



Seattle Chef / Seafood Entrepreneur Dominique Place Knighted By French Government

Long-time Seattle Chef and co-founder of Gerard & Dominique Seafoods Awarded a Knight in the Order of Agricultural Merit

SEATTLE, WA (July 14, 2008) – Dominique Place, long-time Seattle chef and founder/president of *Gerard & Dominique Seafoods* was awarded the "Merite Agricole" (Agriculture Merit) Saturday evening from Patrice Servantie, deputy consul general of France in San Francisco, at a ceremony celebrating French culture. The award is a French honor created in 1883 to recognize those with exemplary contribution to the preservation and spreading of French culinary culture. As recipient of this esteemed and historic award, Mr. Place is recognized as a *Knight in the Order of Agriculture Merit*.

In presenting the award, Mr. Servantie recounted Mr. Place's many contributions to French cuisine and culture from a culinary body of work begun over 30 years ago. Mr. Place started as sous-chef at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva, where he met chef Rossellini, who convinced him to move to Seattle to work in the Rossellini restaurant business. He arrived in Seattle in 1974, and by 1979 opened *Crêpe de Paris* in Madison Park, a restaurant he later transformed into *Dominique's Place*. In 1989, unable to find a smoked salmon which met his high standards, he partnered with chef/restaurateur Gerard Parrat to create one; the following year they founded *Gerard & Dominique Seafoods*, which has grown into arguably the country's premier smoked salmon brand, found at world-class restaurants and hotels, gourmet shops, airlines and high-end retailers.

Saturday's award ceremony was part of the *Bal des Pompiers* ("Fireman's Ball"), a traditional French celebration of food, wine, music and dancing the night before Bastille Day. In accepting his recognition, Mr. Place thanked all those who helped him along the way, and ended with a hearty "bon appetit" as the crowd was then treated to dinner by Seattle's Thierry Rautureau, "The Chef in the Hat".



*Dominique receives his award
from Consul General*

About Gerard & Dominique Seafoods

Gerard & Dominique Seafoods (GDSeafoods.com) sells a full line of premier smoked seafood through both food service and high-end retailers. Founded in 1990 and located in Woodinville, Washington, the firm is now part of SeaBear Company of Anacortes, Washington (SeaBear.com). *Gerard & Dominique's* signature European Style Smoked Salmon is featured on the menus of such premier establishments as Morton's Steakhouses around the world, The Pierre Hotel in NY, and the Fairmont Olympic in Seattle, and can also be purchased in packaged formats at such high-end retailers as Whole Foods and QFC.