

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

We Ko Pa Casino Resort's 'Ember' becomes first Tribally owned restaurant in Arizona to receive the 'AAA Four Diamond Restaurant' Designation



All-New Fort McDowell Casino

Fort McDowell, AZ – February 26, 2026

Ember, the acclaimed fine dining restaurant owned and operated by the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, has been awarded the prestigious AAA Four Diamond Restaurant designation, becoming the first tribal-owned restaurant in the state of Arizona to receive this distinction.

Presented by AAA, the Four Diamond designation recognizes restaurants that achieve an exceptional standard of excellence in cuisine, service, ambiance, and overall dining experience. Fewer than 3% of the nearly 30,000 restaurants evaluated annually by AAA earn the Four Diamond rating.

“We are very thankful to the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation who believed in the vision of Ember restaurant and allowed us to open Ember at We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort in 2020,” Said Zac Gallo, executive director of food and beverage at the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort. *“Our service culture is founded on ‘arms wide open hospitality’ and we strive to be the very best at what we do. This recognition means so much to us. I am incredibly proud of the Ember team, and their commitment to dining excellence.”*

Ember is an all-scratch kitchen that features the highest quality USDA Prime and Angus Wagyu beef, game and seafood from around the world. The menu is complemented by a specialty cocktail menu, whiskey library and award-winning wine and spirit list accompanied by exceptional service from the Sommelier and Service Team.

“This achievement reflects more than culinary excellence...” said Harold, Baugus, We Ko Pa Casino Resort General Manager, *“It reflects a culture where our team members show up to make We Ko Pa a place people are proud to serve the Yavapai Nation.”*

Ember is located inside We Ko Pa Casino Resort, where the hotel was also named an AAA Four Diamond recipient in 2007. Reservations can be made by calling (480) 789-8544.

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About the We Ko Pa Casino Resort

Conveniently located 20 minutes from the airport, the We Ko Pa Resort & Conference Center (www.wekoparesort.com) features 246 contemporary guestrooms and suites designed with Native American traditions, fine dining experiences at Ember, luxurious spa treatments and salon services at the Amethyst Spa & Boutique, and a spacious heated outdoor pool with two whirlpools. The AAA Four Diamond independent golf resort's proximity to the award-winning courses at We Ko Pa Golf Club, gaming and entertainment at We Ko Pa Casino, and the numerous outdoor activities at Fort McDowell Adventures make it the ideal destination for a vacation, business function or special event. We Ko Pa is located in the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation.
