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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

VINCENT MORROW NAMED BEST YOUNG SOMMELIER IN 2017 CHAÎNE DES RÔTISSSEURS BEST YOUNG SOMMELIERS COMPETITION

Morrow Moves On To Compete In The 2017 Best Young Sommeliers International Competition, September 27-30 in Budapest, Hungary

Madison, New Jersey (May 31, 2017) – Vincent Morrow of San Francisco, CA representing the Pacific Northwest region is named Best Young Sommelier in the [Chaîne des Rôtisseurs](#)’ Young Sommeliers Competition. The winner claims the title after competing against eight other contestants in the national finals in Portland, OR.

Hosted annually by the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, the world’s oldest and largest food and wine society, the annual competition tests competitors on blind tasting ability, tableside wine service skills, and many areas of wine knowledge. The highly competitive program attracts the country’s most promising young talent, says Charles Bennett, Grand Echanson of the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs.

“Each year, the young sommeliers bring fresh perspective and talent,” continued Bennett. “We congratulate Morrow on this momentous victory, and are thrilled for him to showcase his abilities while representing the United States in the International Competition.”

The national competition finals took place May 18 and May 19, and included a one-hour written test, a blind tasting test, and multiple service tests. Competition judges included Masters Sommeliers, a Master of Wine, a previous national winner, and a small number of Chaîne members with extensive wine knowledge.

The 2017 Young Sommeliers contestants who participated in the national competition finals included:

Northeast Region

Luke Boland, THE GRILL, New York City – *Third Place Winner*

Mid-Atlantic Region

Brandon Anderson, Fiola Mare Restaurant, Washington, DC

South Central Region

Christanna Honer, Southern Season Restaurant, Carrboro, NC

Southeast Region

Cassandra Felix, Flagler Steakhouse at The Breakers Resort, Palm Beach, FL

Midwest Region

Alex Ring, Spiaggia Restaurant, Chicago, IL – *Second Place Winner*

Southwest Region

Sophie Oppelt, Summit at The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, CO

Pacific Northwest Region

Vincent Morrow, GuildSomm Education Director, Napa, CA – *First Place Winner*

Far West Region

Molly Brooks, Truly Fine Wine, San Diego, CA

Hawaii / Pacific Region

Taro Kurobe, Mariposa Restaurant at Neiman Marcus, Honolulu, HI

After these tests, the top three contestants who scored the highest were given an additional set of challenges including an oral knowledge quiz, a blind tasting test, and a service test, all in front of a live audience. The winner of this final set of challenges claimed the title as the 2017 Best Young Sommelier, which was announced during the awards ceremony and gala dinner.

Morrow took home cash and prizes, including a \$2,000 scholarship to further his wine studies, an educational trip to the Bordeaux wine region sponsored by the Bordeaux Wine Council (CIVB), rare wines provided by lead sponsor Jackson Family Wines and sponsor Moët & Chandon, and a five year membership in both the U.S. Chaîne and the International Chaîne des Rôtisseurs.

Morrow also receives an invitation to represent the United States and compete in the Chaîne's International Young Sommeliers Competition to be held in Budapest, Hungary September 27-30 2017. Expenses for the U.S. National Winner are paid by the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs.

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 24,000 members worldwide. There are 130 chapters and about 6,000 members throughout the United States. Important programs include annual Young Sommeliers and Young Chefs Competitions held both nationally and internationally, as well as a National Pastry Chefs Competition. 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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