



Vancouver's Top Japanese Chefs Combine Forces to Support Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival

January 30, 2014, VANCOUVER -- Gold winning Tojo's of Vancouver Magazine's "Best upscale Japanese 2013" Restaurant Awards has combined forces with five of Vancouver's top Japanese restaurants for the first ever Sakura Night (Sakura means cherry tree in Japanese), hosted by Tojo's Restaurant on March 30, 2014. Tojo's Restaurant, Zen Japanese Restaurant, RawBar at Fairmont Pacific Rim, Seventeen89, Miku Restaurant and Zakkushi will be creating seasonal dishes to guarantee an extraordinary standing dinner experience in the elegant ambience of Tojo's.

This special evening event opens the 8th annual **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival** (VCBF) while creating delicious culinary memories of Japanese cuisine. Nobu Ochi from Zen and RawBar's Takayuki Omi will entice appetites with Ocean Wise-certified ingredients and create sensory experiences for the palate, Daryle Nagata (Seventeen89) will tantalize taste buds with his combination of fresh and seasonal local ingredients, Kazuya Matsuoka will present Miku's famed aburi (flame-seared) sushi and Masahito Iwamoto will be grilling Zakkushi's mouth-watering yakitori skewers in-house, sharing the authentic cherry blossom festival experience from Japan with guests.

"Our culinary team is so excited to be a part of the Festival and celebrate our cherry blossom cultural experience with the creation of **Sakura Night** ~ a new evening opening to the festival. It celebrates a very important part of our Japanese culture and gives our best local Japanese chefs a chance to share with pride their incredible food with Festival fans" Chef Hidekazu Tojo.

As Canada's only cherry blossom festival, the **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival** is a charitable, not-for-profit society celebrating our urban nature and the fragile, fleeting beauty of the cherry blossom. Funds raised at Sakura Night enable the Festival to continue to deliver meaningful and accessible, quality programming to strengthen citizen's connection and engagement in our diverse communities. VCBF speaks to multiculturalism, the arts, community engagement, and to the environment by helping to sustain and renew Vancouver's cherry tree heritage.

Date: Sunday, March 30, 2014

Time: 6:30pm to 9:00pm Cherry Blossom Martini Welcome followed by a standing dinner reception

Place: Tojo's Restaurant, 1133 West Broadway, Vancouver

Tickets: Limited tickets at \$150 with a \$100 tax receipt issued by VCBF for purchase at VCBF.ca

About the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival:

Vancouver's signature springtime event, the **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival** is a month-long celebration of the cherry tree (sakura) through unique cultural programming including the performing and visual arts, literary, film screenings, design installations, exhibitions, culinary and creative cultural arts. The Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival is a charitable, not-for-profit society whose mandate is to sustain and renew Vancouver's cherry tree heritage while educating and engaging community in celebration of the fragile beauty of the cherry blossom.

-30-

For photos and information please contact:

Linda Poole, Executive Director

[604-767-9044](tel:604-767-9044)

linda.poole@telus.net

www.facebook.com/VancouverCherryBlossomFestival

www.twitter.com/OfficialVCBF