

MEDIA RELEASE

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2022 VISA WELLINGTON ON A PLATE FESTIVAL WINNERS ANNOUNCED



Caption: From left Garage Project Presents Burger Wellington winner Vaibhav Vishen with Dabeli from Chaat Street, Dine Wellington winner Shuchi Bhardwaj with The Flat White Project from Neo Cafe & Eatery, Cocktail Wellington presented by Tommy's winner Regan Gaffney with The Martinborough Martini from Boulcott St Bistro, Next Gen Cook Off Winner Tak Tanaka from Field & Green - [link to hi-res images here](#).

The votes are in, the judges have judged, and the festival winners for Visa Wellington On a Plate for 2022 are: the Dabeli burger from Chaat Street, The Flat White Project from Neo Cafe & Eatery, and The Martinborough Martini from Boulcott Street Bistro. For the inaugural Next Gen Cook Off At Everybody Eats, Tak Tanaka from Field & Green was awarded the top title.

Visa Wellington On a Plate Festival Director, Sarah Meikle, says it's fantastic to see newcomers like Chaat Street and Fred's in the mix for the festival's top spots alongside Wellington institutions like Boulcott Street Bistro and Neo Cafe & Eatery.

"Every year the judges are blown away by the creativity and talent in Wellington's hospitality industry, their continued innovation is what keeps us driving forward and firmly establishes us as New Zealand's culinary capital."

The festival is the largest culinary festival in the southern hemisphere. This year more than 12,000 foodies rated 70 different Dine Wellington dishes, explored up to 80 different tipples as part of Cocktail Wellington, and visited 200 venues



participating in Garage Project presents Burger Wellington during the Visa Wellington On a Plate festival.

"We were thrilled to see an overall increase in public ratings alongside a high number of sold-out events, which demonstrates the ever increasing appetite for Visa Wellington On a Plate and gives a much-needed boost for Wellington's hospitality venues," she adds.

The Next Gen Cook Off at Everybody Eats was a new initiative for the festival in 2022 which saw five up and coming chefs from Wellington's top establishments create a three course meal for Everybody Eats with a 'mystery box' of donated food from Kaibosh Food rescue, Lumina Lamb and others who varied week to week.

The Next Gen Cook Off series saw Visa Wellington On a Plate and partner Tommy's Real Estate raise more than \$18,000 for Everybody Eats during August.

Sarah Meikle says the series was a fabulous way for anyone to enjoy a top-class restaurant experience recognising the city's future talent, while also supporting a very well-deserving charity.

"We are always seeking ways to benefit our community with delicious and accessible events for all, The Next Gen Cook Off is the event that keeps on giving. Our congratulations to Tak, and all of the chefs who took part," she adds.

Everybody Eats founder Nick Loosely, says the event was a brilliant way to introduce new people to our concept, engage our incredibly generous friends in the hospitality industry and most importantly to fulfil our purpose by giving people from all walks of life access to what is, without a doubt, New Zealand's premier food festival.

This year also saw the first presentation of the Lumina Lamb Rising Stars, which recognises young chefs that have stood out from their peers and demonstrated an affinity for a career in hospitality. Benny Forshaw of Charley Noble Eatery and Bar, Kritika Mahajan of Shepherd, Ben McKenzie of Ortega Fish Shack & Bar, Chinar Raut of Field & Green, and Jacob Spackman of Kisa were all recognised at the awards held at the Wellington Felix Hospitality Awards at Te Papa.

Next year Visa Wellington On a Plate festival will be served up twice. The May edition will present Festival Events and pop-ups, Dine Wellington and Cocktail Wellington. The August edition will see the return of Burger Wellington and Beervana.



"With the growing appetite for Visa Wellington On a Plate it makes sense to serve two bite-sized festival offerings for everyone to enjoy, and we're already looking forward to what is shaping up to be a spectacular May programme," Sarah says.

Chefs who participated in The Next Gen Cook Off at Everybody Eats 2022 were:

- Maxime Gnojczak - Concord
- Conor McDonald - Atlas
- Kahlivia Russell - Rita
- Tak Tanaka - Field & Green - **winner**
- Maddie Grace - Hillside

Finalists for Dine Wellington in alphabetical order:

- Boulcott Street Bistro - Crayfish Pōneke
- Charley Noble Eatery & Bar - The Han-guk Cook: Master Leong
- Mr Go - Fly Home
- Neo Cafe & Eatery - The Flat White Project - **winner**
- Old Quarter - Grandma's Kung Fu

Finalists for Garage Project presents Burger Wellington:

- Chaat St - Dabeli - **winner**
- Egmont St Eatery - Saigon Smash
- Fred's - Pork, Apple & Crackle
- Huxley's - Doors of Perception
- Thistle Inn - Au Poivre

Finalists for Cocktail Wellington presented by Tommy's:

- Boulcott Street Bistro - The Martinborough Martini - **winner**
 - Lulu Bar - Mango Unstrained
 - Nolita - Fly Me to the Moon
 - Pravda - Off the Beeten Track
 - Wilson BBQ Johnsonville - The Boozy BBQ
- ENDS -

For media enquiries please contact:

Jade Lucas - PR and Communications Manager
Email: jade@wellingtononaplate.com



Ph: 021 090 66758

Images of the winners and finalists are available [here](#), note Lumina Rising Stars will be available after the awards ceremony on Sunday evening.

About Visa Wellington On a Plate

Visa Wellington On a Plate is the biggest culinary festival in the southern hemisphere, and from 2023 will be held in both May and August. Festival goers can explore a curated programme of festival events, pop-ups, chef collaborations, dishes, cocktails and burgers. Now in its 14th year, Visa Wellington On a Plate is firmly established as a key event in the festival calendar for people across the Wellington region, and New Zealand.

www.VisaWOAP.com

About The Wellington Culinary Events Trust

The Wellington Culinary Events Trust is a not-for-profit trust established in 2014 to run iconic culinary events including Visa Wellington On a Plate and Beervana.

www.wcet.org.nz