



## International Association of Conference Centres' 2012 Copper Skillet Award Goes to Sweden's Chef Johan Heibert of Villa Brevik

(St. Louis, MO, USA) – April 2012 -- For nine years, a highlight of IACC-America's annual conference has been the coveted Copper Skillet Competition to name the International Conference Centre Chef of the Year Award. Once again, the competition brought together IACC conference centre chefs from around the world to compete for the prestigious culinary award.

Chef Johan Heibert from Villa Brevik in Stockholm, Sweden prevailed over seven other chefs from Denmark, Australia, The Netherlands, Japan, United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States to win the competition. Judging criteria included originality of the creation, presentation, texture, flavour combinations and hygiene standard of the work area.

This year's event featured a surprise and challenging vegetarian theme and chefs were presented a mystery basket filled with fresh produce, grains and protein ingredients to use in their preparation. Each chef was given 15 minutes to review the items and plan their dish, and then 30 minutes for the cook-off.

Chef Heibert's winning dish included roasted fennel, asparagus, and shiitake mushrooms with pickled rhubarb, shallots, garnished with cheddar cheese, thyme, fennel-dill and curled rhubarb and fennel over quinoa.

Born and raised in Stockholm Sweden, Chef Heibert started his culinary education at the early age of 16 in Åre, North Sweden. He earned his Philosophy Candidate Degree in The Culinary Arts at the University of Grythyttan, Örebro Sweden.

Theis Christensen, Executive Chef, [Comwell Holte \(Denmark\)](#) won second place honors and Sander Westerman, Executive Chef, [Blooming Hotel & Conference Estate](#) (The Netherlands) took third place in the competition.

The other chefs who won their regional cook-offs and the right to represent their country in the competition included:

Jesse Huges, Sous Chef, [Vue Grand Hotel](#) (Australia)

Murray Hall, Executive Chef, [BMO Financial Group Institute for Learning](#) (Canada)

Katsunori Hirata, Chef de Cuisine, [Tokyo Conference Centre](#) (Japan)

Abduilah Azzubair, Head Chef, [Royal College of Physicians](#) (United Kingdom)

CJ Chambers, Exec Sous Chef, [Hamilton Park Hotel & Conference Center](#) (USA)

Guest judges included:

Brian Robertson, Executive Chef San Luis Resort, Galveston, TX;

Matt Gray, Executive Chef, La Torretta Lake Resort, Montgomery, TX;

Tyler Davidson, Chief Content Editor, Meetings Focus magazines;

and Tom Bolman, retiring Executive Vice President of IACC.

IACC's popular Copper Skillet competition was introduced in 2004 to highlight the artistry and skill of the best chefs from IACC-member conference centres around the world and to honour their contributions to the shared goal of providing an outstanding conference centre experience.