



Les Dames d'Escoffier
INTERNATIONAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mentorship Experiences for Women in Food, Beverage & Hospitality

Offered by Les Dames d'Escoffier International and Supported by The Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts

Louisville, KY (March 3, 2016) – Women working in the food, beverage and hospitality industries are eligible to enter the 2016 Les Dames d'Escoffier International (LDEI) Legacy Awards.

The Legacy Awards were established in 2009 in an effort to provide highly-defined mentor opportunities for women (minimum of four years professional experience and not LDEI members). Each Legacy Award winner is sponsored by an accomplished LDEI member (Dame) and offers a one-week workplace experience at participating businesses in the U.S., U.K., Canada and Mexico. The Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts supports the Awards.

This year, there are six awards in four categories: one experience each in **Wine, Farm to Table and Food/Wine Journalism and three in Culinary.**

- Imagine spending a week at America's first certified organic restaurant with its award-winning owner in historic Washington D.C.
- Enhance your food journalism expertise at the hands of Family Circle's food director and her team in exciting New York City.
- Travel to beautiful Vancouver to help out with harvest and production at one of Canada's best-known makers of fine preserves and wine.
- Learn about all facets of the winery and wine tourism industries from vineyard to bottle to vineyard concerts at Washington state's oldest winery.
- Visit vibrant Chicago to get an insider's back stage pass to the deli, catering, baking **and** brewing businesses!
- Indulge your passion for the fine chocolate world with a life-changing trip to London, England.

2016 awards and hosts:

A: SEATTLE, WINE AWARD, Dame Kari Leitch and Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery (www.ste-michelle.com)

B: VANCOUVER BC, FARM TO TABLE AWARD, Dame Lee Murphy and Vista D'oro Farms & Preservatory (www.vistadoro.com)

C: WASHINGTON DC, CULINARY AWARD, Dame Nora Pouillon and Restaurant Nora (www.noras.com)

D: NEW YORK CITY, JOURNALISM AWARD, Dame Regina Ragone and Family Circle Magazine (www.familycircle.com)

E: LONDON, CULINARY AWARD, Dame Chantal Coady and Rococo Chocolates (www.rococochocolates.com)

F: CHICAGO, CULINARY AWARD, Dame Debra Sharpe, Goddess and Grocer and Dame Ellen King, Hewn Bread (www.goddessandgrocer.com)(www.hewnbread.com)

Award winners will be reimbursed for airfare, hotel (if needed) and other expenses for the week up to US \$2,000. Winners will be announced by May 20, 2016 and experiences must be completed by October 1, 2016. In addition to the Legacy Award experience, each winner is invited to attend the LDEI Annual Conference, in Washington DC, Oct. 27-30, 2016 where a luncheon in the winners' honor will be held. Travel, hotel, and conference attendance will be reimbursed.

For an application, log onto ldei.org and click on 2016 Legacy Awards. Deadline for completed applications is **APRIL 20, 2016**

Further information is available from the Legacy Awards Co-Chairs:

Dame Becky Paris Turner bparist@gmail.com (604) 803-8154

Dame Shara Bohach shara@unitydesign.biz (440) 526-9688

Maria Gomez-Laurens, President of Les Dames d'Escoffier

International said, "We take great pride in our Legacy Award Program and on the impact that it has in the lives of women that pursue their dreams. We are grateful for the continuous financial support of **The Julia Child Foundation** and for every Dame in our organization that volunteers by sharing their expertise, knowledge, passion and love for our industry. The power of women mentoring other women is priceless, and I am convinced that it impacts the world."

Todd Schulkin, Executive Director, The Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts said, “Year after year, The Foundation finds it very gratifying to see how much all the participants get out of this worthwhile program. Being a mentor came naturally to Julia and it’s wonderful that through our support of LDEI’s Legacy Awards, we can continue to help foster that essential professional value.”

Les Dames d’Escoffier International (LDEI) is celebrating its 30th year as an international organization of women leaders who create a supportive culture in their communities to achieve excellence in the food, beverage, and hospitality professions. To do this, over 2,100 members in 36 chapters worldwide provide leadership, educational opportunities and host philanthropic events within their communities. For more information, visit LDEI.org or on [Facebook at Les Dames d’Escoffier Int’l](#).

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