet of beachfront gaming, hotel and entertainment space. The resort also features 970 hotel rooms and suites, with 565 in the north casino tower and 405 in the beach tower, which opened on April 29, 2016, as part of Island View’s \$58 million 2015 expansion. Restaurant and lounge offerings include Carter Green Steakhouse, Prime Cut, Beach Blvd. Steamer, C&G, The Buffet, The Diner, Dockside Deli, The Coffee Shop and Beach Coffee Shop, Beignet Café, The Sweet Stop, Coast Candymakers, Gulf Breeze Daiquiri, Sunset Bar & Deck, Beach Casino Stage, and casino bars. The resort, which is the only local casino to offer direct beach access, features The Beach Club, with 300 feet of beach and a variety of related services. Other amenities include two tropical-themed pools with cabanas; Blue Shell Spa, a full-service day spa; two retail outlets; the View Showroom, a 600-seat entertainment venue; and Windance Country Club, an award-winning golf course, also located in Gulfport. The View Casino Resorts is privately held by Rick Carter and Terry Green, two Gulfport natives and longtime casino executives committed to the post-Hurricane Katrina rebuilding efforts of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. For more information: 877-774-8439 or IslandViewCasino.com

About World Food Championships

The World Food Championships (WFC) is the highest stakes food competition in the world. This multi-day, live event culinary competition showcases some of the world's best cooks who compete for food, fame and fortune in 10 categories (Bacon, Barbecue, Burger, Chef, Dessert,

Recipe, Sandwich, Seafood, Soup and Steak). In 2019, more than 450 culinary teams from 11 countries and 42 American states competed in WFC's Main Event. In August, the 10 Category Champs went head-to-head for a \$100,000 bonus that determined a new World Food Champion in a TV special called **The Final Table: Indianapolis**. While contestants have to earn their way into WFC by winning a Golden Ticket at a previous competition, potential judges are welcome to take WFC's online certification course that explains the E.A.T. methodology. Certified judges then request and receive available seats at the next scheduled WFC event. Click **here** to learn more about getting certified.

To stay up-to-date on all things Food Sport, follow the World Food Championships on [Twitter](#) (@WorldFoodChamp), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (@WorldFoodChampionships).