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GREEN LAKE REPORTER

NUMBER 7

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012

75¢ PER COPY

Chef's original pork recipe captures hearts at contest

Chef Nicholas Bijak of Heidel House Resort & Spa has received the People's Choice Award at the 24th Annual Taste of Elegance contest in Wisconsin Dells. The event, sponsored by the Wisconsin Pork Association, included eight of the state's top chefs preparing an original pork recipe that had not previously been featured on their menu. Over 800 of the approximately 1,000 guests in attendance agreed that Chef Nick's exquisite Cilantro and Soy Marinated Pork Tenderloin was their favorite.

"We are thrilled that Chef Nick has come home with this award, as the people's choice is what truly matters," says Jeff Barber, Heidel House Resort Food & Beverage Manager. "The competition was fierce and I am very proud that Nick's hard work and passion shone through."

Chef Nick says he is both excited and humbled by the experience. "It is hard to explain the feeling when you feed over one thousand people and they come up to you and say your food is amazing. I was put on this earth to make good food because eating well makes you happy. I am glad I was able to make them happy."

Chef Nick plans to include his Cilantro and Soy Marinated Pork Tenderloin on this summer's menu at Grey Rock, Heidel House Resort & Spa's fine dining restaurant, so that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy its tantalizing flavors.

About the Taste of Elegance

The 2012 Taste of Elegance took place on Thursday, February 2 at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. The contest was created to encourage pork menuing in a creative and nontraditional man-



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ner. Over 100 chefs throughout the state submitted recipes, with only eight invited to compete in the contest. The Wisconsin Pork Association sponsored the event in conjunction with Blain's Farm & Fleet, Rural Mutual Insurance, Tyson Foods, Inc. and Pork Checkoff. More information can be found at www.wppa.org.

About Chef Nick Bijak

Currently an Executive Chef at Heidel House Resort & Spa, Nick Bijak's enthusiasm for food started long ago. At an early age, he began following his mother around the kitchen and helping out at soup kitchens with his father. Most of his knowledge comes from on-the-job experience, while working in various food settings from the Olympics and U.S. Opens to owning his own restaurant. His studies in France, Spain and Italy opened his mind to flavors that he stills draws inspiration from today.