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Contact: Lori Lefevre/212-827-6403 or lori.a.lefevre@aexp.com

FOOD & WINE MAGAZINE INDULGES IN CHOCOLATE THIS FEBRUARY WITH TOP SELECTIONS

10 Top Chocolates, Best Hot Cocoa Mixes, Milk Chocolate Desserts, Travel Escapes For Chocolate Lovers

New York, NY (January 12, 2009) – This winter, **FOOD & WINE** magazine explores everyone's favorite indulgence: chocolate. The February issue lists **top 10 chocolates** from supermarket standbys such as Nestlé 100 Grand Bar to new artisanal sweets such as Compartes Plantain Truffles. Here is the complete list:

F&W's TOP 10 CHOCOLATE PICKS OF 2009

1. Christopher Elbow No. 6 Dark Rocks
2. Charles Chocolate Raisies
3. Garrison Confections Rocky Rhode Island
4. Compartes Plantain Truffles
5. Jacques Torres Caramel Chocolate Popcorn
6. Green & Black's Organic Ginger Bar
7. Dove Silky Smooth Milk Chocolate
8. Recchiuti Confections S'mores Bites
9. Nestlé 100 Grand Bar
10. Scharffen Berger Semisweet Nibby Bars

In addition, **milk chocolate** is celebrated in eight fantastic dessert recipes – even dark chocolate aficionados will love these melt-in-the-mouth sweets. *F&W* editors declare the **best hot chocolate** in a blind taste test of classic and new mixes, with Guittard's Grand Cacao Drinking Chocolate (\$9), MarieBelle's Aztec blend (\$25) and Sarabeth's Hot Chocolate Parisienne (\$18) topping the list. Also, there is a feature on **Caribbean escapes for chocolate lovers**, which suggests harvesting cacao pods in Belize, visiting Grenada Chocolate Company's solar-electric-powered factory, or relaxing in a rustic cottage at Fond Doux Estate's cacao plantation on St. Lucia. Complete lists at foodandwine.com.

Other highlights of this issue include:

NEW APPLIANCE ESSENTIALS: A buying guide identifies the best appliance advances of the past decade in dishwashers, refrigerators, ranges and microwaves.

A THRIFTY GUIDE TO GREAT CHEF RECIPES: *F&W* streamlines recipes from San Francisco's elegant restaurant, Spruce.

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Food & Wine is the modern, stylish, trend-spotting, talent-seeking epicurean magazine. Published by American Express Publishing, the leader in luxury lifestyle magazines, *Food & Wine* has a circulation of approximately 950,000.