

The Culinary Institute of America at Copia

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THE WORLD'S PREMIER
CULINARY COLLEGE

August 18, 2022

Mrs. Heidi Kuhn
Founder/CEO
Roots of Peace
Marin Executive Center
4000 Civic Center Drive
Suite 330
San Rafael, California 94901

Dear Mrs. Kuhn,

On behalf of The Culinary Institute of America at Copia, we are honored to partner with Roots of Peace in support of your vision to transform *MINES TO VINES*--replacing the scourge of landmines with sustainable farmland worldwide.

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Roots of Peace, we are proud to host a VIP Forum featuring vintners and dignitaries to discuss the importance of *Cultivating Peace Through Agriculture*, as you share the story of your humanitarian non-profit working in 10 countries over the past quarter of a century--impacting millions of farmers and families worldwide. In tribute to your efforts, we will plant an 'olive tree' on the grounds of CIA/COPIA in the heart of the Napa Valley--a permanent tribute to your efforts to plant sustainable peace for future generations to thrive.

In 1997, 'Legends of the Vine' initially supported your vision to transform minefields into thriving agricultural fields including: Robert Mondavi, Miljenko 'Mike' Grgich, Tor Kenward, Eric Wente, Maria Castellucci, Judy Jordan, Gina Gallo and Diane Disney Miller. Today, you have turned your dreams into reality as you manage over 400 employees in Afghanistan managing over \$200 million in U.S. government grants over the past two decades.

The grapevine represents the seeds we have in common, rather than those which separate us--fresh grapes, raisins or a fine bottle of wine.

It is fitting that we celebrate your accomplishments on the grounds of The CIA in the heart of the Napa Valley, as we celebrate food, wine, art and community. Known worldwide as a 'think tank' of the food industry and producing innovators in every area of the food business, the Culinary Institute of America prides itself in our new partnership with Roots of Peace--helping restore agricultural lands which were once held hostage to war.

We are proud that Mayor John Dunbar of Yountville has designated September 8, 2022, as '*Roots of Peace Day*' in The Napa Valley.

The Napa Valley is also home to the largest Veterans Home in the United States, and many of the residents once served in The Vietnam War, and most recently Afghanistan and Iraq. We support your leadership efforts to heal the wounds of war and plant sustainable 'roots' to provide food security and jobs on former battlefields.

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary, our new Executive Chef Dominic Orsini will serve spices grown on former minefields including fresh black pepper from Vietnam and saffron from Afghanistan, which is now sold by Morton and Bassett Spice Company and Noble House Spice in support of Roots of Peace. This special meal will give dignitaries a *'Taste of Peace'* from the heart of the Napa Valley.

We hope our historic event may inspire global citizens to join hands to plant the Roots of Peace on Earth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Bense". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Thomas Bense
Managing Director, CIA CA Campus