

**REGIONAL QUALIFIER FOR THE CANADIAN  
CULINARY CHAMPIONSHIP**

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



**RELEASE**

**October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

**Canada's Great Kitchen Regional Qualifier  
Chef Sebastian Perez's Crowned Toronto Champion!**

***Chef Sebastian Perez - Isabelle Restaurant & Lounge at The Pearle Hotel & Spa  
Qualified for the Canadian Culinary Championship***

Canada's Great Kitchen Party Toronto is proud to announce the gold medalist of the Toronto regional culinary competition held today at Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 100 Front St W, Toronto.

The Great Kitchen Party in Toronto was the second to be held among the 9 competing cities, from St. John's, NL, to Vancouver, BC. All regional competitions end in late November 2022, with each region's gold medal-winning chef qualifying for the Canadian Culinary Championship in Ottawa, February 3-4, 2023.

The Seven Chefs who competed in Toronto's 2022 Kitchen Party regional competition were: **Jesse Vallins**, Barberian's Steakhouse; **Lorenzo Loseto**, GEORGE Restaurant; **Nitesh Rohra**, Capra's Kitchen; **Sebastian Perez**, Isabelle Restaurant & Lounge at The Pearle Hotel & Spa; **Jon Turner**, Reign Fairmont Royal York; **Hemant Bhagwani**, Popa Burmese Kitchen; **Frank Parhizgar**, FK.

Deliberating over each chef's dish were a group of eight judges, led by national Kitchen Party Head Judge James Chatto and 2019 KP Gold Medalist Keith Pears. Following the tasting of each dish and accompanying beverage, presented and described by each competing chef, Chef Sebastian Perez was chosen as the gold medalist for his Herb crusted venison, lobster mushrooms, apple and celeriac confit, pomegranate, coffee and yuzu maldon salt, glass apple and celeriac chip. His dish was paired with a 2220 Le Clos Jordanne "Le Grand Clos" pinot noir VQA Twenty Mile Bench Niagara.

Finishing in 2nd spot was *Chef, Lorenzo Loseto* – *George Restaurant* Beef Tartare, Grapefruit, Wild Rice with Malivoire, Bisous Rose, Beamsville Bench, Ontario, NV, and in 3rd position, Frank Parhizgar - *FK Restaurant* Heritage Chicken with Sunchoke, Chestnut & Périgord Jus, with Rock Cellars – 2020 – Gravity Pinot Noir – Flat Rock Vineyard, Twenty Mile Bench, Niagara

"Each Chef went out of their way to create seven exciting and unique dishes that made us all appreciate the complexity of flavours," said National Head Judge James Chatto, "Their dishes were well presented with expertly paired beverages. It was a tough decision, but in the end, *Chef Sebastian Perez's* dish 'out tasted' the others by scoring high in taste and presentation."

***Chef Sebastian Perez - Isabelle Restaurant & Lounge at The Pearle Hotel & Spa*** is also the winner of tonight's "People's Choice Award" and will now go on to represent Toronto at the Canadian Culinary Championship being held in Ottawa on February 3-4th, where he will compete against representatives from 8 other Canadian cities. "It feels great," he said, "and we were excited to present our dish tonight. We hoped the guests would appreciate it as much as the judges, and we couldn't be happier."

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“With events not taking place in the last two years due to the pandemic,” said Toronto Co-Chair and presenting partner representative Eddy Burello, “returning to an in-person event was the perfect recipe for Canada’s Great Kitchen Party. We were thrilled to bring back our culinary competition to Toronto. The quality and originality of the dishes we tasted continue to be outstanding; we are privileged to have such excellent culinary offerings. We wish *Chef Sebastian Perez* all the best as he prepares to represent Toronto in Ottawa.”

In addition to tonight’s culinary competition, funds were raised for two national beneficiaries and one local charity: Spirit North – empowering indigenous youth through sport and play. MusiCounts - which provides musical instruments to schools and FoodShare Toronto. Stephen Leckie, CEO of Canada’s Great Kitchen Party, was thrilled to participate in the sold-out event and said: “What a great event and a continuation of Toronto’s reputation as a serious culinary community. We are also proud that Canada’s Great Kitchen Party has raised over 17 million dollars as we continue to provide Canadian youth with the opportunity to be extraordinary in sport, music and food.”

The Canadian Culinary Championship (CCC) will host the gold medallist chefs from 9 cities in the nation’s capital next February 3-4, 2023. Chef Name will now Join Briana Kim of Alice Restaurant from Ottawa-Gatineau. Next up KP Edmonton on October 27. For information on the CCC: Lisa Pasin at 780-448-5945 or [lpasin@greatkitchenparty.com](mailto:lpasin@greatkitchenparty.com)

For more information on Toronto’s qualifier or for interview requests, please contact:

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**ABOUT CANADA’S GREAT KITCHEN PARTY**

Canada’s Great Kitchen Party is a social enterprise dedicated to "Building a Better Canada" by elevating and celebrating Canadian excellence through food, sport and music. Staged in nine cities across the country, each event is a regional culinary competition which qualifies the winning chefs to move on to compete at the Canadian Culinary Championship on February 3 and 4 in Ottawa. Chefs, athletes, musicians and business leaders all come together for a spectacular experience and to provide young Canadians with the opportunity to be extraordinary through sport, music and food. We proudly contribute to the following beneficiaries: Spirit North, MusiCounts and a local food charity. As the most extensive exposition of Canadian wines, over 200 wineries and local breweries and spirit companies are profiled at our events. For more information, visit [greatkitchenparty.com](http://greatkitchenparty.com)