



THE LAKE ESTATE ON WINNISQUAM

CHEF CHRIS VIAUD ANNOUNCED AS DIRECTOR OF CULINARY ARTS AT THE LAKE ESTATE ON WINNISQUAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE'S MOST ANTICIPATED LUXURY RESORT & SPA OPENING IN SUMMER 2025

*Two-Time James Beard Foundation Award Nominee & Top Chef Alum to Create & Oversee
Resort's Culinary Vision Ushering in a New Gastronomic Era for NH's Lakes Region*



TILTON, NH (March 20, 2025) - The Lake Estate on Winnisquam, a new 114-room independent luxury resort & spa to open in the quintessential New England town of Tilton, NH in the heart of New Hampshire's Lakes Region this summer, is thrilled to announce two-time James Beard Foundation Award nominee and *Top Chef* alum Chef Chris Viaud as Director of Culinary Arts.

Known for his exceptional talent and creativity, Chef Viaud will bring his wealth of experience and passion for culinary arts and talent development to The Lake Estate on Winnisquam with a mission to offer elevated dining experiences in the Lakes Region. An accomplished culinarian, Chef Viaud will create and oversee the culinary programs for the highly anticipated The Lake Estate on Winnisquam -- its restaurants, in-room dining, wedding & banquets and private events - - and will lead a team of four chefs, including a pastry chef and number of line cooks, prep cooks and bakers.

“Our mission is to redefine luxury in New Hampshire’s hospitality space and create the state’s first Five-Star resort,” says Ed Rocco, General Manager and Patti Rocco, Estate Manager. “The culinary aspect, led by Chef Viaud, will be a major factor in achieving this. Chef Viaud brings his creativity, experience, passion and talent, along with his knowledge of the array of seasonal produce at New Hampshire’s farms, to this new role. We are excited for him to bring the culinary version of this vision to life with exceptional high-end cuisine, elevated comfort food and creative casual cuisine, creating welcoming dining experience for both locals and our resort guests alike.”

Located on Lake Winnisquam, the state's fourth-largest lake, The Lake Estate on Winnisquam is expected to be the most anticipated new resort opening in New Hampshire, and in New England, in 2025. All culinary offerings at The Lake Estate on Winnisquam will be opening this summer under Chef Viaud’s direction.

Chef Viaud's culinary philosophy is rooted in food that is rustic and innovative, yet refined by classic techniques, with dishes that celebrate seasonal and high-quality regional ingredients. What fuels his passion when creating menus is executing innovative and balanced meals that incorporate different flavors and textures, while remaining approachable and full of character.

The Dining Room, open to the public, will be modeled after a grand lake estate and will be an elegant restaurant featuring floor-to-ceiling windows framing panoramic views of the lake and will offer artfully crafted dishes with beautiful presentation. Also open to the public, The Bar will offer a cozy and sophisticated setting for enjoying casual seasonal cuisine with dishes consisting of a mix of sharable, small plates and comforting large plate dishes, along with handcrafted cocktails and a curated array of fine wines. The Folly, a seasonal elegant yet casual poolside grill will provide resort guests lighter fare and casual quick bites in an alfresco ambiance with views of the lake and the Belknap and Ossipee mountain ranges beyond.

With Haitian ancestry and New England roots, Chef Viaud was born and raised in the suburbs of Boston and later moved with his family to Londonderry, NH where he completed high school. Upon graduating, he attended Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI where he received a bachelor's degree in culinary arts & food service management.

After culinary school, he returned to Boston where he spent three of his most formative years at the award-winning modern French restaurant Deuxave, and worked alongside Executive Chef/owner Chris Coombs, Chef Adrienne Mosier and Chef Stefanie Bui through the ranks to Jr. Sous Chef. Following his tenure at Deuxave and chef positions throughout the years in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire, Chef Viaud opened his first restaurant, Greenleaf, in 2019 in Milford, NH, which serves seasonal dishes with local ingredients sourced from farmers throughout New England. He also owns and operates a similar concept, Pavillion, in Wolfeboro, NH. Throughout his career he also opened a restaurant, Ansanm, where he worked alongside his family serving traditional and modern Haitian inspired cuisine, and a scratch bakery, Culture, which produced artisanal breads and pastries.

Chef Viaud was a finalist for the 2024 James Beard Outstanding Restaurateur of the Year Award and was also previously named a 2022 semi-finalist for the James Beard Emerging Chef Award. He also competed on season 18 of Bravo's *Top Chef*.

"I am incredibly excited to join the team and build and lead a crew of creative chefs and cooks working together to bring our vision for the culinary at The Lake Estate on Winnisquam to life," says Chef Viaud. "Our mission is to create menus that will evolve with the season with all the incredible bounty of fresh produce available throughout New England ensuring that each time our local and resort guests walk through our doors they will find new and enticing dishes waiting for them."

Chef Viaud works on challenging himself by pushing the boundaries and taking himself out of his comfort zone by exploring new ideas, styles, trends and concepts to keep fueling his passion and believes that every day there is the opportunity to learn something new.

When not in the kitchen, Chef Viaud treasures spending time with family, traveling to new places, cooking together at home or simply passing time by playing board games. In the warmer months, he enjoys outdoor activities including mountain biking, kayaking and other outdoor sports.

Modeled after a grand private estate and inspired by New Hampshire's Grand Hotels of yesteryear, The Lake Estate on Winnisquam will be situated on 36 acres with 3,400 linear feet of private, natural shoreline along Lake Winnisquam, only 90-minutes from Boston, seamlessly blending understated elegance, luxurious comfort and state of the art-technology throughout the property with genuine and gracious hospitality and exceptional culinary experiences overseen by Chef Viaud.

Situated directly on Lake Winnisquam, the Lake Estate on Winnisquam will offer a complete resort and spa experience. The extensive grounds of the property will offer a lakefront lawn, an outdoor infinity pool and two hot tubs, a 5,000 sq. ft. world-class spa with an outdoor year-round heated mineral spa and meditation garden, two groomed private beaches, four pickleball courts & one tennis court, an apple orchard and a flower garden.

The property will offer 96 oversized, custom-designed guest rooms and 18 luxurious suites, each exuding an elevated New England aesthetic inspired by the surrounding natural beauty. More than 70% of the rooms offer direct views of the lake, while others overlook lush woodlands. Many guest rooms will also feature private balconies or patios. All suites will be enhanced by cozy fireplaces, and most will include balconies or patios with captivating lake views. All guest rooms and suites will be equipped with state-of-the art technology.

In addition, the property is poised to become the new premier wedding destination in New Hampshire. The Lake Estate on Winnisquam is intentionally designed to be a year-round venue for everything from grand occasions to private intimate ceremonies, micro-weddings and elopements to larger celebrations for up to 220 guests. The Lake Estate on Winnisquam will also have a dedicated in-house florist.

Tourism has been a significant part of New Hampshire's economy since the 1800s. Grand Hotels were built in the late 1800s/early 1900s and were luxurious properties that drew the ultra-rich to New Hampshire's White Mountains region via new railroads that came to the region in the 1850s. The Grand Hotels transformed tourism in New Hampshire and tells the story of wealth and power that came to the region at the dawn of America's 20th century.

The Lakes Region of New Hampshire is in the east-central part of the state, south of the White Mountains Region, a scenic 1.5-hour drive north of Boston, MA. It is named for the numerous lakes in the region, home to 273 bodies of water, the largest of which is Lake Winnepesaukee. The region has long been a traditional summer retreat for wealthy New Englanders. Today, New Hampshire's Lakes Region is evolving into an exclusive year-round destination offering a plentitude of activities to keep luxury travelers entertained through all four seasons.

About The Lake Estate on Winnisquam

Slated to open in summer 2025, The Lake Estate on Winnisquam will be a new 114-room modern, independent luxury year-round resort with a 5,000 sq. ft. world-class spa located in the heart of New Hampshire's Lakes Region in Tilton, NH, a scenic 90-minute drive from Boston, MA. For additional information, visit www.thelakeestatenh.com. Instagram - @thelakeestatenh / Facebook - thelakeestatenh / #thelakeestate.

###

MEDIA CONTACT:

Stephanie Loeber

[Loeber Communications](http://www.loebercommunications.com)

Cell: 617-510-0577

E-mail: stephanie@loebercommunications.com