

RENOWNED CHEF AKIRA BACK ANNOUNCES TORONTO DEBUT WITH DESTINATION RESTAURANT AT BISHA HOTEL



Back will be executive chef of the eponymous restaurant in Toronto's newest luxury hotel opening summer 2017

May 24, 2017 (Toronto, ON) – [Bisha Hotel Toronto](#) has announced that celebrity chef Akira Back will be opening his first-ever Canadian namesake restaurant *Akira Back* in the luxury boutique hotel. The restaurant will be a partnership with [ICONINK](#), Toronto's leading hospitality company. Back is known for his signature style of blending Japanese cuisine with Korean ingredients and flavours.

"Toronto is a cultural epicenter with a diverse and multi-cultural food scene, which is why I always hoped to have a restaurant here," says Chef Akira Back. "The menu will feature a number of my signature dishes along with some new ones that were inspired by my time spent in the city."

Born in Korea and raised in Aspen, Colorado, Back brings a sense of adventure and boundless creativity to his culinary creations. A professional snowboarder turned chef, Back became the youngest Executive Chef for Nobu Matsuhisa before opening his own celebrated restaurants on the Las Vegas Strip, Yellowtail by Akira Back and Kumi by Akira Back.

Following the mega successes of his Las Vegas endeavours, he opened his namesake Akira Back restaurants in Singapore, New Delhi and Jakarta. He also owns Dosa in Seoul, one of the top fine dining restaurants in his native country Korea. Back recently launched a luxury steakhouse, his second restaurant concept in Jakarta.

Chef Back provides a unique experience that leaves people emotionally connected to him and his restaurants. Each of his restaurants features inventive menus that embody his life and travel inspirations throughout the world, representing the root of his culture and his culinary background in every dish.

Akira Back is one of the most exciting names in the culinary world, growing rapidly across major international cities. Scheduled openings in 2017 and 2018 include Dubai, Bangkok, Vietnam, Dallas and San Diego. Akira Back is where luxury meets social and will impact the way people dine in Toronto.

“Back has a growing reputation in the hospitality industry for being an inspiring and respected chef with successful restaurants,” says Hanif Harji, CEO, ICONINK. “His signature style of blending Japanese and Korean cuisine brings the perfect cosmopolitan touch to Bisha and complements our other dining offerings in the hotel.”

“Akira Back is an extremely talented chef on the cusp of exploding internationally and we’re excited that Bisha will be his first location in Canada. After interviewing many recognized chefs over a three-year period, I felt that Akira Back’s talent and uniqueness would be the perfect match for Bisha Toronto to make it a complete hospitality experience,” says Charles Khabouth, Chairman, ICONINK. “The restaurant is not only great for the hotel but will also be an exciting addition to the Toronto dining scene.”

Designed by Studio Munge, the restaurant interiors will pay homage to traditional Japanese dining while reinventing a distinguished culinary experience. The restaurant will be a modern and glamorous expression of the Japanese dining experience. Subtle nods to Japanese culture will appear through refined and intimate details which balance the central design feature, a full length cove ceiling showcasing a colourful custom graphic.

Bisha Hotel Toronto, located at the heart of the Entertainment district, will stand 44 stories tall and feature 96 luxury boutique hotel rooms, including 14 suites and 355 residential condominiums. The hotel will also offer four dining concepts, all led and managed by ICONINK, including a 2,200 square foot lobby bar with street-level patio access, a 24-hour café and a 44th floor rooftop restaurant with an infinity pool and sweeping views of the lake, city and CN Tower.

For press images and Back’s biography please download [here](#).

Connect with Akira Back on social:

Twitter: [@AkiraBackTO](#)

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-30-

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About Bisha Hotel Toronto

Bisha Hotel Toronto is the combined vision of the principals of two multi-award-winning firms – prominent real estate developers, Sam Herzog and Mel Pearl of Lifetime Developments, and legendary hospitality czar and trend-setter, Charles Khabouth of INK Entertainment. The 44-storey flagship property in Toronto is designed by award-winning Wallman Architects, with daring interiors by renowned Studio Munge. Opening its flagship in Toronto this Summer 2017, the Bisha Hotel brand will offer the ultimate lifestyle destination in key cities around the world. For more information, please visit www.bishatoronto.com

About ICONINK

ICONINK is a full service international hospitality group. ICONINK excels in the development and management of innovative concepts and progressive brands that revolutionize the hospitality industry. Led by renowned restaurateur Hanif Harji and visionary entertainment entrepreneur Charles Khabouth, ICONINK takes inspiration from global cuisine and culture, merging dynamic dining and design with insight and ingenuity. The group owns and operates top dining destinations around the world including: *Weslodge* (Toronto & Dubai), *Byblos* (Toronto & Miami), *Morah Dubai*, *FIGO Toronto*, *Patria*, *MACHO Radio Bar*, *Estia*, and *The STORYS Building*. Every concept is executed with ICONINK's signature commitment to innovation and integrity in service and design. For more information, please visit www.iconink.ca

About INK Entertainment

INK Entertainment is Canada's leading lifestyle and entertainment company. Operating since 1982, INK Entertainment is helmed by visionary entrepreneur Charles Khabouth and has demonstrated an enviable ability to read the pulse of ever-changing cultural times and tastes, responding with a host of successful enterprises, including the luxury hotel brand Bisha, deejay-headlined VELD Music Festival, a number of trendy nightclubs, including Uniun, CUBE, Dragonfly and REBEL Toronto, and internationally acclaimed restaurant brands including Weslodge (Dubai & Toronto), Patria, Byblos (Miami & Toronto), Estia Toronto, FIGO, MACHO Radio Bar and Storys Building. For more information, visit www.inkentertainment.com or connect with INK Entertainment on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).