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Here's your chance to be a food judge for the night **Have your say on Bermuda's restaurants**

Do you see yourself as a bit of a food and wine connoisseur as you enjoy nothing better than eating out at Bermuda's best restaurants?

Well, here's your chance to get things off your chest with The People's Choice Challenge as part of this year's Bermuda Gourmet Getaway.

Diners are being given the opportunity to get vocal and have their say on the island's dishes and the island's chefs.

To become a judge for the evening all you have to do is dine at one of the participating restaurants on any Friday this month.

Each of the participating restaurants will feature a multi-course prix fixe menu designed by their chef. Diners can order just a dish or the entire specially prepared People's Choice Menu, with or without wines.

You then get to fill out your ballot and have your say as to who is Bermuda's Best. Categories will include best cheese, best meat, best poultry, best food and wine pairing and best overall.

People's choice

The People's Choice Challenge is intended to put the culinary creativeness of chefs to the test during the off-season period, as well as raising standards among participating restaurants.

The event also raises money for the Bermudian Culinary Development Fund, which assists young Bermudians to travel overseas and work in the kitchens of noted chefs.

The current titleholders are Café Gio in St. George's as the best overall winner in the casual dining category and the Newport Room as best overall in the fine dining category.

Food-lovers are also invited to Chef and Winemaker Dinners, where they get to taste a four-course meal prepared by the combined talents of local and international chefs.

For example, on Saturday, March 1, the Waterlot Inn will feature local chef Clifford Crawford and overseas chef Todd Winer from The Metropolitan Club in Boston and on Sunday, March 2, the Seahorse Grill will feature local chef Thomasz Tabor and overseas chef Jeff Tunks from Acadiana in Washington.

As well as the world-class food prepared by the two chefs, you will also have wine experts on hand to match the food with some of their best vintages, and discuss the food and wine pairings.

Event producer Michelle Halpin said those who wanted to go to the events should book early before the events sold out.

International showcase

She said: "The Bermuda Gourmet Getaway is an international showcase of celebrity and local chefs, gourmet food, wine and culinary personalities, which are infused in the ever popular Chef & Winemaker Dinners. Don't deprive your taste buds of the best experience

they may encounter, book your spot today."

For a complete list of participating restaurants and more information about either The People's Choice Challenge or Chef and Winemaker Dinners visit www.bermudagourmetgetaway.bm or call Michelle Halpin on 278-8895.

The website also features a daily schedule of events for the Bermuda Gourmet Getaway. It is the island's largest culinary event and takes place from Thursday, February 28 to Monday, March 3. The host will be Rahman 'Rock' Harper who was the winner of Gordon Ramsay's TV show Hell's Kitchen. Tickets for all events are available at www.boxoffice.bm



Tasty treats: The host of this year's Bermuda Gourmet Getaway will be Rahman 'Rock' Harper, who was the winner of Gordon Ramsay's TV show Hell's Kitchen. * Photo supplied.