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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAN DIEGO BAY WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL AND THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE OF WINE & FOOD ANNOUNCE 2014 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

*Over \$30,000 in Scholarships Awarded to 18 Deserving Culinary, Hospitality and Enology Students and Professionals in San Diego*

**San Diego, CA (December 18, 2014)** –The [San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival](#), The American Institute of Wine & Food (AIWF), and Chaîne des Rôtisseurs are proud to announce winners for the organization’s annual culinary arts and enology/viticulture scholarships. Applicants were subject to a thorough interview process led by The AIWF San Diego Chapter and Chaîne des Rôtisseurs scholarship committee, as well as Festival producers, Michelle Metter and Ken Loyst. The scholarship program awards funds to students for full-time or continuing education programs in the fields of culinary arts and enology arts, said Ken Loyst, co-producer of the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival.

“We are thrilled to once again contribute to the growth of San Diego’s thriving culinary scene,” continued Loyst. “The aspiring chefs, hospitality professionals and enologists of today are the future of the industry, and these scholarships allow for these young professionals to pursue their career goals.”

2014 scholarship winners include: Molly Brooks Thornton, Jack Nestler, Heather Smith, Tran Dinh, Woody Van Horn, Jenna Gripp, Mike King, Jesse Rodriguez, Jennifer Roberts, Lauren Knell, Laurent Stievenard, Paul Smith, Lindsey Pomeroy, Hikari Kayashi, Adam Godlove, Julie Tandon, Jasha Karasek, and Tiffany Rodriguez.

Funds for the 2014 scholarships were raised during silent and live auctions, which took place during the 2013 San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival. The weeklong culinary classic brings together over 10,000 [wine and food](#) enthusiasts for a week of epicurean experience.

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival held November 16-23, raised a combined \$50,000 in both the silent and live auctions for scholarships to be awarded in 2015 by the American Institute of Wine & Food and Chaîne des Rôtisseurs. Large format bottles and wine lots from today’s most prestigious wineries were auctioned at the *Wine Spectator* Celebrity Chef Dinner and Big Bottle Auction on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at The US Grant Hotel. Additionally, a silent auction took place during The Vault: Reserve and New Release Tasting on Friday, November 21 held on the San Diego Hornblower. To date, the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival has raised more than \$350,000 in scholarships for the AIWF and Chaîne des Rôtisseurs.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must enroll in an accredited continuing education program in the culinary arts, enology/viticulture, or hospitality and must be connected to San Diego by school, work, or recent involvement in food or wine. Programs may be within or outside of the U.S., but must offer continuous relevant hands-on, in-person experience. Scholarship winners will be officially recognized at the [food and wine festival](#) during the Wine Spectator's Celebrity Chef Dinner on November 21, 2015 in front of an audience of professional chefs, winemakers, sommeliers, AIWF and Chaîne des Rôtisseurs members, and food and wine media.

Scholarship awards typically range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and the funds do not need to be repaid. The scholarship funds will be sent directly to the school the successful applicant will be attending. To be considered for next year's scholarships, see the Festival's website next August 2015 at [www.sandiegowineclassic.com](http://www.sandiegowineclassic.com) for information regarding the application process.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual [San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival](#) will take place on November 15 – 22, 2015.

## **AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF WINE AND FOOD**

AIWF was founded as a 501 (c)(3) educational organization. It was established in 1981 by Robert Mondavi, the late Julia Child and others to promote a forum for the study and enjoyment of gastronomy. San Diego is host to the AIWF Culinary Collection at the Mandeville Special collections Library at UCSD. Visit [www.aiwf.org](http://www.aiwf.org) for further information.

## **CHAÎNE DES RÔTISSEURS**

The Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs™ is the oldest and largest food and wine society in the world. Our society is vintage, but our events are cutting edge! The chapter in the United States is now in its 53rd year with about 6,000 gourmands, gourmets, gastronomes, chefs, restaurateurs, hoteliers, oenologists, winery owners, sommeliers, food and wine educators, and others interested in the finest of dining and life experiences and enjoying the camaraderie of friends at dinners and events. The tradition of the royal guild of goose roasters of 1248 was revived in Paris in 1950, and we now carry on those traditions. Visit [www.chaineus.org](http://www.chaineus.org) for additional information.

## **SAN DIEGO BAY WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL**

The 11th Annual San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival is an international showcase of the world's premier wine and spirits producers, chefs and culinary personalities, and gourmet foods. Held November 16-23, 2014, the event benefits culinary arts and enology scholarships awarded by The American Institute of Wine & Food and the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs. Over 200 wineries, breweries and spirit companies, 70 of San Diego's top fine dining restaurants and 30 gourmet food companies will participate in the 2014 Festival. For more information visit [www.sandiegowineclassic.com](http://www.sandiegowineclassic.com). Produced by World of Wine Events and Fast Forward Event Productions. For more information call 619-312-1212.

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