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First created :
06 March 2002 2211 hrs (SST) 1411 hrs (GMT)
Last modified :
07 March 2002 2216 hrs (SST) 1416 hrs (GMT)

World Gourmet Summit takes Art of Dining beyond the table

By Fiona Tan

The World Gourmet Summit will be back in Singapore next month, but organisers say the Art of Dining is not just about tasting the food.

When it comes to tasting exquisite food like foie gras, nothing it seems, not even the economic slowdown, will stop Singaporeans from some fine dining indulgence.

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The Summit's popular Masterchef Safaris, where diners take a journey through 4 restaurants, is already sold out.

Other events are more than 50 percent booked.

This year's theme is The Art of Dining with participants urged to look beyond the food on the table.

Peter Knipp, Organiser of the World Gourmet Summit, said: "Of course the chefs stand out, but so do the winemakers, so do the people that do the delivery and that is extremely important, and we are looking at the client, the guest to be able to recognise all 3 of these aspects for what they are."

The Art of Dining is not only about the art of cooking or the art of food presentation, as for the coming summit and for the first time, it is also going to be about the art of the chefs.

Paintings and photography works by the chefs will be displayed at the Masterchef Safaris.

And also for the first time, beer will be part of the Summit.

Organisers say beer is among the oldest beverages.

However mass production has diluted its level of sophistication.

But organisers believe one beer from New Zealand will win over critics who think the beverage cannot compare to wine.

Mr Knipp said: "This particular beer has such a great spectrum of flavour it just fits so much with some of the food. It's not about downgrading, it's quite

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the opposite, we're bringing back a product to where it belongs."

So the summit may bring about a new way to say cheers.

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