



La Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs
Société Mondiale du Vin
Midwest & Southwest Super Regional Young Sommelier
and Southwest Young Chef Competitions
February 29, 2008 – March 2, 2008



December 26, 2007

Dear Confrère:

We have a special weekend in store for you. **February 29 – March 2**, the Southwest Region and Les Lacs et des Bois Bailliage will host the **Midwest & Southwest Super Regional Young Sommelier Competition** and the **Southwest Young Chef Competition in Houston**. You are invited to join us for all or part of this spectacular wine and food weekend. Here's what the weekend will offer:

Friday, February 29th – There will be two options for dinner this evening. The first choice is a gourmet wine tasting and pairing dinner at Houston's hottest new restaurant, **Reef**. The combination of Executive Chef Bryan Caswell and General Manager Bill Floyd made for an instant success after their June 2007 opening. You can read stellar press reviews on www.reefhouston.com. Wine commentary this evening will be provided by the Master Sommeliers in town for judging the Sommelier Competition. Seating is limited. The second choice is to book your own intimate dinner at the award-winning *17 at the Alden Hotel. You may order from the a la cart menu or take advantage of the five-course Chef's Tasting Menu (\$75++ without wines, \$125++ with paired wines).

Saturday, March 1st – The Young Sommelier Competition will be held in a closed session during the day. While that is underway, a number of optional activities are available to you in the downtown area. "Lucy's Legacy: The Hidden Treasures of Ethiopia" at the Houston Museum of Natural Science is one, exhibits at the Fine Arts or Modern Art Museum are others – all conveniently accessible via the downtown MetroRail system. For those wanting to get outdoors, there is golf at Wildcat Golf Club. You may have lunch at *17 for \$17 or at another downtown restaurant of your choosing. In the evening, join us for the **Young Sommelier Awards Ceremony, Société Mondiale du Vin Induction, and Gala** in the Alden Hotel Veranda room.

Sunday, March 2nd – We suggest booking your personal reservation for a 3-course brunch at *17 for \$17. At 4:00, arrive at the Hilton College at the University of Houston for the **Southwest Regional Young Chef's Competition Awards Ceremony and Banquet**. The event will include a wine and cheese tasting, seminar, young chef interviews, and the sumptuous awards dinner.

Hotel – Our host hotel this weekend will be *Alden-Houston* located in downtown Houston's central business district. This hotel, with 97 luxurious guest rooms ensures that your every need will be met. Each sleek contemporary room boasts luxurious amenities typical of a quality property. The Alden-Houston has given us a special rate of \$145 per night for the deluxe guest room this weekend.

Yes, this will be a grand weekend and at a super price. You need not attend all events to enjoy the festivities.

Vive La Chaîne,

Mark Bermann
Bailli Provincial – Southwest

Cheryl Kenny
Bailli - Les Lacs et des Bois



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Reservation Form

Please type or print clearly.

<u>Attendee Information</u>		<u>Attendee Information</u>	
Name:	_____	_____	_____
Rank:	_____	_____	_____
Bailliage	_____	_____	_____
E-mail Address:	_____	_____	_____
Fax Number:	_____	_____	_____
Physical Address:	_____		

Average Temperatures in Houston for these dates is a high of 68 and a low of 50

Dinners (All dinners open to all Chaîne members and guests)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Dining Event</u>	<u>Price per Guest</u>	<u>No of Guests</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Feb 29 (Fri)	Reef Restaurant: Wine Pairing Dinner (Limited to 40) Starts at 6:30, Dress: Jacket, no tie & decorations	\$135.00		\$
Mar 1 (Sat)	Alden Hotel: Young Sommelier Awards Ceremony, Mondiale Induction, & Gala (Limited to 125) Starts at 6:30, Dress: Jacket & tie with decorations	\$150.00		\$
Mar 2 (Sun)	Hilton College: Young Chef Awards Ceremony (Limited to 100) Starts at 4:00, Dress: Jacket, no tie with decorations	\$55.00		\$
Total for all Dinners				\$

Accommodations - Please book your reservation directly with the hotel by February 11, 2008. Mention the event code “Chaîne” to obtain our low negotiated rate.

Alden Houston - 1117 Prairie Street - Houston, TX 77002

www.aldenhotels.com

Phone: 832-200-8800 - - - Toll Free: 877-348-8800

Deluxe guest room - \$145 per night plus tax - - Suites - \$345 per night plus tax

Reservation Code – Chaîne

Reservations made after February 11, 2008 are on a space available basis.

All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card at the time the reservation is made. Alden-Houston honors a 24-hour cancellation policy or 6:00 pm the day prior to arrival.

Please mail this form and your check payable to “La Chaîne Southwest” for any dinners you select to:

Cheryl Kenny

12 Eden Elm Pl.

The Woodlands, TX 77381-3123

Contact for questions: woodlandschaine@yahoo.com or 281-367-1778

Attachment I – Competition Information

Young Sommeliers

The Young Sommelier Competition promotes the expertise of the young wine and spirit professional and encourages mastery of wine and spirit knowledge.

The format of the competition will be based on the Advanced Sommelier Exam conducted by the Court of Master Sommeliers. The format will feature three areas of examination. These areas are Theory, Practical and Blind Tasting. The exam format may be modified as deemed necessary by the Judges.

While the competition is being held, weekend guests will have several options available to them in the downtown area. Since this is meant to be a relaxing weekend getaway there will not be any formal sign-ups for the daytime activities, but information will be made available to all participants.

Young Chefs

Approximately 10-12 young chefs are each provided an identical mystery "market basket" containing a few key ingredients, and are asked to individually design and prepare a three-course meal to serve four people using those ingredients and their imagination and skill — all in four hours' time! Such is the challenge given young cooks competing in the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Jeunes Commis Rôtisseurs Competition.

While the competition is wrapping up behind closed doors, Chaîne members and guests will convene at 4:00 p.m. for a wine tasting along with a selection of cheeses. Around 4:30 p.m., you will be invited to a presentation conducted by Mr. Jacques Fox, Conseiller Culinaire Honoraire of the USA, covering the mechanics of the Young Chef's Competition and featuring videos from previous National competitions. Around 5:15 p.m., you will be able to view the young chefs' creations with a short explanation by each chef in front of their 3-course meal.

From 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., you are invited to the awards ceremony in the school's Ballroom. Here you will enjoy a sumptuous display of culinary delights. Along with dinner, there will be an excellent choice of wines.

Attachment II – Houston Attractions & Museums

On-street meter parking is FREE after 6 pm, Monday-Saturday and all day Sunday. But be sure to double-check and read the parking signs!! If you would prefer to take a cab you can take advantage of “**Six in the City**”, where cab rides are no more than \$6.00 within downtown.

Attraction	Comments
Bayou Place	Bayou Place includes the Angelika Film Center, Verizon Wireless Theater, the Hard Rock Café and a variety of restaurants and clubs. The Theater District is complemented by attractions such as Houston’s only outdoor museum, the Heritage Society Museum, the Texas History Museum and Landry’s Downtown Aquarium. City Hall, Hermann Square and the Houston Public Library are all just a short walk away.
Main Street Square	Main Street Square has innovative architecture and design built around two light rail stations along Main Street. Water fountains, unique landscaping, shopping, dining and art have transformed the location into an active town square. Anchoring Main Street Square is Macy’s department store, and The Shops at Houston Center is just two blocks away.
Theater District	The Theater District is an impressive cultural and entertainment center. The district features eight renowned performing arts organizations in four venues – Jones Hall, the Wortham Theater Center, the Alley Theatre and the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

Most Museums can be accessed via the MetroRail. The hotel is 1 block from a stop. Cost is \$2.00 per person for a 24-hour ticket that has unlimited usage for the time period.

Museums	Comments
Contemporary Arts Museum Houston	http://www.camh.org/ (713) 284-8250 5216 Montrose Houston, TX 77006-6598 Open Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 5 pm; Sunday Noon - 5 pm. ALWAYS FREE
Holocaust Museum Houston	http://www.hmh.org (713) 942-8000 5401 Caroline St. Houston, TX 77004 Open Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday Noon - 5 p.m. Free admission always.
Houston Museum of Natural Science	http://www.hmns.org (713) 639-4629 One Hermann Circle Drive Houston, TX 77030 Mon-Sat: 9am-5pm Sun: 11am-5pm
The Menil Collection	http://www.menil.org/ (713) 525-9400 1515 Sul Ross Street Houston, TX 77006 Open Wednesday -Sunday 11 am - 7 pm; Free admission.
The Museum of Fine Arts Houston	http://www.mfah.org (713) 639-7300 1001 Bissonnet Street Houston, TX 77005 Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Sunday: 12:15 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Adults: \$7 per adult Seniors and children: \$3.50. Free for children under 5 Free admission on Thursdays.

Golf – The Alden has a relationship with the Wildcat Golf Club. Tee-times are flexible and can be booked through the concierge desk at the hotel. If you don’t have a car, they can arrange transportation through a private car company for approximately \$65 one-way.