

SUSHIMASTERS

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BAY AREA CHEFS ANNOUNCED FOR 2007 SUSHIMASTERS REGIONAL EVENT

Now in its third year, a series of regional events will determine finalists
for the statewide SushiMasters Finals in 2008

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – The California Rice Commission today announced the five chef finalists who will represent the San Francisco/Bay Area in the 2007 SushiMasters Regional competition, scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 1 during the Japanese Restaurant Association of Northern California's Sushi & Beyond event at the Miyako Hotel.

In the first competition of 2007, the list of finalists includes chefs representing some of the Bay Area's most regarded sushi and Japanese fusion restaurants, including two chefs from Sushi Ran of Sausalito, recipient of a coveted Michelin Star:

Chef Ken Hang, Sushi Ran, Sausalito, CA
Chef Kenichi Kawashima, Blowfish Sushi, San Francisco, CA
Chef Tetsuya Kodama, Sushi Ran, Sausalito, CA
Chef Weyman Li, Ozumo, San Francisco, CA
Chef Tomaharu Nakamura, Sanraku Four Seasons, San Francisco, CA
Chef Akifusa Tonai, Kyo-ya Restaurant, San Francisco, CA

SushiMasters joins Sushi & Beyond, an event that features the Bay Area's best Japanese and Asian restaurants, fine wine and sake tasting, a sushi demonstration and live entertainment. The afternoon event will also feature a select group of the Bay Area's top restaurants showcasing some of their most popular and inventive dishes, including Ana Mandara, Chaya Brasserie, Chef Chu's Restaurant, HIME, Ozumo, Roy's Hawaiian Fusion, Sushi Ran and Yoshi's of Oakland. For ticket and event information go to www.usajapan.org.

The entry period for the 2007 SushiMasters Regional Events is now open. Qualified professional chefs who currently own or work in restaurants located in California are eligible to apply. Additional events are planned for Los Angeles and Sacramento, and all chefs wishing to compete in the 2008 SushiMasters Finals must qualify through one of the regional events. Overall winners in each region will continue on to the 2008 SushiMasters Finals in Sacramento, scheduled for June 2008. For entry information, go to www.sushimasters.com/competition.htm.

The California Rice Commission represents the entire California rice industry, including all 2,500 rice growers and handlers who annually farm and process rice produced on approximately 500,000 acres in the Sacramento Valley.

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