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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**BAILLI DÉLÉGUÉ OF THE CHAÎNE DES RÔTISSEURS, HAROLD SMALL  
RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS MÉRITE AGRICOLE FROM GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE**

*Chaîne Des Rôtisseurs Member Recognized For Notable Professional Contributions To French  
Gastronomy and Wines On March 10, 2017*

**Madison, New Jersey (March 13, 2017):** Harold Small, Bailli Délégué (President) of the [Chaîne des Rôtisseurs](#) – the world’s oldest and most distinguished food and wine society, is named a Chevalier by the Republic of France and presented with the Mérite Agricole Medal by Consul General Christophe Lemoine. The distinguished award is given to those who have advanced French agriculture and, in this instance that stems from Gastronomy and French wines. Mr. Small was recognized for a lifetime of achievements.

“The Mérite Agricole medal is one of the most important and highest non-military distinctions granted by the country of France. It is particularly rare for the award to be presented to an American. Hal received this recognition for all that he has done to preserve and advance the gastronomy and œnology of France. Hal has a passion for the *art of the table*, which he has honed and refined since his days as a law school student. His dedication to the culinary arts is regularly showcased through his involvement with the Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, a fact proudly proffered by Consul General Lemoine.” said Ira Falk, Conseiller Gastronomique des Etats-Unis d’Amérique.

“Hal’s being named the recipient of the title and office of l’Ordre Mérite Agricole, is very appropriate considering all he has done and continues to do for both established and aspiring, culinarians, chefs, sommeliers, winemakers, and hospitality professionals. Hal now joins an illustrious group of past recipients and is only one of three current Chaîne members to have received this impressive award and recognition” Falk continued.

Small is an attorney and has been a member of the San Diego chapter of the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs for the past 26 years, and has worked tirelessly to benefit culinary and hospitality professionals. He is an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Chefs, the recipient of the Antonin Carême Award, and an accomplished attorney.

“It is a true honor to be recognized by the Government of France,” says Harold Small. “In an era that primarily focuses on hospitality and American food and wine, the Chaîne has allowed me to foster, assist, and promote the camaraderie at the table while enjoying wonderful wines and food of France. What an honor!”

(Continued)

The order was originally established July 7, 1883 and recognizes those that have rendered exceptional services. Normally there are two investitures in France for this award. The special bestowal ceremony was held for Mr. Small at the residence of the French Consul in Beverly Hills, California.

### **About the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs**

The Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs is the world's oldest, largest and most prestigious food and wine society with 25,000 members worldwide. There are 130 chapters and 6,000 members throughout the United States. Important programs include annual Young Sommeliers and Young Chefs competitions held both nationally and internationally. Founded in Paris in 1950, the Chaîne's roots reach back to 1248 in France. It is dedicated to honoring the skills and practices of the masters of the culinary arts and those individuals who craft our libations. For additional information: [www.chaineus.org](http://www.chaineus.org).

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