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# Photos: Cherry-blossom bites steal the show at annual Sakura Night Gala

by Tammy Kwan on April 25th, 2018 at 5:38 PM



The Sakura Night Gala took place over the weekend, which featured a stand-up reception with different cherry-blossom inspired food and drink pairing stations.

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It was a pink-tie affair—guests dressed in their best outfits inspired by the beautiful hues of blooming cherry blossoms around the city.

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The [Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival's](#) (VCBF) annual [Sakura Night Gala](#) took place this past weekend (April 22) at the Stanley Park Pavilion (610 Pipeline Road), where ticket-holders were able to indulge in tasty dishes that paid homage to the blossoming trees.

Each culinary creation was paired with an alcoholic drink—featured libations included craft beer, wine, and sake. Event-goers were also greeted with a special sakura cocktail created by Jay Jones (Vij's and Rangoli).



Boulevard's pastry chef Kenta Takahashi.

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Participating chefs included Taka Omi (Benkei Ramen), Nathan Lowey (Dosanko), Masayoshi Baba (Masayoshi), Ken Nakano (Shangri-La Hotel, Vancouver), Will Lew (Fairmont Hotel Vancouver's Notch 8 Restaurant), Nobu Ochi (Zen Japanese Restaurant), and Kenta Takahashi (Boulevard Kitchen and Oyster Bar).

The well-loved chefs created everything from sakura *onigiris* (Japanese rice ball) to foie gras macarons to cherry blossom ramen to venison-wasabi leaf-smoked cherry tartare. A particularly long line-up formed at the dessert table—chef Takahashi was brought on last minute and still impressed the crowd with his mouth-watering treat: *genmaicha* (Japanese brown rice green tea) ice cream with sakura foam, yogurt mousse, and cookie crumble.



Chef Takahashi's popular sakura-green tea ice cream dessert.

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Since the food-and-drink event featured a one-of-a-kind menu, you won't be able to find listed food items at the local restaurants.

VCBF's executive director Linda Poole told the *Straight* in a previous interview that the gala was a special toast to the end of the cherry blossom season around Vancouver. For those who missed the chance to attend this year's extravaganza, stay tuned for announcements on next year's fête.

Scroll through the photos below for a peek inside the 2018 Sakura Night Gala.



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