

Local Chef Competition Kicks Things off at Mari Luna Bistro

May 15, 2013 - Baltimore, MD - The Mason Dixon Master Chef Tournament kicked off its third year with a Breakfast Meet & Greet and Food Show yesterday. In attendance were over 25 chefs vying for the opportunity to compete in this summer's tournament begin held at the Mari Luna Bistro in the heart of Baltimore's cultural district. The tournament's Platinum, Gold and Silver sponsors were also in attendance to give the chef's a sneak peek at some of the food products, equipment and even chef wear that they will be using in the competition.

Chefs mingled, ate breakfast and met with Mason Dixon organizers to be interviewed for their chance to be a part of this unique multi-week single-elimination tournament.

Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland, the tournament's charity partner for the past two years, was also on hand to educate people on the important work they do, and thank the chefs, restaurant owners, and sponsors for donating their time, talents and products to this worthwhile event.

Originally started as a way to boost the sagging Baltimore economy, the Mason Dixon Master Chef Tournament has quickly become a showcase for area chefs to flex their culinary muscles, and wow audiences with their most creative dishes. It has also allowed a number of sponsors the opportunity to showcase their products, all while helping a local food charity.

The final 16 chef teams will be announced in the next week at www.MasonDixonMasterChef.com, and on Twitter @MDMasterChef, and Facebook at Mason Dixon Master Chef.

Tickets*: \$25 for general admission (includes tax)

\$45 for judging experience (includes tax)

Available for purchase at: www.masondixonmasterchef.com

*** *Tickets must be purchased in advance for the above pricing. \$30/ \$50 at the door.***

10% of net proceeds of each ticket sold go directly to Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland.

Event Details

The 8-week event kicks-off June 17th and continues through the summer, with two competitions most weeks, until August 27th. All events are held at the Mari Luna Bistro, 1225 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

Competition Dates (6:00pm – 9:00pm, doors open at 5:30 for Happy Hour):

June 17, 18, 24, 25

July 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30

August 5, 6, 19, 20, 27

Event Timeline:

5:30 p.m. – Happy Hour with Complementary Appetizers and Wine Tasting, plus Drink Specials

6:30 p.m. – Cold Prep Begins for the Competition

7:00 p.m. – Chef Competition

8:00pm – Judging Begins

Corporate Sponsors:

Platinum Sponsor: Mari Luna Bistro

Gold Sponsor: Atalanta / DeMedici, AM Briggs, Chef a la mode, Maple Leaf Farms, Roland Food, Steelite International, Sysco Food Service

Silver Sponsors: All Around Reps, Azar Nuts, E. Goodwin Seafood, Emmi Roth USA, Hatfield, Heinz, Koch Chicken, Logan Sausage, Marcho Farms

Bronze Sponsors: Acqua Panna / S. Pellegrino, BelGioioso, ECOLAB, Manzo Foods, Mercer Tools, Paderno, Phillips Foods, Provimi Foods, Waring

Other Sponsors include: American Metalcraft, CookTek, Libbey Glass, Schmid Wilson

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About The Mason Dixon Master Chef Tournament

This multi-week event is a single-elimination tournament designed to showcase some of the area's finest executive chefs and restaurants. Guests attending this exciting event will be more than just spectators, as they enjoy the unique experience of witnessing two spectacular area chefs battle it out in the prep kitchen right on the main floor. Each evening two chef teams go head-to-head to prepare an appetizer, entrée and dessert for each of three expert judges, as well as amuse bouche portions of their entrees for up to 30 audience member judges. Their creations are scored on creativity, presentation and taste, and only one chef advances to the next round. At the end of this tournament only one of the 16 competing chefs will emerge as THE Mason Dixon Master Chef! 10% of the net proceeds of each ticket sold directly to Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland. More information available at www.MasonDixonMasterChef.com, on Twitter @MDMasterChef, and Facebook at Mason Dixon Master Chef.

About Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland

Meals on Wheels' mission is to enhance quality of life through the provision of nutritious meals, personal contact and related services to homebound individuals. Last year, over 740,000 home-delivered meals were prepared and delivered to more than 2,900 homebound clients through the coordinated efforts of Meals on Wheels staff and some 2,000 volunteers. Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland currently serves the following areas: Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

About Mari Luna Bistro

The Mari Luna Restaurant Group consists of three restaurants, the Mari Luna Bistro in Baltimore, and the Mari Luna Latin Grille and Mari Luna Mexican Grill both in Pikesville, Maryland. Owned and operated by the Jaime Luna and his family, the Mari Luna properties offer authentic Mexican and Latin cuisine that combines the warmth of the Luna family with sophisticated and delicious food preparation for a unique dining experience.