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## **ASPEN IN EVERY SEASON – FOOD, WINE, ADVENTURE, RENOVATIONS, ART + GARDENS**

### **Culinary News - Rising Talent, Guest Chef Series, Sustainability**

**Aspen, Colo. (July 1, 2018)** - Executive Chef **Matt Zubrod** leads the [culinary program](#) at The Little Nell with [element 47](#), [Ajax Tavern](#), the [Aspen Mountain Club](#), the [Sundeck](#), and all banquet and [catering operations](#). This spring, **Lucas Rocca** was appointed chef de cuisine at element 47 and **Amy Andrews** joined as pastry chef. In winter and summer, the Guest Chef Series welcomes talent from all over the world including **Jean-Georges and Cedric Vongerichten**, **Francis Mallmann** and Blackberry Farm Executive Chef **Cassidee Dabney**. The Little Nell has an exclusive partnership with West Emma Cattle Company who provides all of our **prize-winning Wagyu** beef. In July, the herd is moving to nearby Paonia in Colorado's fruit belt with opportunities for field trips for guests to dine on the farm. Our culinary gardens have relocated to Rock Bottom Ranch down valley from Aspen to benefit from a longer growing season and more acreage, supplying the hotel with produce in summer and fall. Our third annual **Aspen BBQ Cook-Off** returns Aug. 16 with ten Aspen restaurants represented, all competing for the coveted championship belt at this fundraiser for ETHiC (Emergency Transitional Housing in Community), a project of the Aspen Homeless Shelter. At The Nell, our kitchen's **signature items** include lemon soufflé pancakes, parker house rolls, house cured charcuterie, house extruded pastas, pickled vegetables and preserves, Wagyu many ways (tartare, steak, burger, hash) and the famous Ajax Tavern truffle fries. **Sustainability** plays a role in every decision made with The Little Nell sourcing food from local and regional purveyors, serving as Aspen's leading composting program and only offering biodegradable straws.

### **The World of Wine – Wine Club, Wine Cellar, Wine Education**

Led by **Wine Director Carlton McCoy, Master Sommelier**, the wine team also comprises **Chris Dunaway, Erik Elliott, Jesse Libby** and approximately 50 sommeliers on staff accredited from levels intro through master. McCoy's approach to [wine education](#) means classes twice weekly for staff, an annual **Wine Academy** for guests each spring, the pursuit of the James Beard Foundation Award for Outstanding Wine Program (having been nominated four times and most recently a finalist in May 2018), maintaining the Grand Award from *Wine Spectator* since 1995 and now named to the *Wine Enthusiast* Hall of Fame. **The Little Nell Wine Club** debuted in January 2018 with 29 of 40 memberships sold in its first month, providing "real estate" at the hotel to members with 16 bottles per row, marked with a silver plaque and offering direct access to the 20,000-bottle cellar with futures from our wine attic and even unlisted wines. **The Little Nell cellar**, a.k.a. The Red Light Lounge remains one of Aspen's most legendary speakeasies.

### **Adventures in Aspen and on the Road**

Aspen is the jewel of the Roaring Fork Valley, not far from the highest peak in the Rockies. To experience the exhilarating lifestyle up close, The Little Nell offers [Nell Adventures](#) with premier guides, unique trips and awe-inspiring activities - always with Five-Star service. The Nell is the sole ski-in/ski-out hotel at the base of Aspen Mountain a.k.a. Ajax. In winter, expert **ski concierges** provide warm boots and hidden powder tips, as well as booking all skiing adventures from snowcat academy to powder cat skiing. Summer

and fall offer fly-fishing, off-road tours or stargazing. **Managing director Simon Chen** continues to expand the adventure program with **Nell Escapades** in 2019 – [Heli-skiing with Canadian Mountain Holidays](#) in January, a trip to the **Masters** in April, our annual **Clip-In With Christian Cycling Camp** in August and a **Burgundy Bike and Wine Excursion** in the fall.

### Renovations

[Interior design and style](#) are a hallmark at The Little Nell ever since the hotel opened in the fall of 1989. In 2009, the entire property was renovated by Holly Hunt. In 2017, **Champalimaud Design** of New York refreshed all **guest rooms and junior suites** at the hotel with an “Authentic Aspen” motif. Currently, **Residences at The Little Nell** is undergoing a rooftop renovation with the pool deck and barbecue area. In April of 2019, The Little Nell will close for two months for an overhaul of the lobby, living room and Chair 9 apres-ski bar – partnering again with Champalimaud. The Aspen Mountain Club will also close from spring through fall 2019 for a renovation by **Luis Bustamante**, one of the world's most acclaimed Spanish interior designers. In 2020, Champalimaud will introduce a lavish spa, commanding the entire the lower level of The Little Nell.

### Art

Explore the hotel to find original, abstract works of art by internationally recognized painters, sculptors and photographers. Element 47 was designed to include an important collection of contemporary Aspen art, in addition to other global artwork, as an integral aspect to the fine dining experience. In many of our Holly Hunt-designed suites, original Aspen artworks play a central role in defining each room's mood. In June of 2018, [artist Paula Crown unveiled her sculpture, entitled \*Jokester\*](#), as part of her SOLO TOGETHER series of work. Through this piece, which is on display for the summer of 2018 on the Upper Gondola Plaza across from Ajax Tavern, Crown is challenging viewers to reevaluate the impacts of throwaway consumerism. It represents the most recent project in Aspen Skiing Company's Art in Unexpected Places, a program that has placed art on our mountains, hotels, and lift tickets since 2005.

### Gardens

Onsite, the entire footprint of The Little Nell is radiant in summer with a **living wall** and various gardens all managed by our British-born gardener whose grandmother was a royal gardener. [Weekly garden tours](#) connect guests with her to learn tips for high altitude gardening, how the **lavender** is grown and used for sachets at turndown, the organic nature and also what's composted. Self-guided tours are new this summer with signage in place and a hand-illustrated map at the concierge desk.

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### ***About The Little Nell***

*Cosmopolitan yet intimate, contemporary yet timeless, The Little Nell invites guests to experience Aspen's only Forbes Five-Star, AAA Five-Diamond, ski-in/ski-out hotel – a Relais & Châteaux resort. For more information and for reservations, please call 888.The.Nell (888.843.6355) or visit [www.thelittlenell.com](http://www.thelittlenell.com).*