Charte du service « A la Française »

The representatives of the professionals of service at table, directors of salle, maîtres d'hôtels, chefs de rang, employees of service, teachers in school of hospitality management, academics, chefs de cuisine, hotel industry consultants, and others members of the hospitality profession, gathered this June 23, 2017 at the University Montaigne in Bordeaux, eager to redefine the notion of Service so that it matches the expectations of French and foreign customers lunching or dining in the catering establishments, declare:

Article 1: "Service a la Française" refers to a set of postures, attitudes and specific gestures specific to the profession of the service in salle.

The French Service:

Is the act to welcome a customer with courtesy, attention, kindness and generosity.

It accompanies the guest in his restaurant experience by a French elegance consisting of politeness and graceful gestures without being obsequious, mannered, displaced or ostentatious. The gestures are borrowed from the history of the profession but also to the arts of the theatre, dance, performing arts, applied to our business sector.

It focuses on the recognition of the customer, his expressed and unexpressed needs, all his expectations according to its specificities.

It values the personality and the intrinsic qualities of each member of the restaurant team in contact with the guest, its adaptability, the specificity of each person and to recognize a feminine approach in the art of service in salle.

It highlights the traditional regional specialties, as well as the French mainland and overseas products by special gestures and a suitable speech.

It highlights producers in particular of French products and quality, in compliance with the order of the nature, the animals and the balance of biodiversity.

It promotes the restaurant, the chef, his cuisine and the brigade, especially among local, French and international customers.

It sublimes the cuisine of the Chef by creating emotion and by adapting to the needs, expressed or not, of each customer.

It accompanies the culinary innovations by an adaptation to service in salle and its scenario, and contributes to their added value.

It writes in its own time the history of the techniques of our profession, such as the cold dishes, the cuts and the flambage in salle, performed in front of the guest, with a search of symbiosis between the kitchen and the salle.

It highlights the arts of the table, associating the table and its scenario to the scenography of a place and the kitchen of a chef.

It consists of a set of actions designed to optimize, facilitate, ease and value the work of the kitchen toward the client in order of fluency.

It enhances the bread, the cheese, the condiments, the water and the wine as products accompanying the meal "à la française".

It respects and encourages the gustatory pairing between a dish and a wine or other drink, implements the various techniques of service of the wines and other drinks according to a French school of service.

Article 2: "Grand Service a la Française" refers to a set of postures and techniques, attitudes and gestures specific to the profession of restaurant service according to a "school" specific to our nation.

Grand Service à la Française :

Corresponds to an aesthetic of the table according to a French taste, that is to say by a symmetry from the Center: 1) linen placed according to a French folding art, the plate in the center, 2) the forks on the left, traditionally placed points against the tablecloth, 3) the knives on the right, the knife edge toward the plate, 4) the bread plate placed on the left,

the butter knife on the right side of the bread plate, 5) the glasses on the right side, placed, for the lowest, close to the knife's point, for the highest, close to the center of the table, and following the order of service of the wines, 6) accessories or additional service wares will be placed on the right side as well as the bill.

Corresponds to the service of a table according to four methods that take each term of "Grand Service a la Française": 1) a covered-plate service, done with elegance and scenario, in particular for banquets, private executive tables, special events. This service can be associated with a service on the tray or a special scenography. (2) a service "au plat" by which the service professional uses a plier and stays, for the right-handed room employees on the left of each plate laying in front of the guest; vice versa for left-handed people (the "Service a l'Anglaise", namely the terminology formerly used, evolves then). (3) a service by which employee of service presents a dish to the customer by the left (for the identified clients as right-handed), as well as a plier so that the customer serves himself (terminology corresponding to the expression "Service a la Française" from the XIXth century and until the beginning of XXIst century). (4) a service from a rolling table, or side-table, that allows to make cuts or flambés in front of the customer and to make performances with codified techniques, showing the concept of sharing, or freely interpreted from an older tradition.

Highlights French craft industry, china artisans, goldsmiths, glassblowers, crystal maker, creators and other professional working in the world of the arts of the table and the service.

In private or institutional catering with official international representation, it meets the protocol code, in particular welcoming, precedence, the placing in the space and at the table, but also to the particulars of the service, to the order meals and the appropriate discretion.

Promotes the floral decoration according to a French school of floral composition and in particular putting forward the plant elements of the French territory, and according to the season.

Shall then be the guarantor of the culinary and service traditions recognized around the world and enhance the notion of "gastronomic meal of the French" highlighted by its registration in 2010 in the intangible cultural inheritance of humanity.

