



MEDIA RELEASE

And The Winner is Martin Juneau, From Newtown Restaurant, Montreal!

February 20, 2011 Kelowna B.C. - The competition was fierce, the determination was evident as eight of Canada's best chefs competed for top honours during the coveted Gold Medal Plates Canadian Culinary Championships on February 18 and 19, 2011 in Kelowna , B.C.

The new Champion, Montrealer Martin Juneau from Newtown Restaurant, won with his delicious dish of crispy piglet belly glazed with red beet juice, green apple and dill vinaigrette, paired with La Face Cachée de la Pomme Cidery. Martin was so moved upon winning that when asked how he felt he could only say, "It is too big for words; I am filled with emotion and pride."

Amid high fives, cheers, applause and tears the winners of the bronze and silver medals were announced. Robert Clark from C Restaurant, Vancouver, took the bronze, and the silver was awarded to Jeremy Charles from Raymonds in St.John's.

Adam Kreek best summed up the emotion of the evening when he announced powerfully to the assembled crowd of over 600 guests , "Tonight we are seeing the power of the Olympic Spirit. I am proud to be Canadian!"

The two-day event started with a Friday evening Mystery Wine Pairing at the Hotel Eldorado, where chefs prepared a dish they felt perfectly suited the mystery bottle of wine they had received the evening before. It was La Stella's Fortissimo 2008, from the Okanagan - B.C.'s version of a Super Tuscan, mostly Merlot and Cabernet but with slightly less than 10 percent Sangiovese Grosso aged in Slavonian oak.. They were given \$500 to shop for ingredients to provide small plate nosh for the 300-plus guests in attendance. Invited guests were able to taste the chefs' creations and cast their own ballot. Emerging as the people's choice winner for this single event was Jeremy Charles of Raymonds in, St John's.

The Black Box Challenge held at Okanagan College gave all eight competing chefs one hour to prepare two dishes using six mystery local ingredients: Dungeness crabs -- live and feisty -- Asian pears, candy cane and golden beets, smoked wild boar shank and licorice root.

The Grand Finale at the Delta Grand Hotel saw the eight chefs competing in an all-out slamdown competition; dishes were partnered with their chosen winery. The evening was simply delicious, with the very best of Canada's culinary scene fully in evidence.

MONTREAL - Martin Juneau, Newtown Restaurant: Paired with La Face Cachée de la Pomme Cidery, QC.

EDMONTON - Andrew Fung, Blackhawk Golf Club: Paired with Road 13 Vineyards, B.C.

SASKATCHEWAN - Dan Walker, Weczeria Food: Paired with Road 13 Vineyards, B.C.

VANCOUVER - Robert Clark, C Restaurant: Paired with Black Hills Estate Winery, B.C.

CALGARY - Duncan Ly, Hotel Arts: Paired with Tantalus Vineyards, B.C.,

OTTAWA - Michael Moffatt, Beckta Dining & Wine: Paired with Fielding Estates Winery, ON

TORONTO - Frank Dodd, Hillebrand Winery Restaurant (Niagara): Paired with Hillebrand Winery, ON

ST. JOHN'S - Jeremy Charles, Raymonds: Paired with Ravine Vineyard, ON

James Chatto, Gold Medal Plates national culinary advisor and head judge, was very impressed with this year's competitors. Experienced veterans and eager young bloods battled for the recognition to be called the best in Canada. He said, "It was a very strong competition with at least four chefs within reach of the victory before the Grand Finale. Judges were amazed at the technical brilliance of the dishes and wine matches. In the end we were unanimous in giving the gold, silver and bronze medals".

The Grand Finale event at the Delta Grand Okanagan was the hottest ticket in town. Playing to a sold-out audience of 600 wine and food enthusiasts were Colin James and Barney Bentall who headlined the entertainment. Olympians and Paralympians in attendance included gold medallists Adam Kreek (Rowing 2008) and Maelle Ricker (Snowboard 2010), Catharine Pendrel (Mountain Biking), Paula Findlay (Triathlon), Josh Dueck (Sit-Ski silver medallist) and hometown favourite Kelsey Serwa (Ski-cross 2011 World Cup Champion and 2011 X Games Gold Medallist)

As well as indulging in amazing food and wine, Saturday night guests were able to compete for items during the live auction. Some of the items up for bid were experiences hosted by Olympians and included the World's Greatest Pub Crawl to the Yorkshire Dales with Olympic gold medallist Jon Montgomery and comedian Ron James, and Wining and Dining in Napa with Olympic gold medallists Catriona Le May Doan and Jennifer Heil and performer Colin James.

Stephen Leckie co-founder of Gold Medal Plates said, "We are so impressed with how this competition has come together and it is evident our decision to host the event in Kelowna was the right one. Hundreds of guests from across Canada and throughout the Okanagan experienced an amazing culinary prowess we have never seen before".

This memorable two-day event will be held in Kelowna for the next five years with proceeds from Gold Medal Plates given to the Canadian Olympic Foundation to support high performance athletes.

-30-

Media Inquiries: Holly J Wood mediadiva@mac.com Phone: 250.938.0911
Karen Blair kblair@goldmedalplates.com Phone: 416.778.6533

About Gold Medal Plates

Gold Medal Plates is the ultimate celebration of Canadian Excellence in cuisine, wine, entertainment and athletic achievement. Celebrating in eight cities across Canada in 2010, Gold Medal Plates will feature superb wines and the premier chefs in each city, paired with Canadian Olympic and Paralympic athletes, in a competition to crown a gold, silver and bronze medal culinary team in each city, and subsequently nationwide at the Canadian Culinary Championships.

Founded in 2003, the goal of Gold Medal Plates is to raise substantial funds for Canada's high performance athletes, while celebrating Canadian excellence. Since 2004, this event has received tremendous support and accolades all across Canada, and generated a combined net total of \$5 million for Canada's Olympic and Paralympic athletes! For more information, visit the Gold Medal Plates website www.goldmedalplates.com

The Canadian Olympic Foundation – Beneficiary of the Events

Net proceeds from Gold Medal Plates are given to the Canadian Olympic Foundation to support athletes through high performance programs such as Own the Podium. To learn more about the foundation and the programs it funds, please visit www.olympicfoundation.ca