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**Sender:** L'Atelier d'Argentine

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**NATALIA MACHADO, AWARD-WINNING AND WORLD-RENOWNED CHEF  
BECOMES L'ATELIER D'ARGENTINE'S EXECUTIVE CHEF**

The chef behind the restaurant's menu arrives in Montreal for *MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE* to stay permanently

**MONTREAL, February 18, 2013** — As one of the city's most popular events *MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE* is upon us, acclaimed Argentinean-born chef Natalia Machado is setting foot in the city she will now call home. Indeed, while Montreal will be seduced by this year's Buenos Aires themed *MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE* festival, Natalia has already fallen in love with our culture so much she could not refuse when she was asked to become L'Atelier d'Argentine's executive chef. Adding to a highly successful career in Buenos Aires and New York City, Natalia, who created the restaurant's menu, is joining the L'Atelier d'Argentine's team to head up the kitchen and drive the successful restaurant in partnership with General Manager Jean-Bernard Forgues.

Raised in Buenos Aires with summers spent in Patagonia, Natalia, 34, was able to experience both the sophisticated cuisine of the big city and the excellent seafood and wide-open freedom of the coast. From trendy restaurants in Buenos Aires to working with world-renowned chefs in New York City, Natalia's profile and creativity quickly earned international recognition.

"I'm very excited to have the opportunity to permanently join the team at L'Atelier d'Argentine, and I can't wait to further discover everything Montreal has to offer," says Natalia, who has also competed and won on Food Network's *Chopped* and *Sweet Genius*. "This city is known for its vibrant culture and restaurant scene, and I'm really looking forward to sharing my passion for Argentinean cuisine with Montrealers."

"Natalia's career in New York City had caught our attention years before we originally approached her to help us make L'Atelier d'Argentine a reality," states Brian Bendix, founding partner and CEO of Stambac International. "From day one, there has been a strong creative synergy between Natalia and our team and we are more than excited that she has accepted to join us in the long long-term. L'Atelier d'Argentine is an affordable culturally authentic piece of Buenos Aires in Montreal and having a chef of Natalia's caliber adds tremendous strength to the experience and business"

This year, l'Atelier d'Argentine is a specially featured restaurant at the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of *MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE*. Festival-goers will be able to experience l'Atelier's pop-up street Argentinean grill at the Place des festivals throughout the duration of the event to get a taste of grilled meats and fresh empanadas.

The restaurant will also host *Like being in Buenos Aires*, an evening of gastronomic and cultural awakening representative of a typical night in the hottest, happening burrows of Buenos Aires on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Guests and media will be invited to discover the many varied facets of Buenos Aires through a series of gastronomic and cultural activities at l'Atelier d'Argentine. The restaurant will feature a photography exhibit, an Argentinean wine and Quebec cheese pairing, an art dual featuring two renowned graffiti artists, an award winning Argentinean film projection, empanadas, Argentinean cocktails, a seafood bar and more.

For guest reservations: 514 287-3362

For media reservations: 514 843-2384

### **About l'Atelier d'Argentine**

Located in Old Montreal's historical setting, l'Atelier d'Argentine is committed to serving its varied clientele, whether it be for Sunday brunch, a business lunch or a late night dinner followed by cocktails. Featuring genuine Buenos Aires cuisine with a strong flavorful identity, the menu is easy to understand and even easier to love, offering great value for money. Brought to you by a group of passionate restaurateurs who have built on their experience with many successful restaurants and bars in Montreal and around the world, l'Atelier d'Argentine has become a cornerstone in Montreal's restaurant market.

For more information, please visit: [www.atelierargentine.com](http://www.atelierargentine.com).



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