



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chelsea Raleigh
Palm Beach County Convention Center
P: 561-366-3017
craleigh@pbconventioncenter.com

Palm Beach County Convention Center Executive Chef Brings Home Gold From Canada Chef Mark Aleks wins International Chef Challenge

West Palm Beach, FL –Executive Chef Mark Aleks of the Palm Beach County Convention Center claims top spot in the second annual International Chef Challenge with his winning dish, fennel and coriander crusted duck served with parsnip silk and cranberry walnut maple syrup streusel, at The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, the world’s largest indoor agricultural fair and international equestrian competition, in Toronto, ON.

A spin off of the hit food network TV show “Chopped”, Aleks was given only 45 minutes to incorporate 5 ingredients; Canadian Honeycrisp apples, Nature fresh tomatoes, President’s Choice Black Label goose fat, Bailey’s and Woolwich raspberry goat cheese with a surprise ingredient, Ontario farmed eggs, announced in the middle of the competition.

“At first I thought it was a lot of time,” said Aleks when describing the time limitation. “But it went really fast, like really fast.”

Despite the lack of time, Aleks had “no worries” and was cool and collected, finishing the competition with a deconstructed honey crisp apple pie with brandied golden raisins, tossed in Bailey’s caramel and topped with Woolwich raspberry goat’s cheese.

The competition, hosted by Ted Reader from food network, consist of three other chef’s; executive chef and pastry chef from Fairmont Royal in Canada and a 5-star Chef from Ireland.

“All of the chefs demonstrated a tremendous amount of talent and passion under tight time constraints,” said Charlie Johnstone, The Royal’s Chief Executive Officer. “The competition entertained a big audience and put a spotlight on the great fresh foods produced by Ontario farmers.”

Featuring 10 days of family-oriented entertainment, exhibits and agricultural competition, The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair took place at the Enercare Center from Nov. 6 through Nov. 15 and brought the fresh foods from the country life in Canada to the heart of its largest city.

-more-



Page2-International Chef Challenge

The Palm Beach County Convention Center is managed by Spectra by Comcast Spectacor which consists of a venue management division, food service and hospitality and ticketing and fan engagement. Spectra has a proud tradition of using local and fresh ingredients and The *Everything's Fresh*[™] philosophy aligns with the International Chef Challenge's use of local ingredients.

About Palm Beach County Convention Center:

Since its opening on January 1, 2004, this 350,000 square-foot center has established itself as the premier boutique' meeting destination in South Florida; hosting a diverse array of conventions, trade shows/consumer shows, conferences, social events, and meetings. It features a 100,000 square-foot exhibit hall, a 22,000 square-foot ballroom and 21,000 square feet of flexible breakout space divisible into 19 rooms. The PBCCC resides in the heart of Downtown West Palm Beach within proximity to nearby attractions include CityPlace, a \$600-million shopping, dining and entertainment complex; the nationally acclaimed Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts; Palm Beach's famous Worth Avenue; and South Florida's beautiful beaches. For more information about the Palm Beach County Convention Center, contact the Marketing Department at (561)366-3017 or craleigh@pbconventioncenter.com, or visit www.pbconventioncenter.com.

About Spectra:

Comcast Spectacor, a leader in the sports and entertainment industry, brings together the company's expertise in Venue Management (formerly Global Spectrum), Food Services & Hospitality (formerly Ovations Food Services) and Ticketing & Fan Engagement (formerly Paciolan) with Spectra by Comcast Spectacor.

Spectra's Venue Management division is the industry leader across a full range of services that impact the bottom---line success of public assembly venues, including marketing and sales, corporate partnerships, event booking, ticket services and box office management, customer service, operations and engineering, and finance and administration.

Spectra by Comcast Spectacor is the expert in hosting and entertainment, partnering with over 300 clients and 400 global properties to create memorable experiences for millions of visitors every year. Spectra's expertise is embodied within three divisions: Venue Management (formerly Global Spectrum), Food Services & Hospitality (formerly Ovations Food Services), and Ticketing & Fan Engagement (formerly Paciolan). Learn more at SpectraExperiences.com. Comcast Spectacor is a part of Comcast Corporation, a Fortune 50 media and technology company that operates Comcast Cable and NBCUniversal. Headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, in addition to Spectra, Comcast Spectacor owns and operates the National Hockey League's Philadelphia Flyers and the Wells Fargo Center venue. Visit us at ComcastSpectacor.com, PhiladelphiaFlyers.com, and WellsFargoCenterPhilly.com for more information.

###