



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILLIAM HARRIS APPOINTED WINE DIRECTOR OF THE INN AT LITTLE WASHINGTON

April 29, 2014 (Washington, Virginia) – [The Inn at Little Washington](#), the legendary country-house hotel and restaurant located 70 miles outside of Washington D.C., has announced the appointment of William Harris as Wine Director. With impressive experience earned at notable addresses across the country and a love of wine dating back more than a quarter century, Harris oversees The Inn’s extensive wine program including a cellar of more than 2,400 selections and is working closely with the culinary team to create pairings for the tasting menus created by Chef/Proprietor Patrick O’Connell.

Born and raised in New York City, Harris spent his formative years working in restaurant kitchens and then transitioned to the front of the house while studying business at the University of Miami. He fell in love with wine while courting his wife, Maria, on a three-month bike trip through Europe. Travel in Old World wine regions across France, Italy, Austria and Germany furthered his knowledge, as did studying at the Culinary Institute of America at Greystone in St. Helena, California. He has earned an advanced certification with the Wine and Spirits Education Trust (W.S.E.T.).

Harris arrived at The Inn at Little Washington from Sandy Lane in St. James, Barbados, where he was Director of Wine for the past two years. Previously, he held a range of positions including Director of Food and Beverage with Mirabel Hotel and Restaurant Group in Carmel, California; Director of Wine at Bacara Resort and Spa in Santa Barbara, California; Dining Room Manager of the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado as well as 9 years with Ritz Carlton Hotels in a variety of management positions.

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About The Inn at Little Washington

Nestled at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains, [The Inn at Little Washington](#) has been a culinary landmark in the United States since 1978, when Chef and Proprietor Patrick O'Connell opened the restaurant in a former gas station. Located in the tiny hamlet Washington, Virginia, The Inn is a secluded, whimsical retreat for those seeking countryside luxury. The 26-acre campus includes lush formal gardens, vegetable gardens and greenhouses, which grow most of The Inn's produce in season. The Inn's grounds are also home to a flock of sheep, two llamas and a brood of chickens. The Inn is a member of [Relais & Chateaux](#) and each of its 24 richly appointed guestrooms, suites and private cottages were decorated in collaboration with Patrick and Joyce Conwy Evans, a London stage and set designer, for whom The Inn has become a life's work. Patrick's forthcoming book on the evolution of design at The Inn, called *Magnificent Obsession*, will be published by Rizzoli Press in Spring 2015.

The Inn at Little Washington was awarded two Five Star Awards by the 2014 Forbes Travel Guide for the 24th year in a row and the restaurant is the longest-tenured AAA Five Star-rated restaurant in America. It also received the 2013 *Wine Spectator* Grand Award for the 17th consecutive year; earned *The Washington Post's* Dining Guide's highest rating of four stars; and was proclaimed the #1 Restaurant in the Nation's Capital for by *Washingtonian Magazine*. Additionally, the Washington, D.C. Zagat Survey awarded high marks to The Inn in the categories of Food, Décor and Service by the Washington D.C. *Zagat Survey* with a near perfect score of 29, 29, and 29 in each category.

Rates at The Inn at Little Washington range from \$460-\$3500. For reservations or more information, please call 540.675.3800 or visit www.theinnatlittlewashington.com.

★★★★★

For more information or images please contact Rachel Hayden, Director of Public Relations, The Inn at Little Washington, 540-675-5238, rhayden@theinnatlittlewashington.com, or Anne-Cecile Blanchot with Hawkins International PR, 212-255-6541, annececile@hawkpr.com.

Middle and Main Streets, Washington, Virginia 22747
www.theinnatlittlewashington.com

