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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MARTIN SHEEHAN-STROSS TAKES GOLD AT 2016 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION OF YOUNG SOMMELIERS

U.S. Sommelier Takes Top Place In Competition Among World's Best Young Sommeliers on August 26th in Vaduz, Liechtenstein.

Madison, New Jersey (September 12, 2016) – Martin Sheehan-Stross of the United States was named the best young sommelier in the world at the 2016 [Chaîne des Rôtisseurs'](#) Jeunes Sommeliers (Young Sommeliers) Competition in Vaduz, Liechtenstein. Sheehan-Stross is a member of the San Francisco chapter of the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs and is the head sommelier at Michael Mina Restaurant.

Hosted annually by the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, the world's oldest and largest food and wine society, the competition tests sommeliers under 31 years of age on blind-tasting ability, tableside wine service skills, and many areas of wine and crafted beverage knowledge. This year sommeliers representing 16 countries on five continents competed in this challenging and highly respected wine competition.

U.S. National President Harold Small commented that "The International Chaîne Young Sommeliers Competition promotes mastery of wine and spirits skills among young sommeliers worldwide. The competitors presented their 'savoir faire' under highly competitive, intense and grueling testing conditions, judged by three Master Sommeliers headed by Brian Julyan MS, the chief executive of the European Court of Master Sommeliers."

"This was the largest and most capable field of competitors we've ever seen, from almost every corner of the globe," said Charles Bennett, Grand Echanson of the Chaîne. "These young professionals get better every year, which is gratifying for the Chaîne because improving sommeliers' skills and enthusiasm are the goals of the competition."

Sheehan-Stross exhibited his mastery during the Chaîne's three areas of examination: theory testing, practical skills testing, and blind tasting. His prizes included the winner's silver-plated tray, Champagne sabre, wine-related scholarship sponsored by Le Cordon Bleu, a magnum of Laurent-Perrier Champagne, and a Wempe Zeitmeister wrist watch.

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 more than 24,000 members worldwide. There are about 125 chapters with approximately 6,000 members throughout the United States and

the Caribbean. 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.

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