

February 6, 2016

Feb. 16 gala kicks off Dine Around and Stay in Town

Tickets on sale now for largest gala in event's history; proceeds benefit charity

VICTORIA, B.C. – In a city renowned for its culinary scene, your best chance to taste from the myriad of amazing menus happens during Dine Around and Stay in Town.

This year, the event kicks off with its biggest-ever gala, with 60 restaurants, more than 20 VQA wineries and many of B.C.'s finest craft breweries serving up samples of their most popular items.

"We're very excited to be offering a degustation-style menu this year, where guests will experience five courses with available VQA wines and B.C. Craft Brewers Guild pairings selected by Sommelier Dave Lane," says Travis Hansen, the Executive Chef at the Butchart Gardens. "As well, we'll have chefs circulating throughout the service to share our stories, philosophies and answer questions."

The gala launch — which runs from 5 to 7:30 p.m., on Feb. 16 at the Victoria Conference Centre — is the start of more than two weeks of great deals. Restaurants will offer three-course menus priced at \$20, \$30, \$40 or \$50 per person. As well, during the event, many Victoria hotels are providing accommodations at rates ranging from \$89 to \$169.

There's no better time to try a new restaurant or new dish, or revisit old favourites.

"Held every February after Valentine's Day, Dine Around and Stay in Town has become a culinary fixture on Victoria's food landscape," says Peter DeBruyn, chair of the B.C. Restaurant and Foodservices Association's Victoria branch. "For a sneak peek at this year's offerings, join us at the gala launch party to meet the chefs, sample their food and enjoy the VQA wines and local craft beers."

DeBruyn says those lucky enough to get tickets to the gala will be able to meet Victoria's top chefs and learn what inspires them to create unforgettable dishes.

Another twist to this year's gala is that net proceeds will go to two charities:

- The B.C. Hospitality Foundation provides financial support for people within the hospitality community coping with a medical condition or injury.
- The Breakfast Club of Canada aims to make sure every child in the country has access to healthy food.

Tickets for the gala are on sale now at Tourism Victoria's Visitor Centre, located at 812 Wharf St., or online through Ticketrocket.co (<http://www.ticketrocket.co/event/details/94394/gala-launch-dine-around-stay-in-town>).

GALA LAUNCH

- **When:** 5-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 16
- **Where:** Victoria Conference Centre, 720 Douglas St.
- **Tickets:** \$55

TOURISM VICTORIA

Marketing our favourite destination

ABOUT TOURISM VICTORIA: Tourism Victoria (Greater Victoria Visitors and Convention Bureau) is our region's official, not-for-profit destination marketing organization working in partnership with more than 950 businesses and municipalities in Greater Victoria.

MEDIA CONTACT: Jim Zeeben
Manager, Corporate Communications and Public Affairs, Tourism Victoria
250-414-6976 or 778-677-8342
jim.zeeben@tourismvictoria.com