



## NEWS RELEASE

*for immediate release*

### OLIVIA MEDIA CONTACTS

Susan MacTavish Best  
Best Public Relations  
415.505.0301  
susan@bestpr.net

## OLIVIA CREATES 6-STAR GREEK ISLES & VENICE CULINARY ODYSSEY

*special guest chefs elizabeth falkner and cat cora set to tempt tastebuds*

OAKLAND, CA, July 28, 2004 — Olivia announces a six-star culinary odyssey from the Greek Isles to Venice, June 24-July 1, 2005, designed to satisfy its guests' yen for exemplary food and wine. Special guest chefs Elizabeth Falkner, executive chef and managing partner of San Francisco's Citizen Cake and Citizen Cupcake, and Cat Cora, chef, author and star of "The Cat Cora Show," create a superb fusion of flavors especially for Olivia guests.

"I am so excited to cook with the Ladies of Olivia and explore the spectacular flavors and aromas of Greek-Mediterranean cuisine, covered in honey, of course," says Elizabeth Falkner. Named one of the top 10 pastry chefs by Bon Appétit magazine and honored as a "Woman with Substance and Style" by Organic Style magazine, Elizabeth is one of the dessert world's shining stars and has been featured on Food Network's "Tyler's Ultimate," "The Dweezil and Lisa Show," "Top 5" and HGTV's "Curb Appeal" in 2004.

Falkner recently opened Citizen Cupcake, a wine, sake and cupcake bar, in San Francisco's Virgin Megastore. It's the perfect complement to her renowned Citizen Cake patisserie and restaurant. Drawing inspiration from modern art and popular culture, Falkner creates dessert works that are more edible art than mere dessert. Taking her desserts to the next level, she's just wrapped a pilot for a show called "Demolition Desserts" about the creation of larger than the plate pastry stunts.

Raised in Mississippi on goat cheese and home-cured olives by Greek restaurateurs, Cat Cora was born to take this journey. "I feel thrilled to be included in this group of travelers. To cook in such a beautiful setting for people who appreciate delicious food, wine and adventure, is a dream," Cora said. In July, Cora embarks on a nationwide tour in support of her new book, "Cat Cora's Kitchen: Favorite Meals for Family & Friends" by Chronicle Books. She's currently developing "The Cat Cora Show," a food and wine talk show, for CBS/Viacom affiliate KPIX. Olivia will also show "Cat's in the Kitchen," a documentary made as Cora prepared for the food world's equivalent of the Olympics, cooking dinner at New York's prestigious James Beard House.

Olivia chartered the opulent Silverseas Silver Shadow for the setting of their six-star culinary odyssey. The luxurious Silver Shadow sets a new standard for elegance at sea. Spacious panoramic ocean view suites, innovative, artful cuisine with fine wines and signature dishes created by the Relais & Châteaux – Relais Gourmands, complimentary 24-hour room service and beverages and amenities like a plush robe and slippers, fluffy down pillows, fine bed linens and chilled champagne await guests.

4400 market street  
oakland, ca 94608

t 510.655.0364  
f 510.655.4334  
www.olivia.com



Olivia's epic voyage begins in Athens, Greece, where architecture, history and mythology meld with the modern metropolis. Dazzlingly white houses with blue painted windows clinging to hillsides rising from the deep blue Aegean Sea mark the unmistakable landscape. Mykonos' vivacious gay culture and enticing beaches issue a call to travelers rivaling the Sirens' song.

With its perpetual sunshine, sparse population and sanctuary to Artemis, Patmos is a national treasure. Santorini boasts your choice of black, red or white beaches. The sunset on Santorini is not to be missed, that's why Olivia doesn't depart until the sun goes down. Famed for its delicious honey, Kythira is truly a sweet little island. We end our journey in Venice, Italy, a city you must see to believe. Stroll through St. Mark's Square where Gothic-Renaissance creations exalt the splendor of Venice's finest period.

#### **ABOUT OLIVIA**

Founded in San Francisco in 1973, Olivia, the premier travel company serving the lesbian and gay community, reaches more than 25 million people internationally. Over 75,000 people have traveled with Olivia in the last ten years. The company charters the entire ship or resort bringing world-class entertainment like Melissa Etheridge, Indigo Girls, k.d. lang, Shawn Colvin, Mary Chapin Carpenter and the cast of Showtime's "The L Word."

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