

Welcome to Chez [Enter Your Name Here]

By Jennifer Rhyne

You close your eyes and savor the taste of melted garlic butter, creamy and intoxicating, followed by a rich burst of flavour with hints of thyme and lemon citrus. The salmon you are eating fills your senses, as it is the perfect flakiness, so fresh that it dissolves on your tongue, and it is quite possibly the most scrumptious seafood you have ever eaten. Next you sip the crisp, cool taste of golden Pinot Gris, its bouquet of green apples and summer peaches accelerate your salmon dinner into world class status. You gaze around and find yourself in the comforts of ... your own living room? While it may seem that you can only feast on delectable high-end cuisine when it is prepared by the most exclusive chefs, you haven't discovered some of the best kept secrets in Vancouver, Coast & Mountains region. It is not difficult to agree that the best vacations are ones that go on and on, seemingly never-ending. It is only fitting that your next holiday in Vancouver, Coast & Mountains centers around a culinary theme, making memories and bestowing talents upon you that will last a lifetime. The only thing that could possibly be better than your delicious salmon dinner (and the fabulous holiday you experienced to taste it), is grinning with satisfaction while friends and family gush over your unbelievable culinary talents.

The first step in becoming the next Wolfgang Puck is to check out the competition. Enter the help of Edible BC, experts in culinary experiences for the food-minded traveler. Stroll on a guided tour of Commercial Drive, visiting a traditional Italian coffee house, an old world sausage factory, and the city's best deli. Or tempt your inexperienced tastebuds with a whiskey and barbeque night at Hamilton Street Grill. Why pair wines with dinner when you can stay one step ahead of the trends and pair some great Scottish whiskey with a multitude of flavours. If you haven't filled your tummy by the time you are finished a tour, be sure to visit any one (or many!) of the world-class restaurants in Vancouver, Coast & Mountains...for purely educational purposes of course!

Okay, now merely a heartbeat away from witnessing your name across the door of your very own award-winning restaurant, your next step is learning how to shop for the tastiest goodies and mastering a tiny, little thing like learning how to cook. Small details really, especially when you enlist the help of Feast Vancouver. Begin with hunting and gathering your ingredients for your tasty lesson along side Chef Ross. The day continues with the preparation of your feast during a personalized lesson (you will be cooking like a professional in no time!). Naturally, someone must eat your wondrous gourmet meal, so you may take this time to indulge. Finally, you end your day by visiting a unique culinary treasure of the region, whether it be a one-of-a-kind cheese shop or a local winery, revealing the secrets behind the region's explosive culinary scene. Offered as a one day adventure or more if you prefer, Feast Vancouver appeals to the foodie in us all.

Your culinary escapade would not be complete without a selection of tasty temptations to accompany you on your journey home. Of course, they may never make it that far, but that is always what photos are for! New to the region are Circle Farm Tours, and they are a tourist's dream. Follow a self-drive map under the gaze of glorious bald eagles sitting atop the peaks of the Coast Mountains, through endless stretches of flaxen fields and sparkling rivers of cobalt blue to discover unique, local culinary wonders. From elaborate wineries and sweet yellow corn fields, to hazelnut and crisp cranberry farms, there are ample agricultural attractions ready for discovery. Not only is the tour perfect for family travel, it provides you with all the ingredients you will need to recreate your culinary holiday back at home.

Of course we wouldn't want you to give away the secret behind your sudden new chef skills, but you may have second thoughts when word gets out around the neighbourhood (perhaps spread by the amazing aromas from your kitchen, or even word of mouth by your family members). In any case, there is an ongoing food and wine revolution in Vancouver, Coast & Mountains, so you may need to let your neighbours and in-laws in on the secret as well, and begin eating your dinners in peace again. Of course, your evening meals have never tasted so good, so the next time you return to Vancouver, Coast & Mountains be sure to explore the region's many hiking trails!