



EIGHT VANCOUVER CHEFS UNITE TO SUPPORT CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL AT SAKURA NIGHT GALA

VANCOUVER, BC (April 17, 2019) – To support the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival and its free events that attract 125,000 people each year, eight notable chefs are joining forces to put on a spectacular showcase of Japanese-fusion cuisine at the festival’s most important fundraising event of the year, the **Sakura Night Gala** presented by McMillan LLP.

Held at the historic Stanley Park Pavilion (610 Pipeline Road), the gala will feature some of the most impressive Japanese-fusion cuisine Vancouver has to offer from the following venues and chefs:

- **Shangri-La Hotel Vancouver** - Executive Chef Ken Nakano
- **The Victor at Parq Vancouver** - Executive Sushi Chef Kazuhiro Kawamoto
- **Black + Blue** - Chef de Cuisine Will Lew
- **Benkei Ramen** - Executive Chef Taka Omi
- **Zen Japanese Restaurant** - Executive Chef Nobu Ochi
- **Super Hiro** - Executive Chef Hiro Watanabe
- **Boulevard Kitchen & Oyster Bar** - Pastry Chef Kenta Takahashi
- **Uno Gelato** - Gelato Maetsro James Coleridge

Guests will kick-off the evening with a special "Sakura G+T" cocktail prepared by mixologist Christos Kalaitzis, featuring local Queensborough Omakase Japanese style gin and cherry blossoms. As they mingle dressed in their finest pink cocktail attire, guests can visit eight bustling food stations where they’ll get an up-close look at eight talented chefs and their teams in action as they prepare two dazzling cherry blossom-inspired dishes. Each culinary masterpiece promises to be as visually delightful as a cherry tree in full bloom, while bursting with amazing flavour profiles that reflect the creativity, precision and talent of these brilliant chefs. Selected award-winning wines, sake, craft beers and other beverages will also be featured to accentuate the evening’s flavours.

“As a non-profit society, we depend on the success of the **Sakura Night Gala** to be able to host our many free events that bring so much joy to residents and visitors throughout Vancouver,” said Festival Founder and Creative Director Linda Poole. “As any Vancouver foodie will tell you, enjoying a meal at just one of these chef’s restaurants is an amazing experience. To witness their creative talents and savour their wonderful food all on the same evening will be simply unforgettable.”

The evening will also include a silent auction of stunning, hand-cast copper blossom jewelry, specially created by internationally celebrated sculptor and artist Marie Khouri. Early bird

tickets for the **Sakura Night Gala** are \$150 plus tax, with a \$70 tax receipt issued by VCBF at the event. Doors open at 6:30pm, with the Gala wrapping at 9:30pm. Tickets for the annually sold out event are \$175 as of April 29. (<http://bit.ly/vcbfticket>)

For more information, visit www.vcbf.ca/community-event/sakura-night

The Vancouver Cherry Blossom is a charitable, not-for-profit society whose mission is to sustain and renew Vancouver's cherry tree heritage while educating and actively engaging diverse communities in arts and culture to celebrate the fragile beauty of the cherry blossom. The month-long celebration's unique cultural programming includes the performing and visual arts, literary events, film screenings, design installations, exhibitions, and culinary and creative cultural arts.

Website: vcbf.ca

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