FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cultural Tourism DC Presents 7th Annual Gala
Embassy Chef Challenge—May 20, 2015
DC’s Premier International Culinary Event

Washington, DC—Events DC presents the 7th annual Embassy Chef Challenge, a Signature Cultural Tourism DC Event, on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. The annual fundraiser gives the public access to one of DC’s best-kept secrets: world-class embassy chefs. A dozen embassy chefs present small plates showcasing their country’s signature delicacies and battle in DC’s Premier International Culinary Competition. A panel of celebrity chefs and food critics select the winner of the Judge’s Choice Award, while guests cast a ballot for the People's Choice Award.

Rounding out the evening are live and silent auctions, featuring premium items steeped in local and international flavor, including travel experiences. Attendees have the opportunity to mingle with celebrity chefs, food critics and members of the largest diplomatic community in the world.

“Embassy Chef Challenge is one of DC’s preeminent and popular food events,” said Steven Shulman, executive director of Cultural Tourism DC. “This year’s event is especially diverse with embassy chefs representing global regions ranging from South America and Scandinavia to Southeast Asia and South Africa.”

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND CHEFS:

Royal Danish Embassy, Chef Lars Beese
Embassy of El Salvador, Chef Benjamin Velasquez
Embassy of Georgia, Chef Irma Japaridze
Embassy of Ghana, Chef Francis Otoo
Embassy of Guatemala, Chef Jorge Jorge Lamport
Embassy of Hungary, Chef Szabolcs Somogyi
Embassy of Indonesia, Chef Galih Kuntobaskoro
Royal Norwegian Embassy, Chef Sindre Risvoll
Embassy of the State of Qatar, Chef Mujibul Hoque Bachu
Embassy of South Africa, Chef Zodwa Sikakane

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Embassy of Sri Lanka, Chef T. Buran
Embassy of Venezuela, Chef Manuel Rodriguez

MEET THE JUDGES:

Bonnie Benwick, Deputy Editor and Recipe Editor, The Washington Post Food Section
Monica Bhide, Cookbook Author and Blogger, The Life of Spice
Warren Brown, Founder and Owner, CakeLove Bakery
Chef Xavier Deshayes, Executive Chef, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
Chef Luigi Diotaulti, Chef and Owner, Al Tiramisu Restaurant
Chef Ris Lacoste, Executive Chef and Owner, Ris
Chef Nate Lindsay, Executive Chef, Jardenea at The Melrose Georgetown Hotel
Chef Sina Molavi, Executive Chef, Occasions Caterers
Chef Huda Mu'min, Contestant on The Taste (ABC) and Cutthroat Kitchen (The Food Network) and Owner of Pretty and Delicious
Chef Amy Riolo, Culture of Cuisine Cooking Show and Award Winning Cookbook Author

All proceeds of the event benefit Cultural Tourism DC, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps individuals learn about DC’s arts, culture and heritage. Tickets are $250 and are available at CulturalTourismDC.org or by calling 202.661.7581. Tickets must be purchased in advance and will be accepted online through May 20, 2015. The event sells out annually at 500 tickets.

EMBASSY CHEF CHALLENGE SPONSORS:

LINKS:
Event website: CulturalTourismDC.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CulturalTourismDC
Twitter: www.twitter.com/dcculture
Hashtags: #EmbassyChef

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Cultural Tourism DC (CTDC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, develops and delivers authentic Washington DC experiences that provide people with opportunities to learn about the District’s neighborhoods by walking along the DC Neighborhood Heritage Trails, the international diplomatic community via Passport DC, and the arts and culture community during Art4All DC, a showcase for CTDC’s more than 200 Affiliates. Learning extends to CTDC’s annual fundraising activity, Embassy Chef Challenge, a tribute to international cuisine. Through these programs, CTDC encourages residents and visitors to explore the city, propel the community’s economic prosperity, and to become civically engaged.

Events DC is the face of conventions, sports, entertainment and cultural events within our nation’s capital. As the official convention and sports authority for the District of Columbia, Events DC leverages the beauty, history and diversity of the most powerful city in the world to attract and promote an extensive variety of events, resulting in amazing experiences for residents and visitors alike, and generating economic and community benefits for the city.