



Ruth's Chris Steak House Brings the Sizzle to Market Street

Iconic American steakhouse now open in Charleston.

Charleston, S.C. (May 26, 2015) – Ruth's Chris Steak House announces the opening of its newest restaurant in Charleston, South Carolina. The internationally-acclaimed steakhouse opened on Sunday, May 24th – a date of particular importance to the legendary global brand as it also represented the 50th anniversary of the founding of Ruth's Chris Steak House. Located in the heart of downtown Charleston, adjacent to the French Quarter Inn, this restaurant marks the 11th Ruth's Chris restaurant for Sizzling Steak Concepts, the largest Ruth's Chris Steak House franchisee, and the 146th restaurant worldwide.

"Nancy and Mark Oswald are model franchise partners who have played an important role in elevating the Ruth's Chris brand. Just like our fearless founder, Ruth Fertel, Nancy and Mark paved the way for Ruth's Chris Steak House by following Ruth's core values," according to Mike O'Donnell, President and CEO of Ruth's Hospitality Group Inc. "The Oswalds' hard work and dedication are reflective of our heritage. We are proud to be affiliated with them and admire their determination in continuously delivering genuine hospitality."

Featuring custom-aged, USDA prime steaks served on 500 degree sizzling plates, complemented by an award-winning wine list and handcrafted cocktails, Sizzling Steak Concepts' franchise partners Nancy and Mark Oswald are dedicated to honoring the vision and traditions set forth by Ruth's Chris Steak House founder, Ruth Fertel.

"We are excited to bring the Ruth's Chris Steak House experience to Charleston and are thankful to our many partners who helped make this dream a reality," notes Mark Oswald, co-owner/franchisee of Ruth's Chris Steak House – Charleston. "Our Ruth's Chris Steak House family looks forward to many great years serving sizzling steaks and legendary hospitality in the heart of the Peninsula."

Though the Ruth's Chris collection of steakhouses is most certainly global, each individual restaurant features local and distinctive design elements. The Market Street outpost boasts a uniquely curated collection of art featuring works from East Bay's Lowcountry Artists Gallery, Charleston's oldest artist owned and operated gallery, as well as commissioned works in the restaurant's private rooms by Sullivan's Island resident, Mickey Williams, and Charleston native, Rick Rhodes.

The restaurant hosted invited guests for private dress rehearsals before Sunday's opening to the public. At these preview events, selections from the Ruth's Chris Steak House celebrated wine cellar were available for purchase with all proceeds benefiting Pattison's D.R.E.A.M. Academy, a Charleston non-profit dedicated to improving the quality of life for children with multiple disabilities. Due to the generous nature of guests, Ruth's Chris Steak House is proud to announce a donation to Pattison's Academy in the amount of \$20,064.24, a record donation in the history of a Ruth's Chris opening and a particularly significant amount in that it exceeds the cost of care for a child at Pattison's/PACE Charter School for a full calendar year.

“Ruth’s Chris Steak House is known not only for their superior dining experience and hospitality, but also for their commitment to the communities they serve,” notes Michael Lisle, Pattison’s Academy, CEO and Interim Education Administrator. “Pattison’s Academy is honored to have been selected as Ruth’s Chris’ philanthropic partner in Charleston and profoundly grateful for the graciousness the Ruth’s Chris family has extended to us. Their generous support will help the Academy continue to provide comprehensive services for children with disabilities and their families throughout Charleston County.”

<u>Hours of Operation:</u>	Lunch:	Monday – Sunday [11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.] <i>*Lunch service begins June 15, 2015</i>
	Dinner:	Monday – Sunday [3:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.] <i>*Valet parking available at French Quarter Inn</i>
		Sizzle Swizzle Swirl
	Happy Hour:	Seven Days A Week [4 p.m. – 6 p.m.]
<u>General Manager:</u>		John St. John
<u>Executive Chef:</u>		Jonathan Kaldas
<u>Address:</u>		Ruth’s Chris Steak House 55 South Market Street at the French Quarter Inn Charleston, S.C. 29401
<u>Website:</u>		www.ruthschris.net

About Ruth’s Chris Steak House & Sizzling Steak Concepts (franchise group)

From its humble beginnings in 1965 in New Orleans, Louisiana to its current position as an internationally acclaimed collection of premier steakhouses, Ruth’s Chris welcomes steak enthusiasts in thirty-six states and eleven countries worldwide.

Opening their first Ruth’s Chris restaurant in the Buckhead neighborhood of Atlanta in 1986, Sizzling Steak Concepts is the largest Ruth’s Chris franchisee worldwide, with four restaurants in metropolitan Atlanta (Buckhead, Centennial Olympic Park, Kennesaw and Alpharetta), two in Alabama (Birmingham and Huntsville), four in South Carolina (Columbia, Greenville, Myrtle Beach and Charleston) and one in Chattanooga, Tennessee, with plans for further expansion throughout the southeast.

About Pattison’s Academy

Pattison’s Academy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Charleston, South Carolina, whose mission is to improve the quality of life for children with multiple, complex disabilities. Accomplishing this mission through an array of programming – including the provision of early intervention services, private practice therapy, the only therapeutic summer camp in South Carolina’s Lowcountry, and the operation of the only public charter school in the country that exclusively serves children with severe disabilities – Pattison’s has operated since 2005 and currently serves over 125 children through their programs. For more information about Pattison’s please visit their website at www.pattisonsacademy.org.