



**Shawn Whalen, Executive Chef
InterContinental Toronto Centre**

Toronto, December 10, 2013 – The InterContinental® Toronto Centre is pleased to announce the arrival of Shawn Whalen as executive chef of the downtown hotel. As executive chef, Whalen oversees all cuisine of the signature restaurant, Azure Restaurant & Bar, 20,000 square feet of banquet and meeting space and 24-hour room service. Whalen brings a rich and diverse 30-plus years of culinary experience. Most recently Whalen held the position of regional executive chef Larco Hospitality, overseeing two Toronto Marriott branded hotels and the executive chef of the Westin Prince, Toronto.

Whalen points out that he is thrilled to be at the, “progressive InterContinental Toronto Centre” and looks forward to incorporating his philosophy and practices of, “using the freshest most flavourful ingredients, striving to keep it simple, yet effective, with the ultimate goal of making each meal a pleasure.”

One of Whalen’s early and significant accomplishments was at the age of 25, in the position of executive sous chef at the Novotel North York, he challenged and acquired the Certified Chef de Cuisine (CCC) designation – the youngest chef in Canada to ever achieve this honour.

Whalen has earned several culinary achievements including captain of Culinary Team Canada from 2001 to 2005 and has earned over 50 gold medals and trophies. Over the years, Whalen has been an avid supporter of the apprenticeship programs for training and mentoring young chefs. Apprentices and cooks under his guidance have won an outstanding 200 gold medals and 25 *Best of Show* awards to date.

Whalen currently has memberships in the Canadian Culinary Federation and the Escoffier Society of Toronto. Whalen is one of three A-Level World Association of Chefs Society (WACS) Approved Judges representing Canada at international competitions, such as the World Culinary Olympics.

Whalen has chaired and organized the Ontario Junior Chef Culinary Competition for the past 12 years and from 2006 to 2011 he chaired the Canadian National Junior Competition for the top young chefs throughout the country.

Recognized for fine service and welcoming affordable luxury, the InterContinental Toronto Centre offers an ideal location in the heart of downtown financial and entertainment districts, plush accommodations, state-of-the-art meeting facilities, high-tech amenities and a dedication to the very best in customer service. InterContinental Toronto Centre is managed and operated under license by InterContinental TM Hotels Group, Inc. Direct reservations within Canada and US can be made at 1-800-327-0200.

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