

Saturday, May 23, 2009

[Business in Calgary, Party in Banff](#)



The [Rocky Mountain Food and Wine Festival](#) had the streets of Banff bustling last week. People from across the province strolled down the avenue, hopped on buses, and paraded into the Fairmont Banff Springs for a taste of gourmet fare and fine wine. An entire weekend of decadence was available.

At the Buffalo Mountain Lodge on Friday night, a small group sampled five varieties of Brunello di Montalcino and local fare crafted by Chef **Linda Calabrese**. While sommelier **Roisin Hutchinson** shared her passion for wine, coaxing guests into sharing their insights, platters of cheese, jellies, and local game were served. A peppered elk carpaccio and duck terrine, paired with a 2003 Pieri Agostina had guests gushing.

A much larger crowd gathered at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel on Saturday for the first session of the wine and food tasting. Over 2400 people attended the two sessions. Wine, beer and spirits from around the world were featured; guests enjoyed everything from unique coffee rum to organic vodka and vintage wines. **Judie and Jim Keall** were hunting for new labels on behalf of their son, who owns a wine shop in Calgary. Hellbent Shiraz from Australia did the trick, although New Zealand wines were top among many guests.

Meanwhile, local restaurants and hotels were tempting many with delectable plates. [The Bison Restaurant](#) turned out a steady stream of mini herb-rubbed pulled pork sandwiches on freshly made buns with house-made tomato jelly. It was a favorite among many guests, who were served by the restaurant's owner **Ryan Rivard**.

Competition for best dish came from young South African chef **Morne Burger** of [Maple Leaf Grill](#). His wasabi-crusting salmon, cooked to order and perfectly positioned on bite-sized polenta squares, attracted a high number of patrons and a huge amount of praise. Although not on their regular menu, the dish had a number of guests making early plans for dinner.

Among those attending the festival were: **Harry Wells**, vice president innovation and technology for Newalta (a happy side-trip to his week-long business excursion from Ontario), real estate agent **Joe Badin**, **Alan Beres** and **Perry Fleming** of Foster's Group, **Chef Martin Brenner** of Sunshine Village, and **Allan and Sonia Cavanagh**.



It was back to business in Calgary the following week, at the [Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame Luncheon](#). The inductees for 2009 were announced by **Arlene Dickinson**, president and CEO of Venture Communications, with comments provided by **Colin Merrick**, associate partner at Deloitte.

The laureates are: **Edward (Ed) McNally**, the lawyer and rancher who founded Big Rock Breweries, **Allan Markin**, the engineer and community leader who helped steer Canadian Natural Resources Limited to great success as the board chair, and **Senator Patrick Burns**, who will be awarded posthumously for his life of public service.

At the luncheon were **Karen Chown** of Calgary Economic Development, **Murray Edwards** of CNRL, **Heather Douglas** of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, **Eva Friesen** of The Calgary Foundation, 2008 laureate **Don Taylor**, and **Donald Seaman**. The awards will be handed out at the Business Hall of Fame gala in November.

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