

News Release

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'MASTER' CHEFS CONVERGE ON THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

The Southern Highlands will play host to 40+ Chefs and Culinary Teachers when they visit on Monday 27 June as part of the Australian Culinary Federation NSW/ACT Chapter Annual General Meeting and initiative to develop the professional skills of its members.

During their visit this group will experience a Truffle Hunt with Ted & Barbara Smith on the Yelverton Truffle Farm, set on 75 picturesque acres at Robertson in the Southern Highlands, NSW. Yelverton Truffle Farm is the home of Australia's largest truffle find, back in June 2014 by Ted and his dog, weighing in at a massive 1.172kgs. Excited to be part of this visit, Ted said "What we have here in the Southern Highlands is truly unique, where else can you source a highly sort after ingredient like truffles so close to a city?"

Following their Truffle Farm Tour, the Chef's will then convene at the magnificent Centennial Vineyards Restaurant to sample the local truffles, where leading Chef and owner Robin Murray will use Ted and Barbara's truffles in a number of inspired dishes, which will be presented to the visiting Culinary experts. Robin Murray commented "As the Southern Highlands representative for the Australian Culinary Federation it is a great opportunity for our region to present our local produce, our culinary delights, such as truffles, and our point of difference to a large group of leading Chefs from around NSW and the ACT. I also encourage local chefs to join the Australian Culinary Federation so we can improve of our culinary standards".

Robin's leadership in Food Tourism is supported by local Tourism Manager, Steve Rosa from Destination Southern Highlands who added "this visit endorses our region as a major Food & Wine destination. There is an increasing focus by our local operators in developing visitor experiences where they can immerse themselves in food tourism experiences, including 'meet the maker' opportunities and 'paddock to plate' menus at local restaurants. It's now Truffle Time and harvest season in the Southern Highlands and the surrounding Canberra Region – the perfect time to indulge in the bounty of produce throughout the region."

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