

# MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS FESTIVAL

8<sup>th</sup> edition  
February 22 to March 4, 2007

News Release  
For immediate distribution

## Chef Susur Lee Honorary President of the gastronomy and wine series **Toronto will be treated like royalty at the 9th edition of the MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival**

**Montreal, Thursday, March 1, 2007** – The **MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival** is very happy to announce that **Toronto** will be the featured city at the **9th edition** of the **Air France Wine and Dine Experience presented by American Express**, scheduled to run from **Thursday, February 21, to Sunday, March 2, 2008**. Toronto will take over the place of honour from New York, the featured city in the current edition, which is currently enjoying great success with most of the Festival's Finest Tables sold out! Toronto is regarded as one of the great dining cities in North America. Not only is the city flourishing artistically and gastronomically, it is also well known for its many festivals. Like Montreal, Toronto too holds a winter festival (The Toronto Wintercity Festival), and since last September 30, has had its own *Nuit blanche*. The MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival has forged close ties with Toronto, and the 2008 program will be developed in enthusiastic partnership with that city. Famous Toronto chef **Susur Lee** will bear the title of Honorary President of the Wine and Dine Experience. The featured country in 2008 will be **Chile**, whose wine products are highly coveted by Quebecers and enjoying growing popularity.

### **One chef, two cultures**

Born in Hong Kong, **Susur Lee** arrived in Toronto in 1980 after doing his culinary apprenticeship at the chic Peninsula Hong Kong Hotel. He opened his first restaurant, the *Lotus*, in his adopted city in 1987, before returning to Asia ten years later. There he distinguished himself as both the executive chef of the well-known *Club Chinois* in Singapore and as the consulting chef for 17 other restaurants in the Tung Lok group. Returning to Toronto, he opened *Susur* in October 2000. His daring cuisine combined European and Asian know-how to earn him overnight success. He went on to open a second restaurant, *Lee*, in 2004, again winning fans with its more laid-back atmosphere. Today, this fan of Montreal and its restaurants is Toronto's most highly acclaimed chef on the international scene.

As the honorary president of the Festival's gastronomy and wine series, Susur Lee will follow in the footsteps of Daniel Boulud (New York, 2007), Émile Jung (Alsace, 2006), Gualtiero Marchesi (Northern Italy, 2005), Georges Blanc (Rhône-Alpes, 2004), Santi Santamaria (Catalonia, 2003), Serge Dansereau (Australia, 2002), Charlie Trotter (Chicago, 2001) and Paul Bocuse (France, 2000).

### **Chile, its wines, products and talents**

Chile is a country that knows ocean, mountains and winter. Its agricultural produce have made their way into our grocery stores and to our tables, especially during winter, the High Lights Festival season. Its wine industry has grown phenomenally over the past decade, and its vast wine estates now produce great wines. Chile boasts a dynamic culture and literature of worldwide fame. And so, this country will be invited to wear numerous hats as it shares its many talents and showcases the best it has to offer to Montrealers, Quebecers and tourists.

### **A unique event in the world**

No event of this kind in the world has ever welcomed as many star chefs from the five continents – in fact, Montreal will have received more than 210 chefs and winemakers within a period of eight years. No event of this kind, to use the words of Daniel Boulud, Honorary President of the 8th edition, brings together as many chefs from the host city to prepare festival menus and welcome guest chefs into their kitchens. Complementing the program, which will be featured at the 50 Festival's Finest Tables, are a host of culinary and wine-related activities, many of them free, especially at Jean-Talon market and the Festival of Our Cheeses at Complexe Desjardins.

### **For more information**

The **9th edition of the MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival** will be held from **Thursday, February 21, to Sunday, March 2, 2008**. The complete program for the 2008 edition of the **Air France Wine and Dine Experience presented by American Express** segment will be unveiled fall 2007. To find out more, visit [montrealenlumiere.com](http://montrealenlumiere.com).

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#### **Sources:**

**MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival** – 514 525-5990

#### **Information (media):**

Marie-Eve Boisvert, Media Relations Director – 514 525-5990, ext. 5666; [marie-eve.boisvert@equipespectra.ca](mailto:marie-eve.boisvert@equipespectra.ca)

Hugo Leclerc, International and Travel Media Relations – 514 525-5990, ext. 5642; [hugo.leclerc@equipespectra.ca](mailto:hugo.leclerc@equipespectra.ca)

#### **Public information:**

High Lights Info Line – 514 288-9955, toll free 1-888-477-9955; [montrealhighlights.com](http://montrealhighlights.com)