

The New York Times - July 30, 2013

The New York Times

Dining & Wine

Geoffrey Zakarian Has Become the Culinary Director of the Plaza Hotel



Geoffrey Zakarian was tapped for the job by Sant Singh Chatwal, the owner of Chatwal Hotel in the theater district.

Headliner

THE PLAZA HOTEL

Geoffrey Zakarian, above, has become the culinary director of the hotel, where he will be responsible for reinvigorating the iconic Palm Court and eventually resurrecting the Oak Room, which reopened five years ago after extensive restoration and much fanfare, but then closed yet again. He will also supervise food and beverages for the Oak Bar, Rose Club and Champagne Bar, and for room service. He was tapped for the job by Sant Singh Chatwal, the owner of Chatwal Hotel in the theater district, where Mr. Zakarian has been running the Lambs Club restaurant. Last fall, Mr. Chatwal's company, Sahara Hampshire Hotel Management, won a 20-year contract to manage food and beverages for the Plaza. Mr. Zakarian has been in hotel restaurant kitchens since 1987; he also runs the National Bar and Dining Rooms in the Benjamin Hotel. High on his to-do list at the Plaza is the Palm Court, where he hopes changes will be in place by early 2014. "I want to leave as much as we can in place, the way they do with the great old restaurants in Paris," he said. *The Palm Court serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea.*

KEY GROUP WORLDWIDE
NEWS