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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHEF LUCIANO & GOURMET CHICKEN RESTAURANT RECEIVES 2011 PRESERVATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

Commission on Chicago Landmarks honors South Loop restaurant for immaculate restoration of historic building; Building one step closer to formal Landmark status

CHICAGO (Sept. 1, 2011) – Chef Luciano & Gourmet Chicken today was awarded the 2011 Chicago Landmark Award for Preservation Excellence for the renovation of its historic building, which was built in 1929 as one of the first White Castle restaurants in the city. The award honors outstanding projects that involve notable improvements to buildings within Chicago Landmark Districts.

The award was presented to Dave and Rocky Gupta, owners of Chef Luciano & Gourmet Chicken, at an award ceremony at the Chicago Cultural Center held by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks. The award brings the building one step closer to formal Landmark designation. The Commission had formally recommended Landmark status in July and will be considered by the City Council Committee on Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards at an upcoming hearing.

“We’re honored to receive this recognition of our efforts in restoring an important part of Chicago history,” said Rocky Gupta, restaurant owner and manager. “As we undertook our renovation project last year, we realized that it’s important to preserve our city’s history as we prepare for the future.”

The building, located at the corner of Cermak Road and Wabash Avenue, was restored in 2010 to its 1920s glory, when it housed the 16th White Castle restaurant built in Chicago (for pictures please click [here](#) or please see the [Chef’s Blog](#)). The building, with its visually distinctive, white glazed-brick with medieval inspired details, is considered an early example of 20th century programmatic architecture – visually distinctive buildings that served as advertisements for companies. In addition, the building is considered an important part of the South Loop’s Motor Row Chicago Landmark District.

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The Commission on Chicago Landmarks is made up of nine members who are appointed by the mayor, and are responsible for recommending to the City Council which individual sites and buildings should be designated as Chicago Landmarks, which protects them by law. The commission voted unanimously in July to recommend formal Landmark status to the City Council.

“We’re looking forward to receiving formal Landmark status,” Gupta said. “After a long restoration process, it’s rewarding to receive formal recognition...we hope we’re able to inspire other property owners to restore their historic buildings and help preserve Chicago history.”

For more details on Chef Luciano & Gourmet Chicken, including menus and restaurant history, log on to www.chefluciano.com. For the Chef’s blog, including pictures, please visit <http://chefluciano.wordpress.com/>.

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