

News Release

CIBC FIRSTCARIBBEAN BACKS BVI NATIONAL CULINARY TEAM

Tortola, British Virgin Islands, June 11, 2018 – CIBC FirstCaribbean is lending its support to the BVI National Culinary Team when five chefs and a mixologist participate at the annual Taste of the Caribbean Competition to be held at the Hyatt Regency, Miami from June 22 to 26, 2018.

Team BVI comprises Chef Tonya Malone-Smith of the Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies (VISTS); Jr. Chef Ariq Flax-Clarke of Johnson & Wales University; Jr. Chef Lakesha Barry of Johnson & Wales University; Jr. Chef Lakeisha King of Johnson & Wales University; and Jr. Chef Radiance Modeste of the Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies. Everson Rawlins of Scrub Island Resort & Spa is the attending mixologist.

The annual culinary competition hosted by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), will feature 12 teams from the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos.

The BVI will be part of a combined team of chefs representing some of the Caribbean islands that were impacted by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The “Caribbean Strong” team will include chefs from Anguilla, BVI, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.

The four day event will also include the second annual Caribbean305 culinary and cultural evening featuring the cuisine of 16 Caribbean destinations.

“We are very happy to be sponsoring this young, talented team of food and beverage professionals,” said Ms. Stephane Burke, Country Manager for CIBC FirstCaribbean in the BVI. “Participating in Taste of the Caribbean is a positive sign that the BVI is on the right track towards restoring key elements of tourism which makes up one of the territory’s major pillars of economy. It’s an effort that we are pleased to be a part of.”

BVI won gold medals in 2017 for Chef of the Year and Certified Angus Beef. The team also won the overall competitions in those categories.

Taste of the Caribbean is the region’s premier culinary competition, food and beverage educational exchange, and Caribbean cultural showcase. It provides national culinary teams from the region the opportunity to network, gather practical information and further develop individual skills.



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