



**GRANDE LAKES
ORLANDO**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MARK BENSON APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF FLY FISHING AT
GRANDE LAKES ORLANDO**

Orlando, Fla. – April 7, 2016 – Mark Benson has been appointed Director of Fly Fishing at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club Orlando, Grande Lakes. In this position, he will lead the resort's guided fishing program as well as group and individual casting instruction for beginners and advanced professionals. The Ritz-Carlton Grande Lakes offers the quintessential Florida angling experience on its private 40-acre Shingle Pond as well as excursions on the adjacent Shingle Creek, headwaters to the Florida Everglades. Grande Lakes' Adventure Experiences fishing programs, managed by The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club Orlando, include fly-fishing, shore fishing and the new interactive catch and release program.

Benson brings extensive angling experience having maintained a U.S.C.G. Captain license as a professional salt and freshwater fishing guide since 1999. A member of the Orlando Back Country Fly Fishing Association and the International Game Fish Association, he is also a Certified Casting Instructor and a recipient of the President's Pin, an award given by the International Federation of Fly Fishers, a non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of fly-fishing through conservation, restoration and education. Benson's new role will enable him to continue his commitment to conservation as he contributes to Grande Lakes Orlando's sustainability mission in preserving the resort's natural surroundings and wildlife.

Benson is a Certified Florida Master Naturalist and holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Central Florida.

In addition to the resort's robust fishing offerings, The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club Orlando, Grande Lakes Adventure Experiences include guided kayak and canoe eco-tours on Shingle Creek, bird watching excursions and bird habitat building.

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About Grande Lakes Orlando

The 500-acre Grande Lakes Orlando estate features a 582-room Ritz-Carlton and 1,000-room JW Marriott hotel situated at the headwaters of the Florida Everglades. Guests at both hotels can enjoy all the facilities and services at Grande Lakes Orlando, including an



THE RITZ-CARLTON
ORLANDO, GRANDE LAKES

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18-hole Greg Norman-designed championship golf course and the 40,000-square-foot Ritz-Carlton Spa as well as three pools including the winding lazy river at JW Marriott. Dining options feature the culinary mastery of award-winning chefs Norman Van Aken with Norman's at The Ritz-Carlton and Melissa Kelly with PRIMO at JW Marriott, a leader in the city's farm-to-fork movement. The resort's renowned culinary program is further showcased at The Kitchen at JW Marriott Orlando and Highball & Harvest at The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, as well as The Brewery, an on-property nano-brewery and Chef's Table. Furthering this farm-to-fork commitment are the on-site apiaries and 18,000-square-foot Whisper Creek Farm.

On-property activities include Grande Lakes Adventures Experiences offering kayaking, eco-tours on Shingle Creek, and a fishing school. Conference and meeting attendees have their pick of a selection of meeting space options located across 150,000 square feet that connects the two properties plus more than 100,000 square feet of outdoor space.

Grande Lakes is located 15 minutes from the Orlando International Airport, five minutes from the Orange County Convention Center and minutes from the major theme parks. For more information about Grande Lakes Orlando, visit www.grandelakes.com. Follow Grande Lakes Orlando on Twitter at [@RC Orlando](https://twitter.com/RCOrlando) and [@JW Orlando](https://twitter.com/JWOrlando).

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About JW Marriott Hotels & Resorts

JW Marriott is part of Marriott International's luxury portfolio and consists of beautiful properties in gateway cities and distinctive resort locations around the world. These elegant hotels cater to today's sophisticated, self-assured travelers, offering them the quiet luxury they seek in a warmly authentic, relaxed atmosphere lacking in pretense. JW Marriott properties artfully provide highly crafted, anticipatory experiences that are reflective of their locale so that their guests have the time to focus on what is most important to them. Currently, there are 73 JW Marriott hotels in 28 countries; by 2020 the portfolio is expected to encompass more than 100 properties in over 30 countries. Visit us [online](#), on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and [#experiencejwm](#).

About The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, LLC

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C., of Chevy Chase, Md., currently operates 88 hotels in the Americas, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Caribbean. More than 30 hotel and residential projects are under development around the globe. For more information or reservations, visit the company web site at www.ritzcarlton.com, and for the latest company updates, visitnews.ritzcarlton.com. The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Marriott International, Inc. (NASDAQ:MAR).

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