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CONTACT: Kelly Pascal Gould, APR
Pascal Public Relations
Kelly@pascalpr.com
303.324.6723

ROYAL GORGE ROUTE RAILROAD LAUNCHES 2010 SUMMER SEASON MAY 29 WITH COMMEMORATIVE ROYAL GORGE ART, NEW COLORADO MENUS AND RENOVATED 1950s ERA BAR & LOUNGE CAR

Cañon City, COLO. (May 4, 2010) – The [Royal Gorge Route Railroad](http://www.royalgorgeroute.com) launches its 2010 summer season May 29 with new Colorado dinner and wine train menus, a newly renovated 1950s-era bar and lounge car, two renovated coach cars, and a commemorative graphic artwork by Rocky Mountain artist Ward Hooper, according to Mark Greksa, owner of the Royal Gorge Route Railroad.

“We commissioned Ward Hooper for the Royal Gorge Route’s first commemorative piece because his artwork uniquely demonstrates the beauty of the natural world in the Rocky Mountain west,” said Greksa. “His dramatic use of light, shadow and nostalgic earth tones honestly conveys the romance of the Royal Gorge Route experience.” Hooper will ride the Royal Gorge Route Railroad at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Saturday, June 5 to meet passengers and sign posters of his new art, called [Summer on The Royal Gorge Route](#). Hooper’s artwork also will be available in the historic Santa Fe Depot.

The Royal Gorge Route Railroad began ferrying passengers along the wild Arkansas River deep within the granite cliffs of the Royal Gorge in 1880. Today, Colorado’s first and most scenic streamliner hosts more than 100,000 passengers each year. The legendary train begins its 2010 daily departure schedule May 29 at 9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. for lunch, dinner, murder mystery and wine train excursions aboard its mid-century coach, observation and vista domes, and classic dining cars. Ticket prices range from \$29.95 - \$155 depending on class of service, meal and amenities. The Royal Gorge Route Railroad’s complete daily and special event schedules are available online at <http://www.royalgorgeroute.com/pdf/royalgorgebrochure.pdf>.

The Royal Gorge Route’s new menus will feature local and seasonal offerings from Colorado such as Colorado lamb, western slope peaches, Penrose valley fruits and vegetables, Haystack Mountain Cheese and wines from Holy Cross Abbey Winery and Canyon Wind Cellars.

“Our [classes of service](#) and fine-dining menus have always been inspired by the elegant and leisurely train excursions of yesteryear,” said Greksa. “This year, we’re taking our full-service dining and wine offering to another level by serving new menus with fresh tastes and a Colorado culinary emphasis.” One of the train’s most interesting new menu additions is Western Slope Peach Compote with Bacon Ice Cream.

On May 29, the Royal Gorge Route Railroad also will unveil its newly renovated bar and lounge car designed to evoke the laid-back atmosphere of the 1950s with warm wood details, lounge seating and a full bar featuring nostalgic mixed drinks, Colorado wines and microbrews. Coach class will also offer two completely remodeled coaches for the 2010 season.

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