



A CELEBRATION OF CANADIAN EXCELLENCE

Chef Jesse Friesen Takes Home the Gold at Gold Medal Plates Winnipeg!

Eight Winnipeg Chefs Awarded Gold Medal Plates Emblem of Distinction

Culinary Award Winners:

Gold: Jesse Friesen from **Pizzeria Gusto** paired with Thirty Bench Riesling from Niagara, ON

Silver: Melissa Makarenko from **Resto Gare Bistro** paired with Closson Chase Chardonnay from Prince Edward County, ON

Bronze: Barry Saunders from **Inn at The Forks/Era Bistro & Catering** paired with Mission Hill Family Estate Reserve Shiraz from Okanagan Valley, BC

Winnipeg MB (November 9, 2016) – Chef Jesse Friesen from Pizzeria Gusto proved his culinary prowess tonight taking home the gold award at Gold Medal Plates Winnipeg. Chef Friesen went head-to-head with 7 of Winnipeg's finest culinary masters at the prestigious culinary competition and will go on to compete at the Canadian Culinary Championships, the Gold Medal Plates Finale, in Kelowna on February 3rd and 4th, 2017.

Chef Friesen wowed the judges with a Yellowfin tuna tartare avocado crema with Serrano hot sauce, pickled mango and crispy turkey skin paired with Thirty Bench Riesling.

Chef Melissa Makarenko of Resto Gare, rose to the occasion as well, taking the silver medal. Chef Makarenko's dish was called "Manitoba Pork in the Fall" and featured Manitoba honey mushrooms and an autumn squashy trio of Manitoba pork. She paired it with Closson Chase Chardonnay.

Taking the bronze medal was Chef Barry Saunders of Inn at The Forks/Era Bistro & Catering. His dish featured lamb belly, fig and rosemary glaze, celeriac, capsicum and pickled mustard. It was paired with Mission Hill Family Estate Reserve Shiraz.





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The other chefs competing in Winnipeg were from:

- Chef Eraj Jayawickreme - *The Velvet Glove at The Fairmont Winnipeg*
- Chef Randall Khounnoraj - *Khao House*
- Chef Kyle Lew – *Chew*
- Chef Fabrizio Rossi – *Nicolinos*
- Chef Chris Taing - *Fusian Experience/Fusian Sushi*

Judging the 2016 competition in Winnipeg were James Chatto (National Judge), Barbara O'Hara (Senior Judge) Jeff Gill, Arvel Gray, Mike Green, Christine Hanlon and Chef Norm Pastorin (2015 Gold Medal Plates Winnipeg 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%).

Best of Show wine winners this evening were second place runner-up Thirty Bench Riesling from Niagara, ON; first place runner-up Nichol Pinot Gris from Okanagan Valley, MB and Best of Show Tawse 2014 Sparkling Riesling Brut.

All competing Chefs were awarded the Gold Medal Plates Emblem of Distinction, the gold standard in Canadian fine dining and a guarantee of excellence to all who enter their dining establishments. This Distinction is offered only to Chefs selected to compete at Gold Medal Plates dinners.

Funds raised from this event are granted to the Canadian Olympic Foundation to support high-performance athletes through programs facilitated by national sport organizations and the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Sport Institute Network (COPSIN). Daily training, year-round coaching, proper nutrition, breakthroughs in technology in sport science, national and international competitions, and state-of-the-art equipment are all essential in propelling athletes to the top of the podium. Since 2004, Gold Medal Plates has generated over \$11 million for the Canadian Olympic Foundation to help Team Canada and next generation athletes access these performance resources.





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“Canada had a record performance at the 2016 Rio Olympics this past summer. Not only did they come home with 22 medals, but they also achieved 45 top-five and over 70 top-eight finishes. It is your support here tonight that helps convert those results into podium performances at future games. Thank you,” said four-time Olympian and three-time Olympic medallist Curt Harnett. Harnett also served as Team Canada Chef de Mission at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games and Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games.

There were nine Olympians in attendance including Janine Hanson (rowing), two-time Olympian, London 2012 Olympic silver medallist; Fiona Smith-Bell (ice hockey), Nagano 1998 Olympic silver medallist; Jeffrey Powell (rowing), Athens 2004 Olympian; Tyler Mislawchuk (triathlon), Rio 2016 Olympian; Jared Funk (wheelchair rugby), three-time Paralympian, three-time Paralympic medallist; Leah Ferguson (wrestling), London 2012 Olympian; Curt Harnett (track cycling), Rio 2016 and Toronto 2015 Team Canada Chef de Mission, four-time Olympian, three-time Olympic medallist; Marnie McBean (rowing), two-time Olympian, four-time Olympic medallist and Evan Dunfee (athletics), Rio 2016 Olympian.

Ramona Thomson, Chair, Gold Medal Plates Winnipeg was thrilled with the evening’s experience and the fundraising. “Canadians now cheer louder than ever and stand prouder than ever every Olympic Games and so it is great between the Games to be able to show our support for the athletes and the amazing determination and commitment they make to wear the maple leaf. This event is about celebrating Canadian Excellence and we did it in fine style tonight!”



"The Gold Medal Plates Emblem of Distinction - *the* Gold Standard in Canadian Fine Dining.

Awarded only to those chefs selected to compete at Gold Medal Plates 2016





A C E L E B R A T I O N O F C A N A D I A N E X C E L L E N C E

Gold Medal Plates - Gold Medal Plates is the ultimate celebration of Canadian excellence in food, wine, athletic achievement and entertainment and has raised over 11 million for elite Canadian athletes. For more information, visit the Gold Medal Plates website www.goldmedalplates.com

Canadian Olympic Foundation: About the Canadian Olympic Foundation:

Established in 2007, the Canadian Olympic Foundation gives to priority partners that drive high performance athletic achievement for Canada's Olympic podium potentials and for our next generation of Olympic athletes. Learn more at www.olympicfoundation.ca or follow Canadian Olympic Foundation on [Facebook](#).

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