

news release

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MANDARIN ORIENTAL, NEW YORK APPOINTS LAURA WILLIAMSON, MASTER SOMMELIER AS WINE DIRECTOR AND GARRISON PRICE AS NEW CHEF DE CUISINE AT ASIATE

Hong Kong, 28 October 2015 – [Mandarin Oriental, New York](#) is delighted to announce the appointments of Master Sommelier Laura Williamson as Wine Director for the Five-Star and Five-Diamond property and Garrison Price as Chef de Cuisine for the hotel's signature [Restaurant Asiate](#).

Laura Williamson comes to Mandarin Oriental, New York with more than 20 years of experience in the wine and wine service industry, most recently serving as Corporate Beverage Director at Jean-Georges Restaurants. Williamson holds the coveted distinction of Master Sommelier and is one of only 23 women in North America to have earned the prestigious title. Throughout her career, Williamson has held key management positions with Skurnik Wines, Dove Mountain Grill and Rudi Wiest Selections. She currently serves on The Court of Master Sommeliers, the grading body for aspiring candidates, and also holds the title of Certified Wine Educator, speaking annually at wine conferences and festivals throughout the United States.

As Wine Director, Williamson will be responsible for curating Asiate's eclectic wine collection, collaborating with the culinary team to develop food and wine pairing menus and special events, while also overseeing the staff's knowledge of wine and wine service. Williamson will also oversee the beverage programs throughout the hotel in the Lobby Lounge, MObar, In-Room Dining, Private Bar and Catering.

Chef Garrison Price brings more than 15 years of gastronomic experience to his position at Asiate. Most recently, he served as Head Chef of China Poblano by José Andrés at The Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas. Prior to this, he held posts at Culinary Concepts Hospitality Group, which operates internationally-acclaimed restaurant brands created by Chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide and The Peninsula Hotel in Chicago. The Illinois native embarked upon

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his culinary career at the age of 16 with a position in Rockford, Illinois' finest restaurant, Café Patou. In his new role as Chef de Cuisine, Price will be responsible for crafting the contemporary menus and signature dishes of the hotel's award-winning 90-seat restaurant, Asiate, overlooking Central Park and the Manhattan skyline from the property's 35th Floor.

"We are delighted to welcome both Laura Williamson and Garrison Price to Mandarin Oriental, New York," says General Manager, Susanne Hatje. "With their diverse and extensive backgrounds in the food and beverage industry, we look forward welcoming our guests to the property to experience the innovative epicurean collaborations from this dynamic new duo."

Guests of Mandarin Oriental, New York are invited to experience the duo's first collaborations at Restaurant Asiate during a *Gaja Wine Dinner* on November 10, 2015 featuring Italian wines from the iconic Angelo Gaja, one of the most celebrated names in Italian wine today.

Reservations for Asiate can be made by contacting the restaurant directly at +1 (212) 805 8881 or by emailing monyc-asiate@mohg.com.

About Mandarin Oriental, New York

A stunning fusion of modern design with stylish Oriental flair, [Mandarin Oriental, New York](#) features [244 elegant guestrooms and suites](#) — all with breathtaking views of Manhattan and Five-Star hospitality. Luxurious amenities include [Asiate](#), the hotel's elegant restaurant; MObar created by noted interior designer, Tony Chi; the [Lobby Lounge](#) with dramatic views of Central Park; a 14,500-square-foot, [Five-Star Mandarin Oriental Spa](#); and a state-of-the-art fitness center with a 75-foot lap pool. In addition, there is premium meeting and event space, including a [6,000 square-foot pillar-less ballroom](#) with three walls of windows overlooking Central Park. Located in Columbus Circle's Time Warner Center, Mandarin Oriental, New York is in an idyllic location just steps away from world-class dining, shopping and entertainment, including the Broadway Theater District, Lincoln Center, Central Park, Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Time Warner Center's collection of upscale retail shops and restaurants.

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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, 46 hotels representing 11,000 rooms in 25 countries, with 21 hotels in Asia, nine in The Americas and 16 in Europe, Middle East and North Africa. In addition, the Group operates or has under development, 16 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.

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