



The Ottawa Viennese Winter Ball – An Austrian delight for the senses

February 2, 2008 – Ottawa, ON – Tonight, guests will feast, dance and celebrate Austrian culture for the 12th annual Ottawa Viennese Winter Ball, a presentation of BMO Harris Private Bank. In a jam-packed evening, 427 guests will witness performances by soprano Pascale Racine and 30 young dancers from local high schools, in addition to honouring four of figure skating's legends. Of course, this is notwithstanding dining and dancing themselves!

"For one night, our guests will enjoy the sights and sounds of Vienna without leaving Ottawa," says Shawn Gibbons, chair of the organizing committee. "Our goal is to make sure our guests have an unforgettable evening, something they will talk about for weeks and months to come."

The 12th edition of the Ottawa Viennese Winter Ball will start with a champagne reception in the Foyer of the National Gallery of Canada. Guests will make their way to the Great Hall and be entertained by 15 debutantes and their cavaliers as they perform two traditional Austrian waltzes, La Polonaise and the Landler. The debutantes and cavaliers are local high school students who auditioned to be a part of this memorable event.

Guests will then indulge in a gastronomic delight created by the Westin Ottawa Executive Chef, Nelson Borges. The menu will feature hors d'oeuvres including scallop on the half shell, lime and clingstone peach salsa; duck foie gras lather in a candied red onion flat bread; hot-smoked eel with sticky rice and wasabi vinegar; blue fin tuna and cilantro tartar chipotle cream; Atlantic salmon and citrus gravlax, mustard sprouts and tobiko; rabbit terrine on Saskatoon berry marmalade and apple rosemary bread. They will then enjoy a candied pecan crusted rack of lamb accompanied by spearmint and vanilla deglazed pan juices, maple roasted vegetables and a potato galette.

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The meal will be crowned with a 10-year old tawny Sabayon with fig carpaccio and macerated berries. The entire meal will feature Austrian wines (Schottmeister Zweigelt 2005 and Schottenmeister Grüner Veltliner 2006), provided by the Austrian embassy.

Following the feast, guests will dance the night away while being entertained by the sounds of the Thirteen Strings Orchestra and the Stevens and Kennedy Band. In addition, they will be treated to a special performance by Pascale Racine, an up-and-coming soprano from Quebec.

Finally, to those who may need to give their feet a rest will relax with a chocolate martini in the Kaffee House, while l'Ensemble Transatlantik Quartet performs. As the fairy tale evening begins to wind down at midnight, guests will dine on a more traditional Austrian fare of authentic Austrian goulash.

Skating legends and Ambassador honoured

During the evening, skating legends Barbara Ann Scott, Frances Dafoe, Debbi Wilkes and Elizabeth Manley will be honoured for their contributions to the sport of figure skating.

In his fifth and most likely last Viennese Winter Ball, Austrian Ambassador, Otto Ditz, was also recognized for his patronage to the event. "We truly thank him and the entire Ottawa Austrian community for their commitment to the ball," says Gibbons.

Champions for Children and Thirteen Strings Orchestra to benefit from the Ball

As in previous years, the Ottawa Viennese Winter Ball will benefit two charities – Champions for Children and Thirteen Strings Orchestra. They will split a projected \$50,000. In its 11-year history, the event has contributed nearly a half million dollars to both organizations.

About the Ottawa Viennese Winter Ball

The Ottawa Viennese Winter Ball is a not-for-profit organization supported by a volunteer organizing committee. The Ball is one of only five internationally sanctioned Viennese balls by the Austrian Government.

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