

PRESS RELEASE

17th September 2009

Charlie Whinney Associates is delighted to announce the unveiling of the artist's latest work of interior design: a modern champagne trolley commissioned by Laurent-Perrier for the The Grill at The Dorchester, on Park Lane in London. Laurent-Perrier were searching for a cutting-edge design that combined visual impact with beauty and sophistication. Charlie Whinney – whose former company, sixixis, won the 2006 Laurent-Perrier Design Talent Award – was chosen with a series of elegant and daring design concepts.

Laurent-Perrier and The Dorchester chose an organic design reminiscent of swaying branches that complemented Charlie's trademark fluid lines, and was built from Oak on an original Wenge base from the restaurant. This design was only possible due to an innovative new process that mixes cutting-edge steam-bending techniques with the traditional inlay.

The Dorchester is delighted with the champagne trolley, which has been well received by customers and staff alike. Renaud Gregoire, Director of Food and Beverage, commented: "The champagne trolley's stylish design fits well with the character of the restaurant. Design is one of the key contributing factors to the overall ambience of a restaurant alongside excellent food and service, so getting the right look was extremely important."

It is still too early to report an increase in champagne sales as a result of the new trolley, but that is certainly the expectation.

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Notes for editors

About Charlie Whinney Associates

Charlie Whinney is the leading exponent of the art of steam-bending wood to create beautiful, unusual curved furniture and sculptures. His work and projects are among the most challenging and ambitious in the UK currently, each taking the art (and science)-form further along an unbeaten track of innovation. His most recent projects include the Harvey Nichols window display August 2009, a 30m Oak sculpture of DNA for Cambridge University in 2008, a collaboration with Metropolitan Workshop for the London Architecture Festival - a piece entitled 'Road Trip to the Moon', also in 2008, and the Chelsea Flower show with Andy Sturgeon in 2007. Future architectural projects include a steel sculpture for a major new restaurant in Texas, a wooden sculpture for a new hotel at Brooklands, and an innovative small wooden living space on a major sculptural site in Cumbria. See

www.charliewhinney.com for more information and images.

Champagne Laurent-Perrier

Established in 1812, Champagne Laurent-Perrier is one of the most distinguished family-owned Champagne Houses. Based in the heart of Champagne, in Tours-sur-Marne, Laurent-Perrier has a pedigree for innovation, handcrafting a diverse and pioneering range of fine champagnes that are produced to traditional, time-honoured methods.

The House was acquired by the Nonancourt family in the late 1930s and for over 50 years Bernard de Nonancourt has dedicated his life to innovating and perfecting Laurent-Perrier Champagne. Today, Laurent-Perrier is one of the great success stories in Champagne, and is now the fourth largest champagne brand worldwide.

Laurent-Perrier is renowned for achieving many firsts - in the late fifties the House introduced the first multi-vintage prestige cuvée, which represents the epitome of Laurent-Perrier's 'art of assemblage' - Grand Siècle by Laurent-Perrier. Twenty years on, Laurent-Perrier was the first Champagne House to reintroduce the concept of brut nature champagne, with its Laurent-Perrier Ultra Brut. Laurent-Perrier was also the driver of the rosé revolution, with its unique Laurent-Perrier Cuvée Rosé Brut, first launched in 1968 - the benchmark rosé to which all others aspire.

www.laurent-perrier.co.uk

About The Dorchester

The Grill opened in 1931 when The Dorchester welcomed its first guests and swiftly became one of the world's most iconic hotels. Situated on Park Lane, the 250 rooms and suites are individually decorated in an English country house style and offer elegant views of Hyde Park. Informal dining is available to guests in the Promenade and The Bar, China Tang serves traditional Cantonese cuisine while two Michelin star Alain Ducasse at The Dorchester is one of London's finest and most beautifully designed French restaurants. The Dorchester Spa launched on 8 May this year after a six month £3.2 million expansion and renovation, and will include a uniquely named 'Spatisserie'.

High resolution images of The Dorchester can be downloaded by registering at

www.leonardo.com/dorchestercollection.

For further information and high resolution images please contact:

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