



Adrian Brijbassi

Columnist, Vacay.ca

[Become a fan](#)
[✉](#)
[🐦](#)
[👍](#)

## 20 Canadian Restaurants You Must Try

Posted: 06/14/2015 10:56 pm EDT | Updated: 06/17/2015 11:59 am EDT



On Monday, Vacay.ca will announce its fourth annual **Top 50 Restaurants in Canada** rankings. It's a survey of elite diners, industry experts, and leading travel and food journalists who take the pulse of the nation's dining scene. My experiences during the past 12 months indicate that there is a significant leap in quality as chefs push their talents further and some restaurateurs recruit international talent to lead their brigades.

Two Michelin-starred chefs made notable entries in the Canadian dining scene in the past year. At **TOCA at the Ritz-Carlton Toronto**, Oliver Glowig has reinvigorated the restaurant with a menu focused on Italian cuisine. In the Gastown neighbourhood of Vancouver, Stefan Hartmann was recruited from Germany to helm the kitchen at Bauhaus. Coming soon, "Iron Chef" star Masaharu Morimoto, whose Japanese cuisine has won over fans in the United States, will open a restaurant in downtown Toronto's new Theatre Park building.

More competition should mean a good thing for diners. It can also mean a larger cut of the **\$72-billion restaurant industry** for the most successful names. A continuing trend across the country has been the expansion of some of the nation's leading chef-driven brands. In Toronto, Rob Gentile's **Buca** has a third restaurant, Buca Yorkville. In British Columbia, Vikram Vij has added both My Shanti, in suburban Surrey, and **Sutra**, a small eatery inside the Victoria Public Market. Also, the bustling **Tacofino** brand opened a second restaurant in the middle of Vancouver's Gastown.

In Calgary, the **CharCut** team is expanding with **CharBar**, and the Model Milk group has just opened Pigeonhole. Daniel Corso, one of Edmonton's leading chefs, has debuted **Bar Bricco** next to his well-regarded **Corso 32** and Scott Bagshaw in Winnipeg has replicated his success at **Deseo Bistro** with his newest venture, Enoteca Wine Bar.

It's an ever-changing and exciting time to dine out across Canada. Here is the list of the 20 best restaurants I tried during the past 12 months. Eight of them will make it onto the **2015 Top Restaurants in Canada** rankings.

**19. Wolf In the Fog, Tofino, BC:** Chef Nick Nutting, formerly of The Pointe, has opened a masterful establishment in the heart of Tofino. It showcases the rich flavours of the Pacific coast.

**hawksworth  
communications**
**WOLF IN THE FOG**  
HUFFINGTONPOST.CA, JUNE 14, 2015