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A Sweet Story

Chocolate Books You Can Really Sink Your Teeth Into

"I always like to make the chocolate and sugar sculptures represent fine art. This approach makes it more appealing to the public in my opinion." --Grand Hyatt San Antonio Pastry Chef Daniel Keadle

Put those visions of sugarplums right out of your head this holiday season with the unveiling Thursday, November 20 at 10 a.m. of a **Grand Chocolate Sculpture** featuring holiday books you can literally sink your teeth into. Award-winning **Grand Hyatt San Antonio** Pastry Chef Daniel Keadle has once again worked his magic and transformed more than 300 pounds of **chocolate** into a museum-worthy masterpiece. The three-dimensional design showcases books representative of faiths all over the world sandwiched between two ornamental bookends featuring the wise-looking visage of an old man. Floating pages and various religious symbols highlight the work.

"I selected this particular sculpture because it showcases all of the different celebrations occurring during the holiday season," describes Keadle. "The books tie into the partnership with the San Antonio Library Foundation and the sculpture with the floating pages will add an element of artistic expression that is my style."

Recipe for a Masterpiece

Keadle, who will spend approximately one month perfecting his design, begins the process with 150 to 200 pounds of **chocolate**. From there he adds 10 to 20 pounds of pastillage and pressed sugar pieces to add dimension and elegance to the piece.

"The pressed sugar is in granulated form and it sets up hard as a brick," Keadle describes. "Pastillage sets up hard too although it is the consistency of a soft dough."

In addition to these ingredients, Keadle will incorporate tools of the trade such as silicone forms, airbrushes and carving knives that will provide the necessary texture. Color will be added through the use of milk, dark and white **chocolates** as well as colored cocoa butters and edible metallic sprays.

The first order of business in creating a sculpture this massive will be to produce the bigger and less detailed items such as the large books—a task Keadle plans to undertake during the second week in October.

Chocolate Sculpture

Fun Facts

150-200 pounds

of chocolate

“This will give me a better idea of how to fit everything into the sculpture,” he explains.

Later in the month, Keadle will begin the production of the elaborate bookends.

“By starting this portion of the design in late October it allows ample time to make adjustments to the design if needed,” he explains.

The first week of November will find Keadle hard at work on the final piece of the sculpture: the floating pages **chocolate** showpiece that will adorn the center section of the display.

“I enjoy working with **chocolate** because it allows me to create almost anything,” says Keadle whose **chocolate** creations have won the talented chef numerous awards and recognitions.

“Through years of experience I have found ways to make any shape or texture and apply it to the subject or idea.”

Finally, After approximately 90 hours of labor, the showpiece will be assembled on November 20 in the hotel lobby. Keadle’s masterpiece will remain throughout the holidays as part of the **Grand Hyatt San Antonio’s** Grand Holiday Celebration.

Sadly however, it will not be eaten in the New Year—but that’s okay with Keadle.

“The fact that edible sculptures are not permanent reflects the concept of creating new techniques and looking to the future in order to grow.”

*“I enjoy working with
chocolate because it allows me
to create almost anything.”
--Chef Daniel Keadle*

A Window into a Grand Celebration

Keadle’s Masterpiece is just one element of the total Grand Hyatt Holiday Package. The hotel is celebrating its first holiday season in San Antonio in Grand style. Most impressive is the 24-foot by 20-foot holiday window that rivals anything on New York’s Fifth Avenue.

In keeping with the hotel’s literacy theme, the window features dozens of beautifully bound holiday classics dangling in free-hanging mobile fashion against a stunning backdrop of 1,680 Red and Amber LED light curtains and 10 triple light balls.

The centerpiece of this magnificent creation is a chair that looks as though it came straight from the Mad Hatter’s tea party. This wacky throne will serve as a seat for a fun and funky St. Nick as he delights youngsters by reading holiday classics during story times taking place Tuesday, December 2, 9 and 16 at 10 and 11 a.m.

“At the Grand Hyatt we believe that the greatest gift you can give your children is the gift of literacy,” says Grand Hyatt Managing Director Tom Netting, who will serve as St. Nick. “That is why on this, our first holiday season in San Antonio, we want to promote reading together as a family and creating holiday memories.”

Netting will be reading from holiday favorites selected by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation including the Corduroy Bear Christmas series, Too Many Tamales, Hershel and the Hannukah Goblins, My First Kwanzaa Book and many more.

Grand Décor and More

But the breathtaking window is just the start. Inside the Grand Hyatt, the holiday theme continues—but not in the traditional way! In keeping with the modern and urban ambience of this stunning hotel, the usual rules don't apply.

The Grand Hyatt San Antonio will be filled with trees, wreaths and thousands upon thousands of lights. Both the Entry and Escalator lobbies will feature 12-foot trees, each adorned with 2,950 mini-brite lights. The Entry tree will be trimmed in ornaments of Turquoise, Orange and Silver to enhance that area's Mexico-inspired theme, while the Escalator tree will shine with an additional 400 Amber LED lights and will feature a monochromatic theme of Gold, Amber and Orange ornaments. Colorful presents, 75 in all, will be wrapped in coordinating papers and piled high under these statement trees.

“At the Grand Hyatt, we believe that the greatest gift you can give your children is the gift of literacy.”

--Tom Netting, Managing Director

As guests check into the hotel, they will be greeted by two square wreaths lit and decorated in the Gold, Amber and Orange hues while 220 balls in the same colors will fill the bottoms of the lobby planters for a festive touch.

Outside the grand décor continues with 5,425 Amber LED lights illuminating the Exterior Front Entry Posts, while on the Exterior Patio of the delicious Achiote Restaurant, six 10-inch Red and Amber Plasm balls and six lit spiral finials will dangle delightfully. Sixty Red and Amber LED's will outline the perimeter of the restaurant and an additional 23 will accent the steps from the River Level to the Street Level.

Inside Achiote, a 9.5 foot tree lit with mini-brite lights and red LEDs will serve as a focal point and enhance the several 7.5-foot trees lit in Amber LEDs and festooned with Lime and Fuchsia balls that will grace the party rooms.

About the Grand Hyatt San Antonio

Grand Hyatt San Antonio is a premier destination in the heart of downtown. The 1,003-room, 37-story luxury hotel, with 115,000 square feet of indoor/outdoor meeting space, is adjacent to the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center and famed San Antonio Riverwalk. The hotel also includes a fully equipped 24-hour StayFit@Hyatt gym with heated outdoor lap pool, Perks Coffee and more. At the Grand Hyatt San Antonio guests will find a unique blend of location, amenities and service to make their stay unforgettable. For more information about Hyatt hotels and resorts, visit Hyatt on the Internet at www.hyatt.com. For more information on Grand Hyatt San Antonio please call (210) 224-1234 or visit <http://grandsanantonio.hyatt.com>

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