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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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International Foods and Ingredients, Inc., Gurnee, IL, is proud to announce its partnership with CasaLuker S.A. of Colombia, South America, a world leader in the production of chocolate produced exclusively with fine flavor cocoa beans, to bring unique Colombian chocolates to the U.S. market. CasaLuker is a Company as respected for its social commitment and agricultural practices as it is for its exceptional products.

IFI will be the exclusive U.S. importer and distributor for the Luker Cacao and Luker 1906 Origin brands of fine chocolate. According to Rick Brownstein, IFI's Director of Business Development, "We are proud to offer CasaLuker's superior products to our customers. Their passion for quality, their commitment to Colombia's cocoa culture, and their investment in cutting edge technology make them an exciting company to partner with. We are excited for the opportunity to inspire America's pastry chefs and confectioners with these products."

CasaLuker's products are derived exclusively from cocoa *fino de aroma*, or fine flavor cocoa beans. Chocolatiers, bakers and pastry chefs prize fine flavor beans for their quality and unique flavors, incorporating floral, fruity, and coffee notes. Only six percent of the world's harvest of cocoa beans is represented by fine flavor beans. IFI will offer its professional customers across the United States chocolate couvertures, liquor, butter, and cocoa beans under the Luker Cacao and Luker 1906 Origin brands.

CasaLuker, a family-owned business established in 1906, is based in Bogota, Colombia, in a region ideally situated for the cultivation of fine flavor *Trinitario* cocoa beans. CasaLuker operates GranjaLuker, one of the few research centers in the world dedicated to the study, development, and conservation of cocoa. Deeply committed to developing and advancing Colombia's cocoa farming culture, the CasaLuker Agricultural Development Program supports 5,000 local family farms by providing education on best agricultural practices to maximize yields and quality while promoting sustainability, environmental responsibility, and fair trade. This commitment guarantees the best raw materials for CasaLuker's products and the best trade conditions for their farmers.

Francisco Gomez, Manager of the International Operation for CasaLuker, states, "We selected International Foods and Ingredients as our American sales partner because of their industry expertise and their reputation for quality and service to their customers. Our *fino de aroma* chocolates are complementary to the portfolio of top quality European products that IFI currently offers and we are pleased to be among their offerings."

International Foods and Ingredients, Inc., has for nearly twenty years been a trusted supplier to the American culinary professional in the bakery, pastry, confectionery, and ice cream industries. IFI is a leading importer and master distributor of high quality specialty and commodity ingredients, semi-finished products, and tools and utensils. A family owned business, IFI combines the world's best, most innovative products with industry expertise, reliability, and exemplary customer service.