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**The Wilderness Grill Hires New Chef**

*A culinary expert in his hometown.*

**TOWER, MN** — The Wilderness at Fortune Bay is pleased to announce that Tower native Bryan Morcom is their new chef.

“We could not be more thrilled to have Chef Bryan Morcom leading our culinary team,” said The Wilderness at Fortune Bay’s General Manager and Head Golf Professional Ryan Peterson. “Chef Morcom is extremely talented and will bring a fresh look to our menu with locally-grown ingredients as well as his own wild-harvested foods to reflect the seasons.”

After graduating from Tower-Soudan, Morcom enlisted into the Navy, where he traveled around the world. He said the Navy created a strong sense of discipline and teamwork that he carried into his civilian life.

“I understood for the first time the potential of myself,” said Morcom. “I had great role models in the Navy who taught me that even though we are different from each other— we all want to be respected, supported and trusted as people. My Navy experience also taught me how to have a strong work ethic.”

Building on this experience, Morcom left the Navy to follow his true passion for cooking and he soon attended Le cordon Bleu cooking school in Minneapolis. Upon graduation, Morcom took an unpaid internship at Restaurant Alma in Minneapolis, which has been consistently rated one of the top restaurants in the Twin Cities. After 13 years, Morcom was running Alma until he realized his self-discovery was not complete. This led to a bicycle trip from the headwaters of the Mississippi River to Gulf of Mexico. His journey continued a Theravadin Buddhist monastery, which is where he spent five months with a monk in the deep woods. These experiences led him to opening his own pop up restaurant in Ely last summer, which was called Moose Bear Wolf.

After 26 years in the restaurant industry, Morcom is going back full circle to where he started his culinary career at Fortune Bay when he was 15.

“This opportunity at The Wilderness could not have come at a better time,” said Chef Morcom. “I am excited to bring New American cuisine to the shores of Lake Vermilion. How cool is it that you have the ability to boat to Fortune Bay’s marina to dine and take in breathtaking views over the award-winning Wilderness Golf Course? With one simple call to the Pro Shop, The Wilderness staff will pick you up at the marina.”

Morcom said he hopes to teach others who are willing to learn and grow their culinary experience with hands on training.

“Businesses are successful because of the people,” said Morcom. “We must invest in them.”

Peterson said that The Wilderness will be looking to hire line cooks, dishwashers, wait staff and bartenders along with other positions for their upcoming season opening May 8<sup>th</sup> weather dependent. Anyone is more than welcome to send in a job application or to visit their website ([golftthewilderness.com](http://golftthewilderness.com)) for more information.

“Not only will Bryan be a great asset to The Wilderness Grill, but he’ll also be a huge asset for the community,” said The Wilderness at Fortune Bay Sales and Marketing Director Rachel Indihar. “I’m a local myself, who appreciates great food so I look forward to Bryan’s menu, many of which will include locally sourced ingredients.”

The Wilderness Grill has received rave recognitions through Golf Advisor and a variety of local events such as Flavor of the North hosted by United Way where they have won the Best Dessert and Appetizer Awards over the years. “Morcom will continue to deliver excellence and bring it to a higher level the iron range has yet to see,” said Indihar.

Peterson agreed and added that his team is excited to see what Chef Morcom and his team will be doing to bring a new flare of dining here on the Iron Range. “He’ll be the perfect complement for those looking for a great golf experience, followed by an excellent dining experience.”



Pictured: New Chef Bryan Morcom at The Wilderness

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**About the Wilderness at Fortune Bay**

The Wilderness at Fortune Bay is proudly owned by the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. The Wilderness is part of Minnesota's premier resort destination on beautiful Lake Vermilion at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. The golf course opened in 2004 and has been consistently ranked one of the best golf courses in Minnesota and the country by national golf publications. Along with the championship golf course, the property includes a well-known restaurant and bar, The Wilderness Grill, plus a pro shop featuring quality clothing, clubs and accessories.