



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WALL O' SQUASH AND OTHER PUMPKIN MASTERPIECES INSPIRE  
PUMPKIN FESTIVAL DISHES AT MON AMI GABI**

CHICAGO – Sept. 27, 2007 – In pursuit of the perfect pumpkin, the chefs of Mon Ami Gabi will host a tour of the world-famous Great Pumpkin Patch in Arthur, Ill. on Oct. 20 to kick off Mon Ami Gabi's annual Pumpkin Festival, Oct. 25-31. Featuring more than 400 varieties of pumpkins, squash and gourds from all over the world, from Australia to Japan, tour guests will see for themselves why the Great Pumpkin Patch draws more than 40,000 pumpkin enthusiasts a year, including Martha Stewart.

Chefs from the two Mon Ami Gabi restaurants (Chicago and Oak Brook) invite diners to meet them at the Great Pumpkin Patch to choose cucurbits (the scientific term for pumpkins, squash and gourds) from all over the world to be incorporated in French-inspired dishes for its annual Pumpkin Festival, a week-long series of pumpkin-inspired dishes.

"The Great Pumpkin Patch is a culinary goldmine for us – you can't find this kind of variety of pumpkins anywhere else in the country, possibly the world," said Mon Ami Gabi Executive Chef Larry Tio. "The variety of colors, tastes and textures inspires us to be more creative every year for the Pumpkin Festival. We can't wait to share this treasure with our customers."

**"Wall O' Squash" and Other Trip Highlights**

After meeting in Arthur, Ill., the largest Amish community in Illinois, guests will enjoy a home-cooked meal at a local Amish restaurant, Vera's Family Meals, followed by a personal tour of the Great Pumpkin Patch, which includes world famous displays such as "The League of Cucurbit

Nations” – pumpkins, squash and gourds from more than 30 countries; the “Wall O’ Squash” – a towering display showcasing more than 200 varieties of pumpkins; and “The A to Z of Squash” – every letter of the alphabet represented in squash-form. Following the tour, guests will enjoy free time to explore the straw bale maze, visit the farm animals, and take a wagon ride before heading home with a pumpkin that will be the envy of the neighborhood and a gift bag from Mon Ami Gabi.

The tour will cost \$30 per person, and guests will meet the Mon Ami Gabi team at The Great Pumpkin Patch in Arthur, Ill, at 12:00 p.m., and join other guests for lunch at 1:00 at Vera’s. More information and reservations are available by calling Mon Ami Gabi/Chicago at 773-348-8886, or Mon Ami Gabi/Oak Brook at 630-472-1900.

### **Pumpkins to Inspire**

After carting the curcubits back to Chicago, Mon Ami Gabi chefs will go to work creating sweet and savory dishes from the parade of pumpkins and squash sourced at the farm. The French-inspired appetizers, entrees and desserts will include: *Pumpkin Soup with Pulled Short Rib and Crème Fraiche; Pumpkin Feed Crusted Ahi Tuna with Smashed Pumpkin and Brown Butter, and Pumpkin Tarte Tatin with Whipped Cream.*

Activities honoring the Pumpkin are also planned throughout the festival including trivia and games where one lucky person will win dinner for four at Mon Ami Gabi.

Guests who dine at Mon Ami Gabi during the festival will have the opportunity to order from the regular menu. For more information about Mon Ami Gabi’s Pumpkin Festival, diners can call Mon Ami Gabi/Chicago at 773-348-8886, or Mon Ami Gabi/Oak Brook at 630-472-1900.

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