Company Founder

From his dedicated work in the kitchens of Europe and the U.S., Albert Uster progressed to Executive Chef, restaurateur, and finally entrepreneur.

The beginnings of the import business can be traced to 1968 and developed out of personal necessity. Having won the bid to develop and run the Watergate Terrace Restaurant and Pastry Shop, Mr. Uster traveled to his homeland of Switzerland in search of quality products that at the time were unavailable in the U.S. Ultimately, this search for premium products developed into a business: Albert Uster Imports Inc., which now spans the globe.

In 1951, Mr. Uster apprenticed as a cook at the Zunfthaus zum Rueden in Zurich, Switzerland and achieved the highest grade in the Canton. From there he pursued his passion for food by entering and winning accolades in international culinary competitions, and by working in some of the finest restaurants in Europe and the U.S. He served as the Executive Chef in numerous hotels and clubs, including the Petroleum Club and Hotel America in Houston, TX, the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC, and helped to open prestigious properties across the United States. While in Texas, Mr. Uster studied Industrial Psychology and Labor Management at the University of Houston.

After developing and growing AUI, Albert Uster Imports Inc., he appointed Philipp Braun as President and CEO in 1998, and served as chairman of the board until 2008, proudly overseeing the expansion of the company. Mr. Uster is survived by his daughters Jenny Schaepper-Uster, Scarlett Uster, and Kristen Narlinger-Goldner, his sons Albert D. Uster, Adam Uster and Erik Goldner, his brothers Hans Peter Uster and Henry Uster, and his close companion Josephine S. Cooper.