

Evelin Ilves, who is currently in Stockholm at the European selection round of the worldwide Bocuse d'Or professional cooking competition, at the invitation of Tourism Development Centre of Enterprise Estonia (EE), has confirmed her support for the initiative of EE to have the European qualification round, Bocuse d'Or Europe, take place in Tallinn in 2018.

"We would be effective, professional hosts for the event," told Evelin Ilves at her meeting with the Director of Bocuse d'Or, Florent Suplisson.

At the qualification round that started today, Estonian chef, Dmitri Haljukov, is also attempting to reach the finals. The menu that he created is supposed to express the national characteristics of the competing country, while introducing the food culture and governing trends in the country concerned. He will use Estonian rye bread, lingonberries, potatoes and bacon, sea-buckthorn berries, pumpkin, chanterelles, apples and Vana Tallinn liqueur to garnish his competing dish.

"This represents a wonderful opportunity to introduce Estonian cuisine and food at a highly competitive competition," Evelin Ilves admitted.

The European finalists who make it through to the final round of Bocuse d'Or that will take place in Lyon, France, in 2015 will be announced at 6:30–7:30 pm, Estonian time on Thursday. The panel of judges also includes the founder of the Culinary Institute of Estonia, Dimitri Demjanov.

Yesterday in Stockholm, Evelin Ilves also took part in a dinner organised by the Tourism Development Centre of EE focusing on the theme of "New Nordic Food stands for purity, freshness, simplicity, a reflection of four seasons in food and Nordic products – but is this really new for Estonia?", which is intended to introduce Estonia as a travel destination, and where the representative of the New Nordic Food programme, Charlotta Ranert, and Swedish food journalists and travel operators were also present. According to Evelin Ilves, Estonian cuisine has always mentally been a part of Nordic cuisine.

Today, Evelin Ilves will also meet with Prince Carl Philip of Sweden.

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