

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 18, 2012

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Heavenly Spirits Tasting Series - Chicago, October 30 – November 3

Heavenly Spirits, U.S. importers of exceptional French spirits will be participating in a series of tastings of their award winning French spirit portfolio in and around the city of Chicago over a six day period starting October 30. Joining Daniel and Christine Cooney, owners of Heavenly Spirits will be seven of their French producers, or representatives who will be flying in for this first ever special event series. This new generation of young, French spirit producers include: Jerome Delord of Armagnac Delord, Jean-Roger Groult of Calvados Groult, David Roussier of Warenghem Distillerie, makers of Armorik French Single Malt Whisky, Benoit Hillon of Armagnac Dartigalongue, Sandra Falaise of Lise Baccara, producers of La Troussepinete aperitif, Caroline Jounault, for Seguinot Cognac and Christophe Fillioux of iconic Cognac Jean Fillioux. Additional products from the Heavenly Spirit portfolio will also be poured at each of these events.

The week of Heavenly Spirits tastings begins appropriately at the Hoffman Estates' first ever International Food Tasting Festival on Tuesday, October 30.

<http://cloud.chambermaster.com/userfiles/UserFiles/chambers/495/File/TasteofHoffman-4.pdf>. The Festival will be featuring the culinary masterpieces of French Chef Patrick Guat and his students from the Culinary School of L'Amandier, Angouleme, France who will be serving a variety of specially prepared appetizers and delicacies brought over from the southwest region of France. A maximum of 300 people are allowed into this event and the \$10 advanced tickets are expected to sell out fast. Attendees will have the opportunity to talk with the distillers and producers and to sample a variety of French spirits both neat and in a variety of cocktails.

On Wednesday, the Heavenly Spirits gang has been invited to tour the Chicago based Koval Distillery, while later that evening, All Hallows Eve, the visiting French distillers will get a chance to explore Chicago's night life, on their own at its wildest. Returning to the tasting circuit on Thursday, the group will be offering tastings and information at Binnys' Downers Grove location from 5 – 8 PM.

The Friday night tasting is not to be missed; from 5 – 8 PM Chef Patrick Guat will rejoin the Heavenly Spirits group at Binny's most popular spirits retail outlet, Lincoln Park, Chicago. In addition to the multiple tables of French artisanal spirits that will be available for tasting with the producers, the public will be treated to more genuine culinary treats from the Southwest of France prepared by Chef Guat and his visiting crew of student chefs (while supplies last). Finally on Saturday night, November 3, you will find the Heavenly Spirits' tasting crew at the Highland Park Binnys from 5 – 8 PM for its final Chicago tasting appearance.

Drinks industry trade journalists are encouraged to contact Dan Cooney (508 947-9973) well in advance to schedule interviews with these Master distillers during their brief visit to the windy city.

Christine (Foubert) Cooney is a partner with her husband Dan in Heavenly Spirits LLC, a Massachusetts based Import company specializing in exceptional French spirits. Born in the Cognac region of France, Christine grew up spending summers at her Grandparent's farm north of La Rochelle, where she watched her grandfather Amedee Foubert passionately run his winery and distill eau de vie from plums and other fruits grown on the farm. After graduating from the University of Angers with a degree in English and German translation she began work as a trilingual export assistant to the CEO of a La Rochelle based Cognac producer and continued her spirits training at the Universite des Euax de Vie, Cognac. In 1989 Christine married Dan and moved to San Francisco, CA where she continued representing Cognac producers and also became the US Director of Conexport, an Italian wine consortium. After twenty years of brokering French spirits and another stay in France (1993 – 1999), the Cooneys relocated to Massachusetts and in 2008 opened Heavenly Spirits. Since then, Heavenly Spirits has become a leading importer of French spirits in the US, carving out a niche in artisanal crafted spirits like; Armagnac, Calvados, Cognac, aperitifs and liqueurs. The company has sold more Armagnac in the US than anyone else for the past three years, accounting for 20% of the market. The Heavenly Spirit portfolio is represented in seventeen US states and includes brands like Seguinot, Normandin Mercier, Jean Fillioux, Delord, Dartigalongue, Roger Groult, Armorik, and La Muse Verte. In addition to serving as importers, the Cooneys see themselves as both educators and cultural ambassadors. When conducting French spirit tasting seminars around the country they speak about history, technique, quality, value and taste, but they also remain strong advocates for moderation when drinking.

For more information contact Dan Cooney, dcheavenlyspirits@gmail.com or visit www.heavenlyspiritsinfo.