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## Ajax Tavern Unveils New Chef de Cuisine, Winter Menu and Events



**Aspen, Colo. (December 2015)** – <u>Ajax Tavern</u> restaurant at The Little Nell hotel has announced the appointment of J.D. Baldrige to Chef de Cuisine, the restaurant's new winter menu and upcoming events.

**J.D. Baldrige**, a Culinary Institute of America graduate, joined The Little Nell team in 2013 as a cook at Ajax Tavern, and within five months, was promoted to supervisor. One year later, he accepted the Sous Chef position at element 47, and during that time the restaurant received its Five-Star designation and The Little Nell received its Relais & Chateaux affiliation. In the fall of 2015, Baldridge was appointed Chef de Cuisine at Ajax Tavern.

While developing <u>the new winter menu</u>, Baldridge focused on a "return to classic French Bistro fare," collaborating with The Nell's Executive Chef Matt Zubrod to develop dishes that truly represent Ajax. You'll see traditional dishes such as Duck Cassoulet, Coq au Vin and Frisee aux Lardon salad with Truffle Vinaigrette, as well as new style cooking such as Baked Brie with Port Wine Poached Pear and Roasted Bone Marrow with Burgundy Escargot, and a house made charcuterie board.

The <u>Pinot Posse</u> rides back to town on Jan. 13 with a prix fixe evening at Ajax Tavern. The annual event involves seven great winemakers (J.K. Carriere, Kosta Brown, Camlow-Keefer, Owen Roe, Bonaccorsi, August West and Cargasacchi) who will be on a tour through Colorado, showcasing their celebrated pinot-style wines. \$150++/guest. 7 p.m.

**Clicquot in the Snow** returns Fri., Feb. 12 for President's Day Weekend, offering the picture perfect place to "après-ski and be seen" on the Ajax patio while enjoying drink specials from Veuve Clicquot (\$17 a glass and \$89 a bottle) and DJ's daily on weekends through spring from 3 – 6 p.m. From Fri.,

March 11 – Sun., March 13, Clicquot in the Snow will feature violinist <u>Katarina Visnevska</u>. The Latvian born and Chicago-raised violinist is known for raising the roof on the Ajax Tavern patio from 3 – 6 p.m., and keeping guests dancing in their ski boots well after sunset.

## About Ajax Tavern

The French bistro comes to life at lunch, and the energy rolls on well into the evening. The sundrenched mountainside patio is Aspen's premier spot to see and be seen, offering an après-ski menu in winter from 2 - 6 pm and live music on the Ajax Stage in summer on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 3 - 6 pm with food and drink specials. Open from 11:30 am – 10 pm.

## About The Little Nell

Cosmopolitan yet intimate, contemporary yet timeless, The Little Nell invites guests to experience Aspen's only Five Star, Five Diamond, ski-in/ski-out hotel – a Relais & Chateaux resort – and the distinctive element 47 restaurant. For more information and for reservations, call 888.The.Nell (888.843.6355) or visit www.thelittlenell.com.

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