



{ Chopped-Style Challenge Finds Canada's Top Young Chef }

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Chef David Hawksworth hands over the prize to scholarship winner Paul Moran.

We were [live-Instagraming](#) every delicious moment last month as the clock ticked down and ten young chefs from around the country gathered in Vancouver's Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts to battle it out for the inaugural Hawksworth Young Chef Scholarship. Ten thousand dollars from the [Chefs' Table Society of BC](#), Le Creuset's Ultimate Cookware Set and a stage at an acclaimed international restaurant were up for grabs. As the competition reached its boiling point the ten young hopefuls were narrowed to the final three contenders, competing in the decisive black-box round. Paul Moran, 26, from Kelowna, BC, was joined in the final by Brad Masciotra, 23, from London, Ontario and 27-year-old Vancouverite Carmen Ingham

The final trio were challenged to create a dish using the mystery black box ingredients of Freybe Schinkenspeck, steelhead trout, lobster, meyer lemon, heart of palm and almonds.

Brad Masciotra warmed up the judges' palettes with his [Sous-Vide Steelhead Trout recipe](#), but Carmen Ingham's [Crispy Skin Steelhead with Poached Lobster recipe](#) secured the runner-up prize and was dubbed Le Creuset's Rising Star, and Paul Moran's [Almond-Crusted Steelhead Trout recipe](#) wowed the panel and landed him the top spot.

During the tense day of the competition Paul impressed the technical judges in the kitchen - [Hawksworth Restaurant's](#) Chef de Cuisine Kristian Eligh and President of the Chefs' Table Society of BC Chef Scott Jaeger - and the tasting panel, which included some of the biggest names in Canada's culinary scene.

Chef David Hawksworth, owner of the award-winning Vancouver restaurant and founder of the Young Chef Scholarship, was joined at the judging table by fellow award-winning Vancouverite chef Vikram Vij. The search for the nation's top young chef brought out guest judges from the east coast - Food Network host Chef [Mark McEwan](#), Chef Anthony Walsh from Ontario's Oliver & Bonacini group and Toronto-based food writer Jacob Richler, all traveled to Vancouver for the event. Quebec's legendary chef, and [Top Chef Canada](#) guest judge, Normand Laprise brought some French flavour to the judging panel, which unanimously agreed that Paul Moran was worthy of the Hawksworth Young Chef Scholarship.

As Chef Paul Moran accepted his \$10,000 cheque the judges and contestants were already abuzz about next year's event and the potential expansion to regional heats in the search for Canada's next culinary star.