



*Les Dames d'Escoffier
New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Nine New York Women Inducted into Les Dames d'Escoffier,
Prestigious Association of Women in Food, Wine and Hospitality**

*Event highlighted by keynoter Dorothy Cann Hamilton, Founder of the
International Culinary Center (formerly French Culinary Institute)*

New York, NY, October 2, 2014 – Les Dames D'Escoffier New York (LDNY), the first and largest chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier International, a 40-year old association supporting women leaders in the food, wine and hospitality industries, inducted nine women of achievement at an event in New York City on September 22nd. The evening was hosted by Margaret Happel Perry, president of Les Dames d'Escoffier New York.

The new members, each of whom has achieved distinction and stature in her industry, include:

- **Amanda Cohen**, chef/owner of *Dirt Candy* in Manhattan, one of only two vegetarian restaurants to receive a two-star rating from the *New York Times*;
- **Jacqui Lombard**, Culinary Director of Fairfield University, chef and sommelier, who has appeared on TV's *Top Chef*;
- **Jennifer Flanagan**, Founder and President of Feast Public Relations, with a WSET Advanced Certificate in Wine, specializing in the promotion of wine and spirits;
- **Pnina Peled**, Senior Executive Chef at New York Presbyterian/Columbia Milstein Hospital, who has appeared on Food Network's *Chopped* and *Chopped Champions*;
- **Lynne Weems Ryan**, Chief Operating Officer of *Chefs to Dine For*, has worked in the hospitality industry as a chef, caterer, restaurant owner and event planner;

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- **Surbhi Sahani**, chef/owner of *BittersweetNYC*, a full-service dessert catering company and pastry chef at *Tulsi*, a Michelin one-star Indian restaurant in NYC;
- **Elizabeth Schaible**, Assistant Professor/Chair of the Hospitality Management Department at New York City College of Technology, and former recipient of a Les Dame d’Escoffier scholarship;
- **Kathleen Squires**, food writer, cookbook author and co-producer of feature film, *America’s First Foodie: The Incredible Life of James Beard*, to be released this fall;
- **Julia Stambules**, owner and principal of JS Public Relations, specializing in communication programs and promotions for culinary equipment clients.

Highlighting the evening was a keynote address by **Dorothy Cann Hamilton**, a long-time member of Les Dames d’Escoffier and founder of the International Culinary Center, formerly known as the French Culinary Institute, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. She also is the President of the USA Pavilion at Expo Milan 2015, the theme of which is “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life.”

Dame Hamilton’s primary message, directed toward the youngest members of Les Dames d’Escoffier, was that the role of women in the culinary field, both as chefs and as entrepreneurs, has improved dramatically in the past 30 years, as they stand “shoulder to shoulder” in the LDNY organization.

In still another commemorative gesture of the evening, Les Dames d’Escoffier awarded Emerita status to **Dame Laura Maiglio**, owner of the esteemed *Barbetta Restaurant* in New York City and one of the founding members of Les Dames d’Escoffier, for her many years of meritorious service to the society.

For further information, including photos, contact

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Les Dames d’Escoffier/ New York is the founding and largest chapter of Les Dames d’Escoffier International, which began in 1973 as the first organization devoted to professional women in food, wine and hospitality at a time we women were not recognized as leaders in those fields. It is an invitational volunteer organization whose mission is to inspire, empower and mentor women, enabling them to pursue careers in the culinary and hospitality professions through higher education. For more information, visit www.ldny.org.