



## **Taste of Burlington crowns “Best Taste” & “People’s Choice” at 2019 Launch**

Burlington restaurateurs are proud to announce [“A Taste of Burlington”](#) will be running this winter from February 18-March 10, 2019 at 41 of Burlington’s best restaurants. To kick things off and provide diners an opportunity to experience a taste of what to expect, the Taste of Burlington held a launch event at the [Burlington Performing Arts Centre](#) on Tuesday January 29, 2019.

375 guests and media had an opportunity to meet many of our participating restaurateurs at their interactive food stations and try amazing cuisine. Our friends from [Nickel Brook Brewing](#) in Burlington were providing samples of their award-winning beer. We were also pleased to have [Shawn & Ed Brewing Company](#) and [Flat Rock Cellars](#) join us with samples of their craft beer and red and white wine.

In what has become a tradition and a source of pride for our restaurants, we continued our friendly competition with Chefs vying hard for the title of “**Best Taste**” and “**People’s Choice**”. All guests were given the opportunity to vote for their favourite restaurant based on the cuisine they were serving at the launch. The popular vote would be crowned ‘People’s Choice’ and ‘Best Taste’ would be determined by our panel of celebrity judges. Our judges, Samantha Payne, morning show producer ([95.3 Fresh FM](#)), Agatha Podgorski ([Ontario Culinary Tourism Alliance](#)) and Kimberly Calderbank ([E-A-T](#)) sampled the fare of the 19 launch restaurants and scored them based on taste, creativity and presentation. In this category the combined judge’s scores were used to determine the winner.

It was a tight race but we have our winners.

We are excited to announce that the Best Taste winner was [Pepperwood Bistro](#) who featured a warm sweet potato parfait topped with pulled confit Muscovy Duck leg, cherry port wine reduction, crispy parsnip root chips and organic peppercress sprouts. It was a tie for the runner up position; we had newcomer [Vivene’s Island Cuisine](#) with their Ox Tail and cassava fries with spicy ketchup. Tied with Vivene’s was another newcomer to the Taste program, [Beertown Public House](#) who served a raspberry white chocolate cheesecake on an oreo cookie crumb.

The People's Choice category awarded first place to [Barra Fion](#), who served a delicious balsamic goat cheese steak crostini with onion jam. In the runner up category was [Rayhoon Persian Eatery](#) who featured a persian jewelled rice which was a saffron infused basmati rice layered with pistachios, almonds, raisins, barberries, julienne-cut carrots and orange peels; it was served with chicken and a Persian shallot yogurt.

A special thanks to [Live and Local Music Series](#) for providing us with spectacular entertainment from Mike Stevenson and Robert Laporte. Another thank you also goes to [Burlington Green](#) for helping us to reduce our environmental footprint.

If you want to experience all of the great tastes of Burlington, be sure to visit [www.tasteofburlington.ca](http://www.tasteofburlington.ca) for all restaurants, prix fixe menus and pricing. Dine & Win during the program from February 18-March 10, 2019. Diners who order from the Taste menus at participating restaurants will be given a ballot and have the chance to win [A Taste of Myrtle Beach](#) prize pack from Myrtle Beach Tourism and [Porter Airlines](#) or a \$2500 gift card for [Harmony Fine Jewellers](#) in Downtown Burlington.

Bon Appetit Burlington!

For media inquiries and photos of any of the above, please contact:

Kelly Harris- Taste of Burlington  
c/o Tourism Burlington  
(905)634-5594 [kelly.harris@burlington.ca](mailto:kelly.harris@burlington.ca)  
Taste of Burlington is coordinated by Tourism Burlington

