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**Francis Metais, Food and Beverage Director of Waldorf Astoria® Orlando and Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek Receives Prestigious Award From French Government**

*Chevalier Du Mérite Agricole Bestowed For Excellence In Agriculture, Food, French "Savoir Faire" Around The World*

**ORLANDO, Fla. September 16, 2014** -- The Government of France has presented its highest honor and recognition for outstanding contribution in agriculture, food and French "savoir faire" to Francis Metais, food and beverage director at Waldorf Astoria Orlando and Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek. Brigitte Dagot, Orlando's honorary consul of France and dean of the Consulate Corp of Orlando was on hand for the Chevalier Du Mérite Agricole official award ceremony on property, facilitated via a videotaped presentation by Olivier Chavy, president & CEO of Wilson Associates, who was previously knighted honored with the award.

"This is the highest form of recognition that France gives to those who represent our country with excellence. You don't ask for it or apply for it, you are recommended and chosen for it," explained Dagot. "You don't even know about it until you are presented with it. So, it's a monumental achievement."

The Order of Agricultural Merit was established by the Government of France in 1883 by the country's Minister of Agriculture to reward services to agriculture, due to the industry's powerful impact on the entire national economy. The original decree created a single grade order, with only "chevaliers" or knights being decorated.

Chavy knighted Metais during the award ceremony, as only previous knights can bestow the honor upon new knights. "This is a great recognition for Francis. Very few French people working in the U.S. have had this prestigious honor," said Chavy. "This lifetime achievement award is an indication of Francis' deep commitment to the culinary arts and very prestigious for Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek and Waldorf Astoria Orlando."

Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek and Waldorf Astoria Orlando offer the best of both worlds; a convenient "insider" location surrounded by Walt Disney World® Resort and the peaceful serenity of the surrounding 482-acre nature preserve with nearly 1,500 elegantly appointed rooms and suites. Waldorf Astoria's 171 stunning suites have been called "the best rooms in all of Central Florida." Resort amenities include a Rees Jones-designed championship golf course, two pools including a three-acre lazy river pool named number one Fantastic Hotel Pool by *TripAdvisor*, Waldorf Astoria spa, full fitness center, and more than a dozen dining and lounge options, including the award-winning La Luce® by Donna Scala and Waldorf Astoria signature restaurant, Bull and Bear®.

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Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts is a portfolio of more than 28 landmark destinations, each being a true reflection of their surroundings in the world's most sought after locations. Unified by their inspirational environments and unparalleled guest service, Waldorf Astoria creates unforgettable moments through the delivery of True Waldorf Service. Personal concierges deliver unparalleled, bespoke service from the moment a guest books through check out. Waldorf Astoria is a part of Hilton Worldwide, a leading global hospitality company. Experience Waldorf Astoria by booking at [www.waldorfastoria.com](http://www.waldorfastoria.com) or [www.waldorfastoria.com/offers](http://www.waldorfastoria.com/offers). Learn more about this expanding portfolio by visiting [news.waldorfastoria.com](http://news.waldorfastoria.com).

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Founded in 1919 as the flagship brand of Hilton Worldwide, Hilton Hotels & Resorts continues to build upon its legacy of innovation by developing products and services to meet the needs of savvy global travelers at more than 550 hotels across six continents. Hilton is the stylish, forward-thinking global leader in hospitality with Team Members shaping experiences in which every guest feels cared for, valued and respected. Access the latest news at [news.hilton.com](http://news.hilton.com) and begin your journey at [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com) or [www.hilton.com/offers](http://www.hilton.com/offers) for the latest hotel specials. View a list of official social channels at [www.hilton.com/social](http://www.hilton.com/social). Hilton Hotels & Resorts is one of Hilton Worldwide's 11 market leading brands.