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## Having guests for Passover? Resorts will host hundreds



Topnotch Resort and Spa in Stowe, Vt., will host its first Passover program this week. Most of the 250 guests will be from the Northeast, but interest came from South America and abroad. (Topnotch Resort And Spa)

With Passover approaching, Moshe Wein discussed the finer points of Bolognese sauce with a chef from the Rancho Bernardo Inn. The luxury San Diego resort was preparing for 300 kosher guests, all eager to celebrate in grand style the holiday that begins tomorrow at sundown. That means gourmet food prepared following kosher for Passover guidelines and testing the skills and creativity of the kitchen staff.

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To get an idea of the challenge for resorts hosting Passover, imagine the television show “Top Chef” with a clutch of rabbis overseeing every detail of food preparation. No cardboard-textured, matzo-centric dishes for this crowd. No mixing of milk and meat, no leavened bread products, and no

rice, corn, or legumes.

“The chef was asking me if he could make a Bolognese sauce,” said Wein, co-owner of Kosher Travels Unlimited. “I said to him, ‘If you make a great Bolognese sauce and that’s one of your signature dishes, then I want you making it for Passover.’ Then the chef said, ‘Well, can I have this, this, and this?’ I said, ‘I’ll get it.’”

But catering to the culinary, cultural, and recreational appetites of Passover vacationers goes far beyond a memorable Bolognese sauce. It takes nearly year-round planning to please Jewish travelers who pay, on average, \$4,000 per person for fun-filled family getaways. Clients booking a 10-day Passover vacation often consider it their main family vacation for the year.

**Page 3 of 3** -- The same is true at the Rancho Bernardo Inn, where Kosher Travels Unlimited will return for the eighth year. While Wein acknowledged an annual learning curve, experience makes the process as seamless as possible.

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“Service staffs are trained to say ‘Yes,’” Wein said. “I have to explain to them, here, if you say ‘No’ in the right way, you will be doing the right thing. So, if somebody asks you for milk for a baby during a meat meal, you have to learn how to say, ‘I’m sorry, but the rabbi won’t let me bring

milk into the dining room.’ And the kitchen staff has to understand, if they think the food would be greater with a certain ingredient, they can’t go into another kitchen and get that ingredient.”