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## **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, 2014**, 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 Diotaiuti**, 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:**

Events DC, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, The Melrose Georgetown Hotel, Destination DC, Daimler, Steptoe and Johnson LLP, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, The Embassy Row Hotel, Amgen, Forest City, Merck, and MPG Advisors. Macy's, Uber, WMATA, and Washington Dulles International Airport – Gateway to the World are Community Partners.

#### **LINKS:**

Event website: [CulturalTourismDC.org](http://CulturalTourismDC.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CulturalTourismDC](http://www.facebook.com/CulturalTourismDC)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/dcculture](http://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.