

HOTEL
ELEO

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Charlie Keller Appointed as Executive Chef of Hotel ELEO at the University of Florida

Keller launches Covey Kitchen + Cocktails Opens in Gainesville, Florida

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA - 2020 – Hotel ELEO at the University of Florida has appointed Charlie Keller as Executive Chef, to direct the new hotel's upscale signature restaurant Covey Kitchen + Cocktails while overseeing all casual dining and special event catering. Covey Kitchen + Cocktails opened August 24, 2020.

Chef Keller earned his culinary and business degrees at Johnson & Wales, having first gained his passion for the kitchen while working at restaurants while in high school. He honed his culinary expertise at prestigious restaurants, including the critically acclaimed *Ouest* in New York City, *The West Branch* and *Stone Park Cafe* in Brooklyn.

His impressive background includes a notable tenure as Resident Chef for an Ambassador to the United Nations, where he recreated traditional dishes from around the world for visiting foreign presidents and dignitaries. Most recently, the seasoned chef has successfully lead menu development and initial start up operatives for multiple restaurants in New York.

At Hotel ELEO's signature restaurant Covey Kitchen + Cocktails, Executive Chef Keller's approachable style will bring a modern interpretation to much-loved Southern comfort food. The seasonal menu showcasing produce from area farms includes dishes like gulf shrimp served with Geechie Boy Mill grits, Cedar Key clam and confit tomato ragout, Spatchcock Chicken alongside risotto, charred red cabbage and roasted garlic jus, and a trademark 'Covey Roast': a jumbo salad that touts a perfect blend of fresh and roasted vegetables. Sweet-toothed diners will be treated to indulgent classics like house-made sour pie, bread pudding and red velvet cake. Guests will also delight in signature cocktails, a menu of craft beers with a focus on Gainesville's award-winning breweries, and an impressive wine selection.

Covey Kitchen + Cocktails features a stylish indoor-dining space with floor-to-ceiling windows, a bar, a private dining alcove, and an outdoor terrace overlooking Rush Lake. Food and beverage options at the hotel also include a deli-style Gather + Go market, offering fresh sandwiches, salads, drinks and snacks ideal for guests wanting to picnic, bring a fresh meal to a loved one, or simply, for in-room dining.

Chef Keller commented, "I'm really excited to be leading the culinary operations for Hotel ELEO at the University of Florida. Food and hospitality are very dear to my heart, and I am looking forward to sharing that with the Gainesville community."

Jason Dugan, Director of Sales and Marketing at Hotel ELEO at the University of Florida, said, "We're delighted to welcome such a creative and distinguished chef to our talented hotel team. We look forward to our guests making unforgettable memories while enjoying Charlie's delicious Florida-inspired cuisine."

For more information on Hotel ELEO at the University of Florida and to make reservations, visit [HotelEleo.com](https://www.hoteleleo.com) or call 1-352-565-3536.

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About Hotel ELEO at the University of Florida

Hotel ELEO at the University of Florida, a 173-room boutique hotel, is located in Gainesville, Florida. The hotel is home to Covey Kitchen + Cocktails, offers flexible meeting and event space, features top-of-the-line equipment in the fitness studio. The hotel is in walking distance to restaurants, galleries, theaters, stadiums on the University of Florida campus and UF Health, the University of Florida's academic health center. For more information visit HotelEleo.com or call 352-565-3536.

About the University of Florida

The University of Florida's mission is to prepare our students to lead and influence the next generation and beyond for economic, cultural and societal benefit. Recognized as among the top 10 public universities by U.S. News & World Report, UF is one of the nation's largest public universities, and is the only member of the Association of American Universities in Florida. Teaching, research and scholarship, and service span all of the UF's academic disciplines and represent its commitment to be a premier university that the state, nation and world look to for leadership. www.ufl.edu.

About University of Florida Health

UF Health is a world-class health organization that combines leading-edge research at campuses around Florida with patient-centered clinical care at a network of hospitals, including UF Health Shands Hospital, ranked the No. 1 hospital in Florida in the 2020-21 U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals survey. With main campuses in Gainesville and Jacksonville, UF Health is a constellation of six health colleges, nine research centers and institutes, 10 hospitals, including two teaching hospitals and five specialty hospitals, and a host of physician medical practices and outpatient services throughout North Central, Central and Northeast Florida. Our mission is to promote health through outstanding and high-quality patient care, innovative and rigorous education in the health professions and biomedical sciences, and high-impact research across the spectrum of basic, translational and clinical investigation. Visit www.UFHealth.org to learn more.

HOTEL ELEO AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

1514 Southwest 14th Street

Gainesville, Florida 32608

Phone: 352-565-3536

HotelEleo.com

PRESS CONTACT:

Jane Watkins

Watkins PR

jane@watkinspr.com

Phone: 305-342-534