

For Immediate Release

## **WESTIN GRAND'S CULINARY TALENT WINS MASTER CHEF COMPETITION**

VANCOUVER, B.C. June 1, 2007 – This weekend, JP Fillion, 1<sup>st</sup> Cook at The Westin Grand Vancouver impressed the judges with his cool in a very hot kitchen. JP is the new champion of the fifth annual Citytv's Master Chef Competition held at EAT! Vancouver May 25-27, 2007.

Black box cooking competitions are considered the most challenging of culinary competitions because the food content of the boxes is not revealed prior to the event. The pressure of competing is compounded by the unknown ingredients. The chef has to accept the challenge of devising a main course from the Black Box by using only the foods the box contains. Once open, it's up to the chef's creative talents to come up with an innovative idea and prepare it in the 35 minute time allotted.

JP chopped, simmered and sautéed his way past his 16 fellow competitors from across British Columbia to win the title in a head-to-head heated competition witnessed by an inquisitive audience.

"I was nervous and the competition was tough. I knew I had to go big or go home" laughed JP, who from the final Black Box ingredients of duck, rhubarb and goat cheese prepared his winning dish of pan-seared duck breast, rhubarb sautéed with chanterelle mushrooms, and goat cheese gnocchi, finished off with a blackberry sauce. The dishes, JP explained, were judged not only for their taste, presentation and innovation, but for waste and overall cleanliness as well.

Distinguished members of the BC Chef's Association officiated as judges during the three-day competition. Citytv's co-host of Breakfast Television and host of Citycooks, Simi Sara co-hosted the numerous heated competitions.

As the winner of City TV's Eat Vancouver, Master Chef Competition, JP received CUTCO's Specialty Chef's Set of Knives valued at over \$1000

It is not the first time he battled against B.C.'s top chefs; last year he took 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in this competition. JP works as 1<sup>st</sup> Cook at The Westin Grand Vancouver under the direction of Executive Chef Alden Kiland. It is the West Coast lifestyle that brought him to Vancouver from his native Ottawa in April 2006. From Ottawa to San Francisco he honed his skills creating

the westin grand vancouver

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dishes in restaurants catering from family-style to fine dining, to the urban chic. He believes his secret to success lies in working with healthy and flavourful food. “My mentor, James Robertson at Eden Café in Ottawa, taught me to let the daily farmers market guide me in cooking. Always cook from the heart and treat products with respect.”



### About The Westin Grand, Vancouver

The Westin Grand, Vancouver is an all-suite boutique style hotel, located on Robson Street between Homer and Richard Streets. This 207 all-suite full service boutique hotel places you in the heart of Vancouver's entertainment district. You'll revel in luxurious residential accommodations complete with Westin Heavenly Bed® and Westin Heavenly Bath®. The Westin Grand has also been rated as an AAA Four Diamond property for the seventh consecutive year.

### About Westin Hotels & Resorts

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