Dear xxxxxx:

You have been recommended (by yyyyy) for membership to the Colorado Chapter of Les Dames d’Escoffier based on your career accomplishments and your leadership in your industry. I am pleased to invite you to apply to join the 2017 fall class of new Dames.

If you accept this invitation to apply for membership, you must be committed to supporting the chapter as outlined in the membership commitment portion of our attached Membership Application. Your application is due no later than July 21st.

Les Dames d’Escoffier includes women with at least five years professional experience in the food, beverage, hospitality, nutrition and agricultural fields whose mission is to support education and philanthropy in those fields, who have distinguished themselves as leaders in their fields and have continued their professional development in these fields.

Les Dames d’Escoffier was founded in New York in 1976 as a society of professional women of achievement. It now boasts many chapters in major cities across North America and the membership directory lists outstanding women leaders in these fields – food publishers, editors, authors, journalists, chefs, nutritionists, vintners, caterers, manufacturers, retailers, consultants, food historians and more. The purpose of this dynamic organization is to support and promote the understanding, appreciation, and knowledge of food, wine, beverage, nutrition, hospitality and the arts of the table, in the tradition of the famed culinare Auguste Escoffier. Also integral to LDEI is the wonderful opportunity for women to help other women, which we do in the Colorado chapter through our Scholarship Program.

I have included with this letter the LDEI CO Membership Application, and we hope you will be interested in becoming a member of our chapter. We encourage you to visit the Les Dames d’Escoffier International (LDEI) website at [www.ldei.org](http://www.ldei.org/) and the Colorado Chapter’s website at [lesdamescolorado.org](http://lesdamescolorado.org/) for more information. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

*Michele Morris*

First Vice President, Membership Chair

LDEI Colorado Chapter

[michele@cookingwithmichele.com](mailto:michele@cookingwithmichele.com), 720-344-8173

**Les Dames d’Escoffier Membership Criteria**

Candidates for membership shall be professional women of achievement who have been actively engaged for a minimum of five (5) years in careers related to food, beverage and hospitality. Candidates shall be dedicated to the purposes of the Chapter:

1. To further the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of food, beverage and hospitality in the tradition of Auguste Escoffier.
2. To promote the education and advancement of women with careers in food, beverage and hospitality.
3. To promote high standards in the industries related to food, beverage and hospitality.
4. To advise, assist and support fellow members in matters pertaining to their careers in food, beverage and hospitality.
5. To disseminate information that advances the purposes and interests of the Chapter.
6. To raise and disburse funds for scholarships and other educational opportunities for current and prospective professional women in the industries related to food, beverage and hospitality, and for other worthy projects.
7. To raise national and international awareness of the State of Colorado as a destination for the culinary arts.
8. To maintain affiliation with Les Dames d’Escoffier International (hereinafter referred to as the “Society”) and to respect its code of ethics.

**Les Dames d’Escoffier Colorado Chapter Membership Requirements**

1. Members shall support and work for the purposes of the Chapter, shall abide by its Bylaws and Standing Rules, and shall work harmoniously with others in the Chapter to achieve the Society’s goals*.*
2. Members must pay annual dues by the date set by the Treasurer.
3. Each member must attend a minimum of three fundraising Events or Chapter meetings annually. The following activities by any member shall count as satisfying attendance at one event:
   1. Actively serve as a committee member
   2. Sponsor an event
   3. Serve on the Chapter Board of Directors
   4. Serve on the National Board of LDEI
4. Members who are unable to meet the attendance requirement for active membership in any given year may remain an Active Member by making a $50 donation to the Chapter’s Scholarship fund, managed by the Chapter. This donation shall be a fully tax deductible donation.