

PRESS RELEASE

**SOFITEL CHICAGO WATER TOWER WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE
AND PASTRY CHEFS TO CULINARY TEAM**

CHICAGO, November 20, 2008 – Sofitel Chicago Water Tower is pleased to announce the appointments of Executive Chef Martial Noguier and Executive Pastry Chef Suzanne Imaz to its flagship restaurant Café des Architectes. Both veterans in their respective specialties, Noguier and Imaz are significant assets to the culinary team. In fact, the chefs bring an already established working relationship to the kitchen. Prior to joining Sofitel, Noguier and Imaz collaborated to please palettes at Chicago's modern French dining establishment, one sixtyblue.

"We are fortunate to have Martial and Suzanne join us," said Sofitel Chicago Water Tower General Manager Patrick Filatre. "Their combined wealth of experience, creativity and gastronomic insight benefit our team tremendously."

Chef Noguier will oversee the food and beverage operations at the property. Known for his use of local ingredients, Noguier plans to incorporate fresh organic produce from Chicago's Green City Market into Café des Architectes' menu. A longtime local favorite, Chef Noguier regularly purchases ingredients from Nichols Farm and Orchard, Tiny Greens, Swan Creek Farm, and cheeses from Indiana's Capriole Farm.

Every course of the new menu is adorned with delicious fare. New delectable appetizers include five-hour braised short ribs with Nichols Farm baby carrots, Tiny Greens' micro salad and star anise reduction. Mouth-watering entrees are available, such as Swan Creek Farm chicken breast with glazed baby turnips, fresh grapes and verjus sauce. Finally diners can surrender to one of the new desserts, including apple floating island with steamed meringue, sour apple center, hard cider sauce and caramel tuile.

Prior to joining the Sofitel team, Noguier served as executive chef at Chicago landmark, One Sixtyblue. The restaurant earned many awards and accolades during Noguier's nearly eight-year tenure, including Chicago's "Best Restaurant 2006" from the *Chicago Sun Times*, 4.5 stars from the *Chicago Social* and 3 stars from the *Chicago Tribune*.

Keeping with classic French culinary traditions, Chef Imaz will oversee the property' pastry and dessert development and execution. With her remarkable experience, Chef Imaz will bring fresh and innovative ideas to Sofitel's already well established French- inspired bill of fare. Imaz is known for her modern and playful use

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of traditional flavors, especially for her fruit-inspired delicacies.

Imaz is an award-winning pastry chef with more than 18 years of experience. In 2007, she won the Jean Banchet Award for Best Rising Star Pastry Chef. Prior to joining Sofitel, Imaz oversaw a total of seven pastry kitchens, including that of one sixtyblue, as the corporate pastry chef for Cornerstone Restaurant Group. The Sofitel team is excited to welcome Imaz's signature approach of enriching familiar flavors in the form of elegant desserts comprised of the finest, seasonal ingredients.

About Sofitel Chicago Water Tower:

Minutes from Magnificent Mile, Michigan Avenue, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Art Institute and trendy boutiques, Sofitel Chicago Water Tower offers exceptional style and service and is Sofitel Luxury Hotels' North American flagship. Designed by French architect Jean-Paul Viguier, the downtown hotel is a 32-floor prism of glass boasting 415 guestrooms and luxury suites.

About Sofitel North America:

Created in France in 1964, Sofitel showcases luxurious accommodations worldwide, including 10 in North America. Sofitel hotels are ideally placed in business and leisure destinations across North America, including Chicago Downtown, Chicago O'Hare, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Miami, Montreal, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

About Sofitel:

Sofitel reinvents French elegance in its hotels throughout the world.

Sofitel is the only French luxury hotels brand with a presence on five continents, in more than 50 countries. Sofitel offers contemporary hotels and resorts adapted to today's more demanding and more versatile consumers who expect and appreciate beauty, quality and excellence. Whether situated in the heart of a major city like Paris, New York or Bangkok, or nestled away in a country landscape in French Polynesia or Brazil, each Sofitel property offers a genuine experience of the French art de vivre.

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Images on request

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