

BEST UPSCALE

★ ★ ★

HAWKSWORTH

801 W. Georgia St., 604-673-7000
Hawksworthrestaurant.com

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BLUE WATER CAFE + RAW BAR

1095 Hamilton St., 604-688-8078

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LA QUERCIA

3689 W. Fourth Ave.,
604-676-1007
Laquercia.ca

BEST UPSCALE It would seem unassailable at this point that no Vancouver chef better embodies the somewhat amorphous idea of West Coast cuisine than David Hawksworth, or that a restaurant could serve a more reliably dazzling representation than his self-named temple of world-class dining.

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The man and the room are now, quite simply, institutions in the best sense, which is why **Hawksworth** (Gold) has topped this category in all four years of its existence.

Chef Hawksworth and chef de cuisine Kristian Eligh's accomplishment cannot be overstated: retaining (and unfailingly rewarding) the devotion of a populace that is spoilt for choice is something few kitchens are able to do for very long—especially when its prices justifiably lead one to expect perfection. "It never disappoints," says one judge. "The menu deftly combines Asian flavours with mostly local ingredients, and a real understanding of how to layer flavours and textures." Adds another, succinctly: "Top of its game. David is one of

North America's best chefs." The awe-inspiring wine cellar and gracious tableside demeanour of Bryant Mao (our Sommelier of the Year, pg. 81), plus servers who somehow are always exactly as present as one wants them to be, complete a picture of flawlessness.

Blue Water Cafe + Raw Bar (Silver) is also an exemplar of mastering a territory and never losing its grip; it made additional strong impressions in the Best Seafood (pg. 82) and Best Yaletown (pg. 89) categories. Likewise for **La Quercia** (Bronze), which, like last year, also collects Silver for Best Italian Upscale (pg. 61). **HONOURABLE MENTIONS:** *Cioppino's Mediterranean Grill* & *Enoteca, The Pear Tree* ★



hawksworth
communications

Poached lobster with
Iberian ham risotto
from Hawksworth

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