



Ottawa wows New York culinary scene Le Cordon Bleu a hit at the Taste of the Nation event

OTTAWA, May 12, 2006—Ottawa's Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Arts Institute team was a huge hit at the *Taste of the Nation* event held in New York City on Wednesday, May 10. A team of six chefs spent days preparing for the popular culinary event, which raises funds for organizations that fight hunger. Featuring over 50 of the best New York City restaurants, and with tickets selling for \$250 to \$375 per ticket, the event attracted dedicated and discerning “foodies” who were impressed with the joint Canadian Tourism Commission / Ottawa Tourism booth.

Le Cordon Bleu Signatures Restaurant and Ottawa Culinary Arts Institute Executive Chef Frédéric Filliodeau oversaw the creation of four tasty dishes for the event:

- Coddled quail eggs with celery root rémoulade with truffle oil
- Alaskan red king crab and green asparagus parfait
- Mille-feuille of Tanzania chocolate with creamy caramel
- Pistachio with raspberry coulis, mascarpone cream and ice wine jelly shooter

“The reaction to the booth was incredible,” says Karen Squires, Director of Leisure Marketing and Partnerships at Ottawa Tourism. “People were attracted by the impressive combination of flavours, the fresh tulips on the tables and the images of Ottawa on the screen. While many guests had already visited Montréal and Toronto, we were able to show them that Ottawa is a culinary and cultural hotspot that should be next on their list.”

Le Cordon Bleu Ottawa Sculptor Instructor Chef Armando Baisas used his outstanding carving abilities to create magical designs out of various fruits and vegetables at the booth. Chefs from other restaurants congregated to watch, snapping photos with their cell phones once the carvings were complete

Chef Frédéric and Chef Armando later participated in a Celebrity Cook-Off against Marc Murphy of Landmarc in New York. Given surprise ingredients and just 30 minutes, each team prepared a dish. Ottawa's Le Cordon Bleu dish won the contest and high praise from the judges.

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