

## news release

Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group Limited  
281 Gloucester Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong  
Telephone +852 2895 9288 Facsimile +852 2837 3500  
www.mandarinoriental.com



### **MANDARIN ORIENTAL, LAS VEGAS WINE DIRECTOR WILLIAM COSTELLO APPOINTED TO THE COURT OF MASTER SOMMELIERS, AMERICAS**

**Hong Kong, 9 June 2015** – [Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas](#) is delighted to announce that Wine Director William Costello has been named Master Sommelier in North America. Mr. Costello is only one of 147 professionals to hold the prestigious title.

Mr. Costello successfully passed the theory portion of the Master Sommelier exam in May 2013 and completed all sections as of May 2015. He achieved the Advanced Certificate with Distinction by the Wine and Spirits Education Trust. Mr. Costello finished second place in the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs's Best Young Sommelier in the USA in 2013 as well as took first in the Ruinart Challenge for Las Vegas. He has also co-hosted New Zealand Winegrowers Master Classes in the Las Vegas and Miami markets.

As the hotel's Wine Director, Mr. Costello oversees the wine program for the Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas. His scope encompasses the Forbes Five Star fine-dining TWIST by Pierre Gagnaire, MOzen Bistro, Mandarin Bar, the hotel's Pool and Café, In-Room-Dining, as well as the banquet catering and conference services selections.

"We are very proud and honored to have William as part of the Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas team. His wine expertise and wealth of fine dining experience, will continue to position Twist and Mandarin Oriental, as one of the top fine dining destinations in Las Vegas" said Clifford Atkinson, Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas' General Manager.

The Master Sommelier Diploma is the highest distinction a professional can attain in the beverage service industry. The Master Sommelier Diploma Examination consists of three sections: a verbal theory examination, a blind tasting of six wines in 25 minutes, and a practical service component which focuses on restaurant beverage service and salesmanship. Candidates must receive passing scores in each category in order to earn the highly coveted title of Master Sommelier.



Page 2

### **About Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas**

[Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas](#) is one of only nine triple Forbes Five-Star hotels in the United States and is the only hotel in Las Vegas with Five-Star recognition for the hotel, [Twist by Pierre Gagnaire restaurant](#) and The Spa. A sophisticated sanctuary of modern elegance prominently situated at the entrance of CityCenter, Mandarin Oriental has made its mark as the ultimate urban resort destination in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip. Designed entirely by interior designer Adam D. Tihany and architecture firm Kohn Pedersen Fox, Mandarin Oriental brings to Las Vegas a new standard of style with stunning suites, captivating architectural design, unique restaurant and bar venues, and the legendary hospitality of Mandarin Oriental. Stay connected with Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### **About Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group**

Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group is the award-winning owner and operator of some of the most luxurious hotels, resorts and residences. Having grown from a well-respected Asian hotel company into a global brand, the Group now operates, or has under development, 44 hotels representing close to 11,000 rooms in 24 countries, with 20 hotels in Asia, nine in The Americas and 15 in Europe, Middle East and North Africa. In addition, the Group operates or has under development, 15 Residences at Mandarin Oriental connected to its properties.

Photography of Mandarin Oriental is available to download in the [Photo Library](#) of our [Media](#) section, at [www.mandarinoriental.com](http://www.mandarinoriental.com).

Visit [Destination MO](http://www.mandarinoriental.com/destination-mo/) (<http://www.mandarinoriental.com/destination-mo/>), the online version of [Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group](#)'s bespoke publication, *MO*. News about our award-winning hotels, the best dining experiences, spa treatments, travel retreats and interviews with the Group's celebrity fans is now just a click away. Further information is also available on our [Social Media](#) channels.

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Page 3

### **About The Court of Master Sommeliers**

The Court of Master Sommeliers was established in England in 1977 to encourage improved standards of beverage knowledge and service in hotels and restaurants. The first Master Sommelier Diploma Exam to be held in the United States was in 1987. The title Master Sommelier marks the highest recognition of wine and spirits knowledge, beverage service abilities, and professionalism in the hospitality trade. Education was then, and remains today, the Court's charter.

There are four stages involved in attaining the top qualifications of Master Sommelier: 1) Introductory Sommelier Course; 2) Certified Sommelier Exam; 3) Advanced Sommelier Course; and 4) Master Sommelier Diploma. There are 147 professionals who have earned the title of Master Sommelier as part of the Americas chapter since the organization's inception. Of those, 124 are men and 23 are women. There are 229 professionals worldwide who have received the title of Master Sommelier since the first Master Sommelier Diploma Exam. For more information, please visit [www.mastersommeliers.org](http://www.mastersommeliers.org).

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For further information, please contact:

*Corporate Office*

Danielle DeVoe ([ddevoe@mohg.com](mailto:ddevoe@mohg.com))  
Group Communications – The Americas  
Tel: +1 (212) 830 9380

Jeremy Viray ([jviray@mohg.com](mailto:jviray@mohg.com))  
Group Communications – The Americas  
Tel: +1 (212) 830 9383

[www.mandarinoriental.com](http://www.mandarinoriental.com)

*Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas*

Denise Randazzo ([drandazzo@mohg.com](mailto:drandazzo@mohg.com))  
Director of Marketing and Communications  
Tel: +1 (702) 590 3010

[www.mandarinoriental.com/lasvegas](http://www.mandarinoriental.com/lasvegas)