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Owner Maestro Placido Domingo hosts Grand Opening of Zengo
along with partner Critically-acclaimed chef/owner Richard Sandoval

Washington, DC – Maestro Placido Domingo and nationally renowned chef Richard Sandoval celebrated the private grand opening of their new Latin-Asian restaurant, Zengo, on Monday in the vibrant Gallery Place/Chinatown neighborhood. Zengo's debut drew over 450 guests, ranging from Washington National Opera luminaries to business leaders such as Herb Miller of Western Development; politicians like Carol Schwartz; top chefs such as Kaz Okochi of Kaz Sushi Bistro and fashionistas including Patti Cumming of Neiman Marcus.

A Chinese Lion Dance, complete with drums and acrobatics, greeted guests as they walked up the red carpet. This high-energy performance was intended to bring the restaurant good luck. Once inside guests were able to admire the light-filled two-story restaurant with soaring ceilings and a playful mix of soft and sensual forms, brightly colored faux iguana and lizard textures, and tones designed by award-winning architects Adamstein & Demetriou.

Guests enjoyed a wide variety of Latin-Asian offerings including *Yellow Fin Tuna* and *Rock Shrimp Ceviche*, *Angry Zengo*, *Langosta*, and *Volcano Sushi Rolls*, *Empanadas*, *Vegetarian Spring Rolls*, and *Potstickers* and cocktails, such as the award winning Mojito Cuzco, the Caipirinha with fresh muddled raspberries, and The Blushing Geisha.

The highlight of the evening came when guests received a surprise performance by the Maestro himself! Placido Domingo surprised his son Alvaro, who turned 38, with a birthday cake and the world's most amazing version of Happy Birthday, sung by Placido and performers from the Washington National Opera Young Artists Program.

Zengo officially opens today, October 12, 2005 for dinner and cocktails, and later in the month is expected to open for lunch. Domingo and Sandoval are also partners in Pampano in New York City.

Zengo is open Sunday – Thursday for dinner from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. A limited lounge menu is available from 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and the bar is open from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Friday & Saturday dinner is available from 5:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. A limited lounge menu is available from 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. and the bar is open from 5:00 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Zengo is located at 781 Seventh St., NW, Washington, DC, 20001. The restaurant can be reached via Metro by taking the Red Line to the Gallery Place/Chinatown stop and following the signs to Chinatown. For reservations, please call 202.393.2929. For more information, please visit www.modernmexican.com.

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