

**REGIONAL QUALIFIER FOR THE CANADIAN
CULINARY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Providing young Canadians the opportunity to be extraordinary through sport, music and food.



***New Name – Same Great Competition!
Chef Elia Herrera Takes Home the Gold at the
Rebranded Celebration of Canadian Excellence Canada's Great
Kitchen Party – Toronto!***

Culinary Winners:

Gold: Chef Elia Herrera of Los Colibris

Silver: Chef Gian Nicola Colucci of Four Seasons Toronto

Bronze: Chef Gian Nicola Colucci of Four Seasons Toronto

Best of Show: 2014 Picone Vineyard Riesling, Charles Baker Wines

1st Runner-up: 2013 Quatrain Red, Mission Hill, Mark Anthony Group

2nd Runner-up: 2016 Estate Riesling, Hidden Bench Estate Winery

Toronto, ON (October 29, 2018) – Chef Elia Herrera of Los Colibris proved her culinary prowess tonight taking home the gold medal at Canada's Great Kitchen Party - Toronto. Chef Herrera went head-to-head with 10 of Toronto's finest culinary masters at the prestigious culinary competition and will go on to compete at the Canadian Culinary Championships, the national finale, in Kelowna on February 1st and 2nd, 2019.

Chef Herrera wowed the judges with a Pork Belly, Mole Negro, Seasonal Vegetables with Ancho/Chapulín, Pepita Oil and Tamal de Cazuela. She paired it with a 2016 Estate Cabernet Rosé from Leaning Post Wines, Niagara Peninsula. National Culinary Advisor James Chatto described Chef Herrera's dish, "the crispy crust on the pork belly, a profound complex mole sauce and the best tamale you've ever eaten came together like a wonderful piece of music."

Chef Gian Nicola Colucci of Four Seasons Toronto rose to the occasion as well, taking the silver medal. His Smoked Pork Belly, Baby Kale with a Sauce Gribiche was described by Judge Chatto as "what happens to bacon when it goes to heaven." Chef Colucci chose a 2016 Estate Riesling from Hidden Bench Estate Winery, Beamsville Bench, ON.

Taking the bronze medal was Chef Keith Pears of Delta Toronto. His dish of Rougie Duck Breast on a Duck Confit Mushroom Croquette with Foie Gras Parfait, Beet, Squash Puree was described by Judge Chatto as "technically impeccable." It was paired with 2016 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay from Trius Winery, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON.

REGIONAL QUALIFIER FOR THE CANADIAN CULINARY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Providing young Canadians the opportunity to be extraordinary through sport, music and food.



The other chefs competing in Toronto were:

Ryan Crawford - Backhouse
Jeff Kang - Canis
Jesse Vallins - Maple Leaf Tavern | PORT
Amira Becarevic - Mira Mira
Jason Oszoli - Oliver & Bonacini
Rob Toppan - The Fifth Grill & Terrace
Albert Ponzo - The Royal Hotel - Events & Provisions

Judging the 2018 competition were: James Chatto (National Culinary Advisor), Sasha Chapman (Senior Judge), Christine Cushing, Chef John Higgins, Amy Rosen, Geddy Lee and Chef Lorenzo Loseto (2017 Gold Medal Winner). Each dish was judged out of 100 points, based on visual presentation (20%), texture (10%), technical achievement (10%), taste (40%), wine compatibility (10%), and wow factor (10%).

Thirty seven elite Canadian athletes were in attendance, including:

Adam Purdy	Para Swimming
Adam Van Koeverden	Canoe/Kayak
Anastasia Bucsis	Speed Skating
Anna May Pierse	Swimming
Annie Former-Macke	Cycling
Billy Bridges	Sledge Hockey
Brian Stemmler	Alpine Skiing
Claire Carver-Dias	Synchronized Swimming
Curt Harnett	Track Cycling
Deirde Dionne	Freestyle, Presidents of Athletes Commission
Derek Drouin	Athletics - High Jump
Diana Matheson	Soccer
Dom Gauthier	Freestyle Skiing, CEO of B2ten
Erica Wiebe	Wrestling
Erin Latimer	Para Alpine Skiing
Georgia Simmerling	Cycling and Freestyle

**REGIONAL QUALIFIER FOR THE CANADIAN
CULINARY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Providing young Canadians the opportunity to be extraordinary through sport, music and food.



Heather Moyse	Bobsleigh and Rugby
Hugo Barrette	Cycling - Track
Jennifer Botterill	Hockey
Karen Cockburn	Trampoline
Lanni Marchant	Athletics - Long Distance Runner
Laura Fortino	Hockey
Mark Oldershaw	Canoe/Kayak
Marnie McBean	Rowing
Mathiew Turgeon	Trampoline
Megan Farrell	Snowboard
Melissa Humana Paredes	Beach Volleyball
Mercedes Nicoll	Snowboard
Michael Foley	Cycling
Micheal Woods	Cycling - Road
Patrick Vellner	Cross Fit - Second fittest man in Canada
Rob Gibson	Rowing
Sarah Pavan	Beach Volleyball
Sarah Wells	Athletics - Hurdler
Scott Moir	Figure Skating
Sekou Kaba	Athletics - Hurdler
Tera Van Beilen	Swimming
Tessa Virtue	Figure Skating
Tyler McGregor	Sledge Hockey

“I’m so excited about the new direction for the funding partners,” said Marnie McBean. “For me, I was in band before I was in sport; so it was my school band program that caught me and gave me purpose and direction before I found rowing. The fact that we’re including MusiCounts and Community Food Centres Canada really speaks to my heart about what it is to grow up in the school system and be a youth in Canada.”

Curt Harnett was excited about the new format, saying “The rebranding to Canada’s Great Kitchen Party has allowed us to freshen up the event, making it a more user-friendly and delivers an experience that not only has people going home feeling good that they’ve raised money for some

REGIONAL QUALIFIER FOR THE CANADIAN CULINARY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Providing young Canadians the opportunity to be extraordinary through sport, music and food.



really great charities in a direct manner but actually had a great time doing it. So for me, the rebranding is really hitting home on making this a marquee event on the city's gala landscape.”

Scot Martin, Co-chair of the event, was thrilled with the evening. “We’ve had such tremendous support in the past from the culinary and music community, we’re very pleased and proud to be able to give back to them (through MusiCounts and Community Food Centres Canada).”

Lorrie King, another Co-chair, added, “The new format is amazing because it actually supports all three pillar that are so important to this program. It supports the musicians, the food and the athletes, which is always has, but adding those two extra pillars to the program has just really allowed us to take in a whole new direction. And it’s exciting to have new people involved who would never be involved before. It’s just been great night.”

Canada’s Great Kitchen Party: is a social enterprise that is dedicated to building community regionally and nationally to celebrate Canadian Excellence in food, sport and music. Annually, 10-12 events are staged each fall and Canadian talent in each of these pillars of Canadian culture are celebrated. For the food pillar: each event incorporates a prestigious culinary competition for 6-10 of the city’s best chefs in what is the regional qualifier for the Canadian Culinary Championships (CCC). The Canadian Culinary Championships is a two-day annual intense competition held in February in Kelowna every year, with three demanding culinary elements: Mystery Wine, Black Box and the Finale. To win gold regionally is a feather in the cap for any chef; to become the Canadian Culinary Champion is a career-changer. The celebration of Canadian wine, beer and spirits is also an integral part of the success of Canada’s Great Kitchen Party. The wine, beer and spirits that are presented to the more than 5000 guests is very comprehensive. Canada’s Great Kitchen Party is now the largest program in Canada to feature and highlight excellent Canadian wines. For the sport pillar, over 200 athletes are invited to the fall events. The athletes have represented Canada on the international stage either in amateur, para or pro sports. At the events, their athletic accomplishments are celebrated and their stories are heard. Guests have the opportunity to mix and mingle with the athletes and show their appreciation for what they do for Canadian pride! And for the final pillar: music, each event incorporates an incredible line up of Canadian musicians who share the stage with the athletes and the chefs and put on an incredible show. Musicians in 2018 include Jim Cuddy, Ed Robertson, Barney Bentall, Alan Doyle, Tom Cochrane, Anne Lindsay, Johnny Reid, Danny Michel, Bill Henderson, Neil Osborne, Devin Cuddy and Sam Polley. Canadian talent in food, music and sport – all under one umbrella – and why it is called Canada’s Great Kitchen Party ... all with a purpose of providing young Canadians the opportunity to be

REGIONAL QUALIFIER FOR THE CANADIAN CULINARY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Providing young Canadians the opportunity to be extraordinary through sport, music and food.



extraordinary through sport music and food. The three chosen beneficiaries are sport: B2ten, music: MusiCounts and food: Community Food Centres Canada.

B2ten: B2ten exists to have significant impact on sport in Canada B2ten contributes to amateur sport and the greater good of society by providing optimal training and preparation services to elite amateur athletes; investing in the development of Canada's coaches and professional service providers; and developing a legacy of enhanced sport, play and well-being. B2ten.com.

"I am thrilled that Canada's Great Kitchen Party and B2ten are joining forces. Their shared passion, relentless pursuit of excellence, and commitment to making a difference make it an inspiring collaboration! Scott and I have had tremendous experiences at the culinary competitions and on international trips. We look forward to being involved with Canada's Great Kitchen Party knowing that they are helping B2ten offer the same critical support we received to more athletes." - Tessa Virtue

MusiCounts: Canada's Great Kitchen Party will provide musical instruments for children in 20 schools every year. MusiCounts is keeping music alive in schools and communities across Canada by putting musical instruments into the hands of children that need them most. MusiCounts is Canada's music education charity, affiliated with the JUNO Awards and supported by many of Canada's top musicians. The instruments they supply last over 15 years and well over 800,000 children have known the joy of music as a result of their programs. musiccounts.ca.

"It has been an absolute privilege to raise funds for Canada's athletes over the last 12 years. I am thrilled to continue to support athletes through the new initiative and also thrilled that our efforts will now result in financial support going to MusiCounts - an organization near and dear to my heart." - Jim Cuddy

Community Food Centres Canada; Canada's Great Kitchen Party supports Canadian children to gain the skills and confidence they need to become the next generation of food leaders through unforgettable mentorship sessions with our talented chefs. Community Food Centres Canada works with partners across the country to offer high-impact programs that bring people together to grow, cook, share, and advocate for good food for all. cfccanada.ca.

**REGIONAL QUALIFIER FOR THE CANADIAN
CULINARY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Providing young Canadians the opportunity to be extraordinary through sport, music and food.



“As a two-time Canadian Culinary Champion, I am impressed with the organization’s transition to Canada’s Great Kitchen Party. I am so pleased that there will be a contribution to the food pillar, in addition to sport and music. Canadian youth will be transformed through the support provided by CFCC’s food programs. As a Chef, this resonates very closely with me and I believe, with our entire Canadian Chefs’ community. Well done!” - Chef Marc Lepine, Atelier

-30-

For further information contact:

Karen Blair
Co-Founder
Kitchen Party– National
647-267-6530
kblair@greatkitchenparty.com

Robin Turnbull
Toronto Event Partner
Kitchen Party– Regional
416.805.4221
rtevent@sympatico.ca