



FRIDAY HARBOR HOUSE NAMES MARGIE O'BRIEN AS INNKEEPER AND AARON ROCK AS EXECUTIVE CHEF



(Photo caption L-R: Margie O'Brien as innkeeper and Aaron Rock as Executive Chef)

Friday Harbor, Wash. (May 06, 2013) Friday Harbor House is pleased to announce the appointments of Margie O'Brien as the innkeeper and Aaron Rock as executive chef of Friday Harbor House. With a combined experience of nearly 20 years in guest service, both bring unique and tailored expertise and backgrounds to their positions.

"We feel the promotion of Chef Aaron, and hire of Margie has culminated to the creation of the perfect team to offer our guests the finest in service and the culinary experience," said Alan Stephens, director of operational excellence for Columbia Hospitality and Friday Harbor House. "We are thrilled to have them leading the team at Friday Harbor House and The Bluff."

O'Brien arrived at Friday Harbor House from California, where she studied at Cal State Fullerton. In 2009 she received the Ambassador of the Year Award from the Newport Beach CVB, and is currently a member of many professional organizations such as Meetings Professional International, Society of Incentive Travel Executives and the Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International.

Prior to moving to Washington, O'Brien was a senior account executive at Hospitality Performance Network Global. Additionally, O'Brien founded and operated Coastal Connections DMC, a full-service destination management company in Southern California. Her experience in guest relations, event planning and business management will be valuable assets in her new role as innkeeper.

O'Brien moved to Friday Harbor with her high school sweetheart and now husband of three years, Lynus. She is excited to be living the island life.

Prior to his role as executive chef, Rock held the position of sous chef for The Bluff since early 2011. Originally from Chicago, Rock has worked and studied all across the United States—arriving in the San Juan Islands from The Boulders Resort and Golden Door Spa in Carefree, Arizona. He has an AOS Culinary Arts degree from Scottsdale Culinary School, Le Cordon Bleu.

Rock is thrilled to continue offering the excellent service and delicious island cuisine of The Bluff while exploring new ways to be creative and give each guest—whether a local or tourist—a true island experience. Rock currently resides on Friday Harbor with his fiancée Jodi and her daughter Lily. When not at work, he can be found hiking—often foraging to keep his menu fresh and local—and enjoying the beautiful islands.

About Friday Harbor House

Friday Harbor House is a waterfront inn located in the bustling island seaport of Friday Harbor, home to charming shops, galleries and restaurants. Situated on San Juan Island, the inn features spectacular views of the marina, San Juan Channel and Mount Constitution on neighboring Orcas Island. Each of the 23 guest rooms and suites at Friday Harbor House offers a fireplace, oversized jetted bathtub and breathtaking views. Chef Aaron Rock prepares an array of fresh fare from the local waters and farms, showcased in a mouthwatering menu of small plates, savory sandwiches, colorful salads and seasonal specialties at The Bluff Restaurant • Bar • Terrace. Friday Harbor House is owned by Lang and Anne Simons and managed and operated by Seattle-based Columbia Hospitality, Inc. For more information or to make a reservation, please call (866) 722-7356 or visit www.fridayharborhouse.com.

About Columbia Hospitality

Columbia Hospitality, Inc. (Columbia), a Seattle-based hospitality management and consulting firm, was founded in 1995 by John Oppenheimer. Columbia's growing portfolio of premier properties, including the award-winning boutique hotels of the Columbia Collection, conference centers, and distinctive venues offer world-class service in memorable destinations. Columbia creates exceptional experiences for guests and team members while achieving phenomenal results for owners. The company's continued success has led to an international expansion of the consulting division and more than 100 hospitality projects worldwide. For more information about Columbia and a full list of properties visit www.columbiahospitality.com.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Erin Osborne/Chelsea Asplund
GreenRubino
206-447-4747

ErinO@GreenRubino.com / ChelseaA@GreenRubino.com