

Press release, February 10, 2015

Viking Line and master chef Michael Björklund begin a partnership

Enjoy the finest flavours from the Åland Islands on board Viking Line's ships this spring

Åland flavours will be featured on Viking Line's vessels this spring, when the on-board à la carte restaurants offer a menu planned by Åland-based master chef Michael Björklund from March 2 until April 30, 2015. In May, selected Viking Line restaurants will in turn offer a special menu that Michael Björklund has put together to go well with sparkling beverages. Viking Line's and Björklund's partnership will continue throughout 2015.

Good food is an important part of the cruise experience on Viking Line's ships. The company is continuing its focus on trendy Nordic cuisines after the success of last autumn's popular culinary theme *Pure Nordic Tastes*. This March and April, passengers will be able to experience the best flavours from the Åland Islands. That is when the à la carte restaurants on Viking Line's vessels will be offering *A Taste of Smakbyn*, a menu planned by celebrity chef Michael Björklund. The on-board buffet restaurants will also feature local Åland delicacies.

Michael Björklund has become famous in Finland mainly through his appearances on the popular TV programme "Strömsö". He has also been voted Chef of the Year in Finland (1997) and in Sweden (2000). Today he runs his own restaurant, Smakbyn – in Kastelholm, Åland. He specializes in locally produced Nordic ingredients with pure flavours.

"I'm pleased to help select and present our fantastic Åland taste experiences to Viking Line's passengers. Viking Line provides us Åland residents with an important connection to the mainland. At the same time, it's a close and familiar company to me, since many of my friends and relatives work on its vessels," Michael Björklund says.

The *Smakbyn* menu will offer culinary experiences from the Åland archipelago, including dishes featuring whitefish and elk. Among the featured beverages will be Åland apple wine. It will also be possible to buy Åland delicacies to take home, for example muesli, mustard and apple compote from Smakbyn.

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