



Top Aussie food and wine regions recognised in national competition

The winners were announced tonight in the LifeStyle FOOD Channel's Australian Regional Culinary Competition, the nation's most important cookery contest.

Over the past three days the heat has been on at the Regency College TAFE kitchens to discover which Australian region serves up the best food and wine in its restaurants.

The gold winner for Best Region was the team from Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Silver went to Greater Melbourne (VIC), followed by **Mt Lofty House, Adelaide Hills (SA)**, which won Bronze.

Professional cookery teams from all over Australia have been putting their regional culinary arts into practise under the watchful eye of a panel of esteemed adjudicators. There were eight award categories with the overall winning team heading to Cambodia for an all expenses-paid, gourmet tour hosted by Don Hancey, captain of the winning Margaret River team at the inaugural competition in 1997.

In addition to the Best Region honours, Kylie Harris from Team Gold Coast won Best Apprentice, with her prize being a working attachment in Shannon Bennett's esteemed kitchen at Melbourne's Vue de Monde.

Other awards went to Great Melbourne for Best Entree and Best Main, with Best Dessert being awarded to ACT. Best Wine and Food Matching was won by Gunya Kitchen (???)

All awards are being presented to the winning teams at the awards dinner TONIGHT - **Thursday 18 October 2007**, at the Hyatt Regency Adelaide.

The judging panel of Chris Taylor, David Pugh, Kate Lamont, Paul Wilson, Peter Kuravita, Don Hancey, Peter Howard and Heidi Van Gerwen all assessed three-course meals prepared by the teams within a three-hour time limit, using the best seasonal produce from their home regions and matched to appropriate Australian wines.

It was a very tough competition, according to Competition Chairman Peter Howard. "Not only was the standard particularly high at the top end of competition, the middle order also produced some exceptional results," he said.

BEST REGION: Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
Gold – Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
Silver – Greater Melbourne
Bronze - **Mt Lofty House – Adelaide Hills**
Best Entrée – Greater Melbourne
Best Main Course - Greater Melbourne
Best Dessert - Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
Best Food and Wine Matching - Gunya Kitchen
Best Apprentice – Kylie Harris, Team Gold Coast

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