



**Maria L. Bond**  
Director of Food & Beverage

Maria L. Bond, an ambitious figure in the culinary and hospitality industries for over 23 years, is the Director of Food & Beverage at The Palms Hotel & Spa. Her endeavors range from creating and teaching culinary classes to undertaking an entrepreneurial venture as executive chef and owner of her own “farm to table” fine dining restaurant, Niccolo’s Fine Dining & Renaissance Organic Farm.

As Director of Food & Beverage at The Palms Hotel & Spa, Bond is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the new Palms’ concept restaurant, *Essensia*, in-house banquet catering and room service. Set to open early in 2009, *Essensia* offers a specialized menu that blends the fresh and light style of Mediterranean cuisine with the liveliness of Floridian fare while incorporating wholesome ingredients. The Palms’ banquet catering and room service menus will also incorporate the philosophy of *Essensia*’s cuisine.

Being part of The Palms staff for almost one year, Bond finds motivation in the dedication and enthusiasm of the owners and staff. Her greatest contribution to The Palms is her passion for and commitment to great food, honest value and the ability to rely on the true, natural flavors of ingredients to inspire seasonal dishes.

An accomplished chef, Bond is constantly working on expanding her culinary education with Master Classes sponsored by the Culinary Institute of America. Prior to being named Director of Food & Beverage at The Palms Hotel & Spa, Bond served as Director of Food & Beverage at several hotels including the Gettysburg Country Club in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; and The Timothy Demonbreun House in Nashville, Tennessee. She is a member of Women Chefs and Restaurateurs, The Herb Society, Botanical Society of America and the Organic Consumers Association. In addition, Bond is a savvy business executive who once served as COO for Domani Ltd., a furniture manufacturing company for major national restaurant chain customers.



Bond currently lives in Miami Shores, and has been married to Hal Bond for 32 years. Together they have two sons, Hal Raphael and Nicholas Joseph. She enjoys playing the piano and the violin in her free time, as well as cooking and baking. Her greatest accomplishments are having a 51-acre farm with triple organic certification, and speaking to and educating others about leading healthy lifestyles and the joy and benefits of pure, wholesome foods.

### **About The Palms Hotel & Spa**

Since 2001, the naturally refined Palms Hotel & Spa has been offering guests a unique mix of the ambience and service of a boutique hotel with the capacity and amenities necessary for large groups and functions. Offering close proximity to South Beach's nightlife and a tranquil escape to the hotel's private pool and beach, guests enjoy the best of both worlds. The Palms Hotel & Spa is owned by the Krause family, who also owns the 100-room Circa 39 Hotel and is recognized for the revitalization of the renowned National Hotel. The Palms is a member of Summit Hotels & Resorts, a collection of the finest independent luxury hotels and resorts around the world.

Set in the heart of Miami Beach, The Palms Hotel & Spa sits on its own stretch of beach just 12 miles from Miami International Airport and 15 blocks from Ocean Drive. For reservations or further information please call 800.550.0505, or visit [www.thepalmshotel.com](http://www.thepalmshotel.com).

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