

TV Explorer (Aug. 9) Foraging with chefs

Denise Duguay

The Gazette

Friday, August 08, 2008

Montrealers, being the multilingual haute-cultured creatures they are, can learn a thing or two from the new series called the Chef's Domain, in which eight chefs in various cities tour their local suppliers en route to cooking a fabulous local feast.

In Sunday's episode, featuring chef Nancy Hinton and master forager François Brouillard of the woodland resto A la table des jardins sauvages, the lesson is more of a reminder of what a gorgeous, rustic dining retreat this couple runs about an hour east of Montreal (watch the episode and then read next Saturday's Travel section for a profile of A la table in colleague David Johnston's Short Hops column).

In the Tuesday episode, with Scott Pohorelic of Calgary's River Café, the lessons are both good and grinding.

The good: So there is decent cuisine in cities other than Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver! And here I acknowledge the proudly snobbier types among you who would correct the previous declaration to any city other than Montreal, point finale.

The grinding: What the hell is "blahnk de blahnk" and "prohskewto"? Okay, so worldly pronunciation is not the forte out west, although is it not in their favour that they stock blanc de blanc wine and cure their own prosciutto?

But while you might not want to listen to a Calgarian read the wine list, you should tune in to be introduced to this gorgeous restaurant on the Bow River. And to travel with Pohorelic as he visits local suppliers to prepare for a spring feast: a bison ranch with a backdrop of blue foothills, an asparagus field where Pohorelic snaps off a bundle and an organic farm for tomatoes and green beans.

"Shopping as a chef is a lot more than going to a market. It's meeting the source, meeting the families," Pohorelic says.

His words describe the heart of this series, which will mostly appeal to foodies.

And a warning: Sunday's episode with Hinton and Brouillard is the place to start. The Pohorelic episode looks good, but drags a bit for spending so much time on the surprise party he is cooking for.

Other chefs in the series who introduce their cities and its culinary offerings are: Edward



CREDIT: Lively Media

Scott Pohorelic samples the tomatoes from Hotchkiss Herbs and Produce just outside Calgary in the Tuesday episode of the new series The Chef's Domain on Travel Escape.

Tuson of Sooke on Vancouver Island (Aug. 17), Tak Ishiwata in St. John's (Aug. 19), Ted Corrado in Toronto (Aug. 24), Michael Moffatt in Ottawa (Aug. 26) and Ray Bear in Halifax (Aug. 31).

The Hinton-Brouillard episode of The Chef's Domain airs tomorrow at 8 p.m. on specialty channel Travel + Escape and continues for six more episodes, Tuesdays and Sundays 8 p.m.

Who isn't obsessed with the weather right now? In addition to the usual storm season, there is terrifying flash flooding and more heavy rain in the forecast. Angry Planet (Tuesdays at 9 p.m., repeating Wednesdays at 5 p.m. on the OLN specialty channel) is like The Weather Network on steroids. Back for a new season, stormchaser George Kourounis covers off-trail skiing in B.C. and the birth of a hurricane in Iceland.

Amazing Adventures of a Nobody: U.K. (Tuesday at 10 p.m. on specialty channel OLN) answers the question of whether a bloke can travel on five pounds a day. Apparently, yes. Seven episodes worth, in fact. But pity host Leon Logothetis's poor crew. While he is quaffing the milk of human kindness, or at least tolerance, his crew is stuck in some soulless luxury hotel, forced to endure fine dining. They do their best to not rub it in.

Pity also the innocents in the Amazon rain forest, the Arctic and some island or other in the South Pacific who will have to put up with eight castoffs from MTV's My Super Sweet 16 (let's assume we don't require any more detail about this show than the title and the fact that castoffs' names include Chelsi and Meleny). Exiled (starting Thursday, Aug. 28 at 10 p.m. on specialty channel MTV Canada) could be an interesting sociological experiment. Or not.

Broadcast times and dates are subject to change. Go to montrealgazette.com and click on the TV listings tab or check the channels' own websites. For more on the specialty channels, contact your cable or satellite TV provider or go to travelandscape.ca, mtv.ca or tsn.ca/oln.

dduguay@thegazette.canwest.com

© The Gazette (Montreal) 2008

CLOSE WINDOW

Copyright © 2008 CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#). All rights reserved.
CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#). All rights reserved.