

I know this great little place ...

November 16, 2013

Simon Thomsen

David Hawksworth's eponymous restaurant at the Rosewood Hotel Georgia is regularly named Vancouver's best.

See hawksworthrestaurant.com.

WHERE'S THE BEST TABLE IN VANCOUVER?

Outside of Hawksworth, L'Abattoir. Casual yet sophisticated, a 19th-century building with classic tile work plus a modern bistro menu. See labattoir.ca.

THE LOCAL FOOD DISCOVERY OF THE PAST YEAR?

Vancouver chefs are using fresh seaweed more and more.

WHAT IS VANCOUVER'S BEST-KEPT FOOD SECRET?

Definitely Dungeness crab. It's so sweet and moist.

WHERE DO YOU GO FOR A BIG NIGHT OUT?

Gastown, Vancouver's original downtown, is a favourite neighbourhood. The cobblestone streets are filled with great restaurants and authentic cocktail bars such as Boneta, The Diamond cocktail bar and L'Abattoir. See boneta.ca; diamond.com.

PLACE TO HEAD ON A DAY OFF?

My passions change with the season. In winter, I'm an avid skier and love Whistler, only two hours away. Araxi is consistently one of the best places to eat. In summer, it's Pitt River for fishing. If I stay at home, then it's izakaya at Gyoza King. See araxi.com; gyokingroup.com.

FAVOURITE INDULGENCE IN VANCOUVER?

Chocolates from Thomas Haas Chocolates & Patisserie. See thomashaas.com.

WHAT'S HOT IN THE CITY RIGHT NOW?

Neapolitan pizza; lots of new restaurants, but trust veterans. See viateverepizzeria.com; pizzeriafarina.com.

WHAT SHOULD VISITORS AVOID, FOOD-WISE, IN VANCOUVER?

Chain restaurants. Vancouver has the best dining in Canada, so try a small, independent place.



Chef David Hawksworth.