

— ICCO UNICO PRIMO —  
**Pentola d'Oro Awards**  
— 2023 —

Main Sponsor



Event Organized by



ICCO CANADA





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# 2023 Pentola d'oro

## PENTOLA D'ORO AWARD

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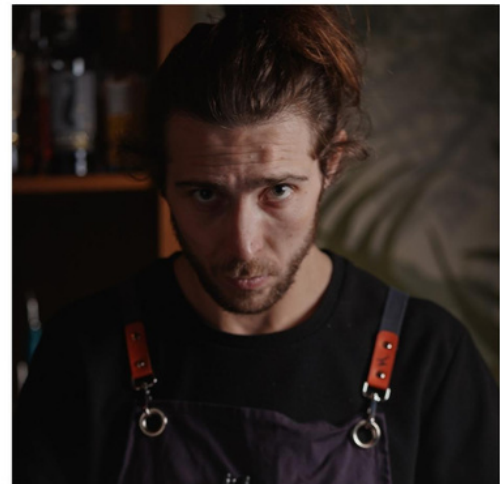


FIL BUCCHINO

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MASSIMO ZITTI

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## *A message from The Title Sponsor*



Unico and Primo are honored to be sponsors of the 2023 Pentola d'Oro Awards.

Tonight, we join our Industry friends and leaders and recognize the outstanding business achievements of Italian Canadian individuals and Companies. We are extremely proud of our Italian Heritage and we take pride in sharing our culture and food through the many product lines we offer. Unico and Primo are two Canadian Italian owned Companies that have been a significant part of the Canadian food chain for many years enjoying a history of meeting consumer expectations in Italian food.

The last 24 months have yielded unprecedented worldwide food inflation, as individuals we have managed our own financial situations very differently than prior to these inflationary times. As a corporate major supplier in the Canadian Food Chain, we have maintained two important priorities, first we are committed to manufacturing the best possible quality at the best possible cost for consumers. Secondly, we take seriously our responsibility to our employees and to ensure they can manage through these difficult times and we are also committed to our civic responsibility in helping our fellow citizens who rely on Foodbanks for their daily meals. We are convinced that together we can survive these difficult times.

The Canadian economy has been through a major transformation in the last 4 years with Covid and now inflation, consumers and retailers have committed to buying Canadian made products. We will always rely on imports for certain products but we have a much better appreciation for what we can supply from Canadian Manufacturers.

At Unico and Primo we are 100% Canadian owned, we maintain our responsibility of sharing the Italian heritage through the products we offer, when families sit down for a meal, we take pride in knowing they are using Unico and Primo products.

The Pentola D'Oro is a night when we can take pride and celebrate Canadian Italian businesses and success stories. On behalf of my family as well as our employees at Unico and Primo we wish each recipient this evening Congratulations and continued success.



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November 13 | 19  
2023

# Week of the Italian Cuisine in the World

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# Pentola d'Oro Awards

## *Celebrating Italian Excellence*

The ICCO Unico Primo Pentola d'Oro Awards gala promotes the excellence of Italian cuisine and its centuries-old traditions of rich flavours, regional diversity, and fresh, high-quality ingredients.

---

### 2023 PENTOLA D'ORO AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

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---

The event is a celebration of Ontario's food and beverage industry that recognizes the lasting impact of exceptional leaders who have dedicated their lives to creating remarkable businesses and contributing to the growth and success of the industry.

The food and beverage industry nourishes us, satisfies our taste buds, and fuels our social gatherings. It constantly evolves, driven by innovation and the changing demands of consumers.

The Pentola d'Oro aims at providing a platform to not only recognize the achievements of great leaders but to learn from one another and to forge new partnerships that could shape the future of this dynamic industry.

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# *A message from ICCO Canada*

Every year, the Pentola d'Oro Awards gala celebrates the diversity and richness of Italian cuisine, showcasing regional flavours and a commitment to high-quality ingredients. This occasion also acknowledges the accomplishments of leaders who have advanced Ontario's food and beverage sector. With a diverse range of participants, including restaurateurs, suppliers, food experts, packaging innovators, media, influencers, and food bloggers, this event fosters a vibrant exchange of ideas within the industry. Pentola d'Oro recognizes both seasoned professionals who have dedicated their lives to the food industry and to newcomers who are introducing revolutionary ideas to the market.

This 11th edition of the Pentola d'Oro Awards marks the culmination of the 8th Week of Italian Cuisine in the world, an initiative that explores the global appeal of Italian food and drinks and underscores the international success of the "Made in Italy" brand. Italian cuisine, steeped in history and passion, is renowned for its use of high-quality ingredients.

We extend our sincere congratulations to this year's winners, whose exceptional careers have made significant contributions to the growth of Ontario's Food and Beverage Industry. Dino Bianco, with extensive leadership experience, oversaw multiple brands, facilities, and employees, driving substantial growth and innovation. David Rocco, known for his Bar Aperitivo, downtown location, and several TV shows, has shared and promoted authentic Italian cuisine with the Canadian public. Paul Spagnuolo played a pivotal role in the success and growth of Fortinos Supermarkets, from procurement and merchandising to overseeing the creation of Pane Fresco. Fil Bucchino, an international olive oil expert, has shared his passion with followers and started producing and importing Tuscan olive oil. Lastly, Massimo Zitti, an innovator in the beverage sector, has become an icon for the best cocktails in North America with his creative ideas.



Thank you to our sponsors who are the cornerstone of our events, playing a crucial role in promoting culinary excellence, and we are immensely grateful for their unwavering commitment to our mission. A special thanks goes to our main sponsor, Unico Primo, for their outstanding support. Unico Primo epitomizes uniqueness by offering traditional yet distinctive Mediterranean-style products of the highest quality, aligning seamlessly with our mission to celebrate Italian and Canadian cuisine.

As we express our gratitude for your continued support and commitment, we also eagerly anticipate the exciting journey ahead. CAMERA, will be a center for cultivating the entrepreneurial spirit in our youth, fostering connections with international companies, and nurturing innovation. CAMERA will feature a school of entrepreneurship and a professional kitchen to teach aspiring chefs the unique cooking methods and integrity of Italian cuisine, known not only for its exceptional taste but also for its health benefits.

It is an exciting time for the ICCO Canada and we thank you for joining us in celebrating the best of Italian food, drink and of course our outstanding winners of the 2023 ICCO-UNICO Pentola d'Oro Awards.



Tony Altomare



Partick Pelliccione



Corrado Paina



A large, stylized orange letter 'C' with a thick, rounded font.A large, stylized orange letter 'A' with a thick, blocky font.A large, stylized orange letter 'M' with a thick, blocky font.

THE PLACE WHERE CANADA MEETS ITALY, BUSINESS, INVESTMENTS, IN

A large, stylized orange letter 'U' with a thick, rounded font.A large, stylized orange letter 'H' with a thick, blocky font.A large, stylized orange letter 'VI' with a thick, blocky font.

Italian Chamber of Comm

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NOVATION AND COMMUNITY CONVERGE, AND OPPORTUNITIES ARISE

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2023

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*Dino Bianco*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
KRUGER PRODUCTS INC.**

Mr. Bianco has served as Chief Executive Officer of Kruger Products since March 9, 2018. Prior to that, he had an accomplished and highly successful career with Kraft Foods with broad and senior experience in finance, sales, marketing, and senior management. As President of Kraft Canada, Mr. Bianco successfully led a business with 23 brands, 11 facilities and with more than 5,000 employees.

---

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---

He has extensive U.S. and foodservice experience having served as President of Kraft's U.S. Beverage division based in Chicago prior to joining Kruger Products.

Mr. Bianco has also developed a strong relationship with North American retailers over his career and in 2013 was the recipient of the Food Industry Association of Canada's "Golden Pencil" award recognizing his lifetime contribution to the grocery sector. He also has been recognized with the Award of Distinction by FHCP (Food Health Products Canada). Mr. Bianco holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Toronto and is a Chartered Professional Accountant.

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*David Rocco*

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---

Author of three Internationally Bestselling cookbooks, Chef Rocco launched his own line of pasta and sauces across Canada and the US last year. In the summer of 2021, David opened his first Canadian establishment, David Rocco - Bar Aperitivo in Toronto's Yorkville neighbourhood making it on Canada's 100 Best Restaurant list.

A global celebrity, David is seen in over 100 countries around the world – including National Geographic, Fox Life, Food Network and Cooking Channel, BBC Food, Hola! TV, and TLN. David has been a trailblazer in food television, breaking down barriers and stereotypes to bring cultures together through the love of sharing a meal.



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*Paul Spagnuolo*

**GM PANE FRESCO AND  
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Paul joined the Retail Grocery business at Fortinos Supermarkets (co-founded in 1961 by his parents) in Hamilton, Ontario. Progressing through various roles within Fortinos, Paul quickly became a vital part of its success as the VP of Procurement and Merchandising along with his team.

---

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

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Jan K. Overweel

---

In 1998 Paul moved to Loblaws to assume the role of Vice President (VP) of Procurement focused on Ethnic Foods, Supplies, and Health Foods.

In 2003 he became the VP of Procurement for Bakery and Seafood. He moved throughout the business for several years until 2010 where he became the GM of the Pane Fresco Commissary shifting his focus to gathering a great team to create and implement the Pane Fresco concept within Fortinos stores. In 2014, Paul took on the additional responsibility of the Fortinos Meat Production Facility – which began with his father's (Umberto Spagnuolo) sausage recipe – still authentically a staple today. Paul has been driven by his passion for quality food offerings, while being supported by his wife, Adriana of 44 years and his 3 children, Robert, Christian and Ariana.



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*Fil Bucchino*

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Fil Bucchino, Florence-born and Toronto-bred, has passionately championed premium extra virgin olive oil globally for over twenty years.

With the mission of "No Grove Abandoned," he founded Abandoned Grove, producing limited extra virgin olive oil from revived groves. Today, thanks to this endeavour, over 5,000 olive trees thrive.

---

**BUONISSIMO AWARD**

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---

Fil hosted and co-produced the critically acclaimed documentary "Obsessed with Olive Oil."

His academic background in BioMedical Sciences and his vibrant past as a professional musician bring a unique view to his commitment to olive oil. In 2023, Italy's AIRO (Italian Association of Olive Oil Restaurants) recognized his contributions to the olive oil industry, awarding him "Olive Oil Personality of the Year." Furthermore, Fil is the sole Canadian recognized in the Italian Directory of Virgin and Extra Virgin Olive Oil Experts. He's also one of only four North Americans listed in the ONAOO International Register, the historic Ligurian institution nominated him to represent their first international chapter in 2017.



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*Massimo Zitti*

**BARTENDER & CO-OWNER, MOTHER  
COCKTAIL BAR; HOST SECRET  
DINERS; AMBASSADOR WORLD  
CLASS CANADA**

Massimo Zitti (aka Massi) is an enthusiastic bartender and bar operator working in the hospitality industry pretty much all his life. Started at 14 years old working as a junior barista he found his true passion for drinks at the tender age of 17 and never turned back travelling to 7 different countries (Wales, England, Spain, Andorra, France, Sri Lanka & Canada).

---

## BEST SIGNATURE COCKTAIL AWARD

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---

After running several bar programs for other established venues and companies he finally opened a small fermentation-sustainability cocktail bar focused on Queen Street called Mother Cocktail Bar which was number 37 at the latest 50 Best North America Awards. He also started a culinary event company called "Secret Diners" where different brands and chefs showcase their talents throughout themed pairing dinners.

Massimo was crowned World Class Canadian Champion in 2022 and 5th on the Global stage the same year.

In 2023 he was coaching Jacob Martin who achieved a global winning at the same competition. For Massi, hospitality is everything and he tries to blend it with art, hard work & and feelings, bringing an honest, humble guest' experience.



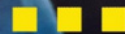
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A woman is shown in profile, looking upwards with a thoughtful expression. Her hand is raised, with fingers slightly spread, as if reaching towards something. The background is a dark blue space filled with white stars and a network of white lines connecting dots, suggesting a digital or technological theme. A large yellow frame surrounds the central text area.

# Is collaboration or competition the spark that ignites innovation?

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# Camille Arcese

## CORDON BLEU CHEF AND TV HOST

In 2011 Camille stepped out of her comfort zone and took a leap of faith. In the wake of a major life transition, without a home to return to, she put her 10-year modeling career on hold, packed up her life, and moved to Paris for a year of culinary school at Le Cordon Bleu. There, she put her head down and focused, losing herself in the kitchen and honing her skills.

Since then, a world of creativity in the food, media, and lifestyle spaces opened to Camille and she found herself trying on many hats. For a time, she worked as a private chef in Toronto, Miami, and New York, catering for special occasions ranging from intimate dinners to large corporate events. From there she got into food and event styling, working with diverse clients. But what she always wanted to do was cook on television like the chefs who inspired her as a child, and in 2013 Camille became a chef and entertaining expert. Despite her classic French training, Camille's cooking style is unfussy and focuses on creating simple deliciousness using whatever she has on hand or happens to be craving. For her, it's all about gathering people around the table and showing love through food. As she also earned a master's degree in teaching, she infuses little, easy-to-digest lessons on the fundamentals of cooking in everything she does, especially in her social media and YouTube content.

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EMCEE

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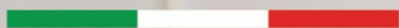
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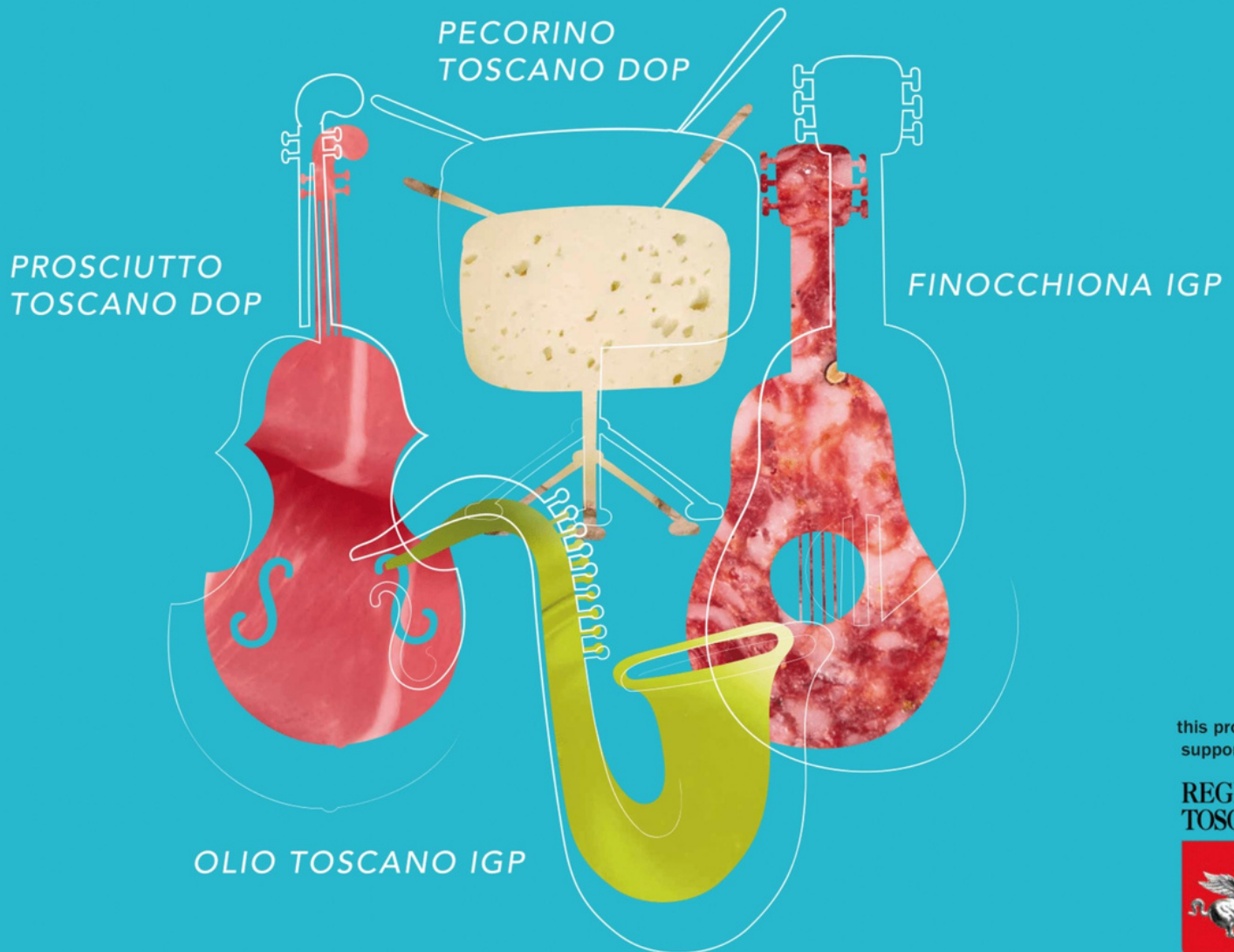


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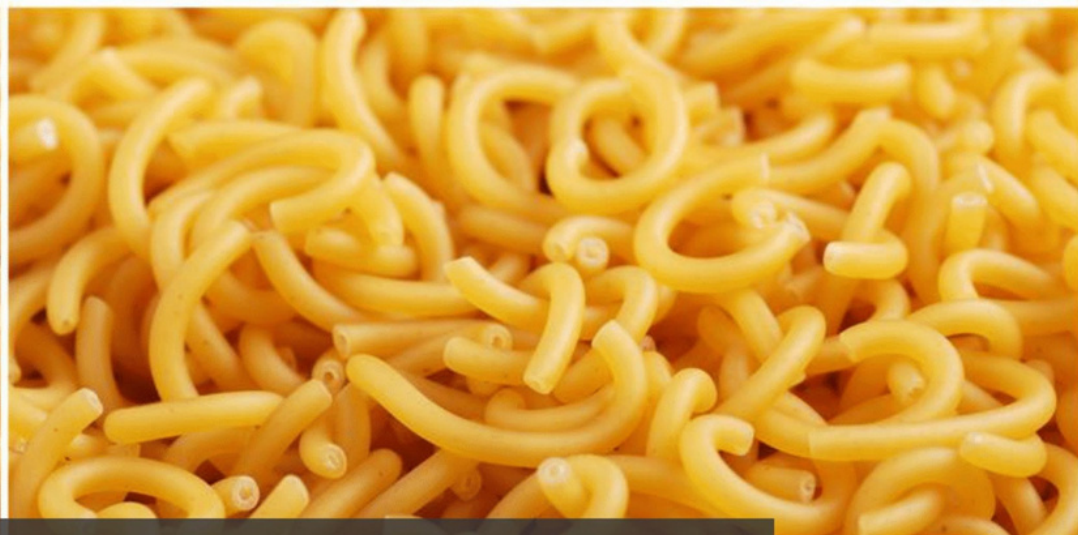
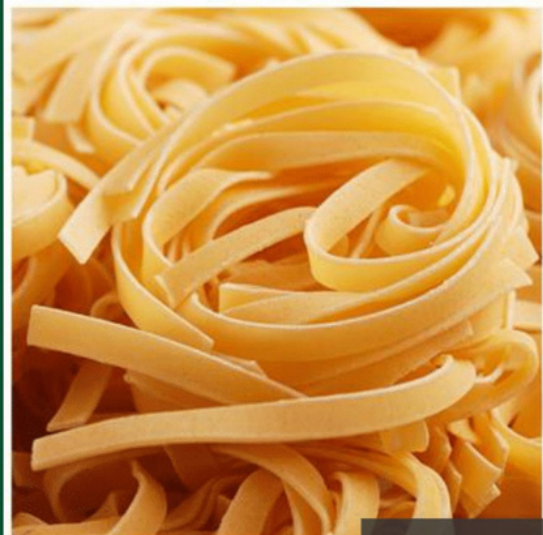
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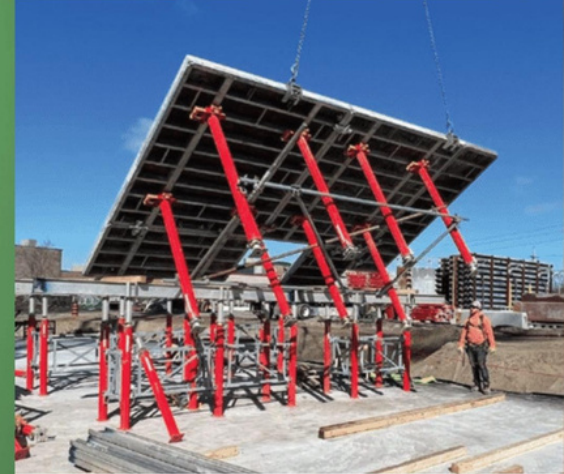




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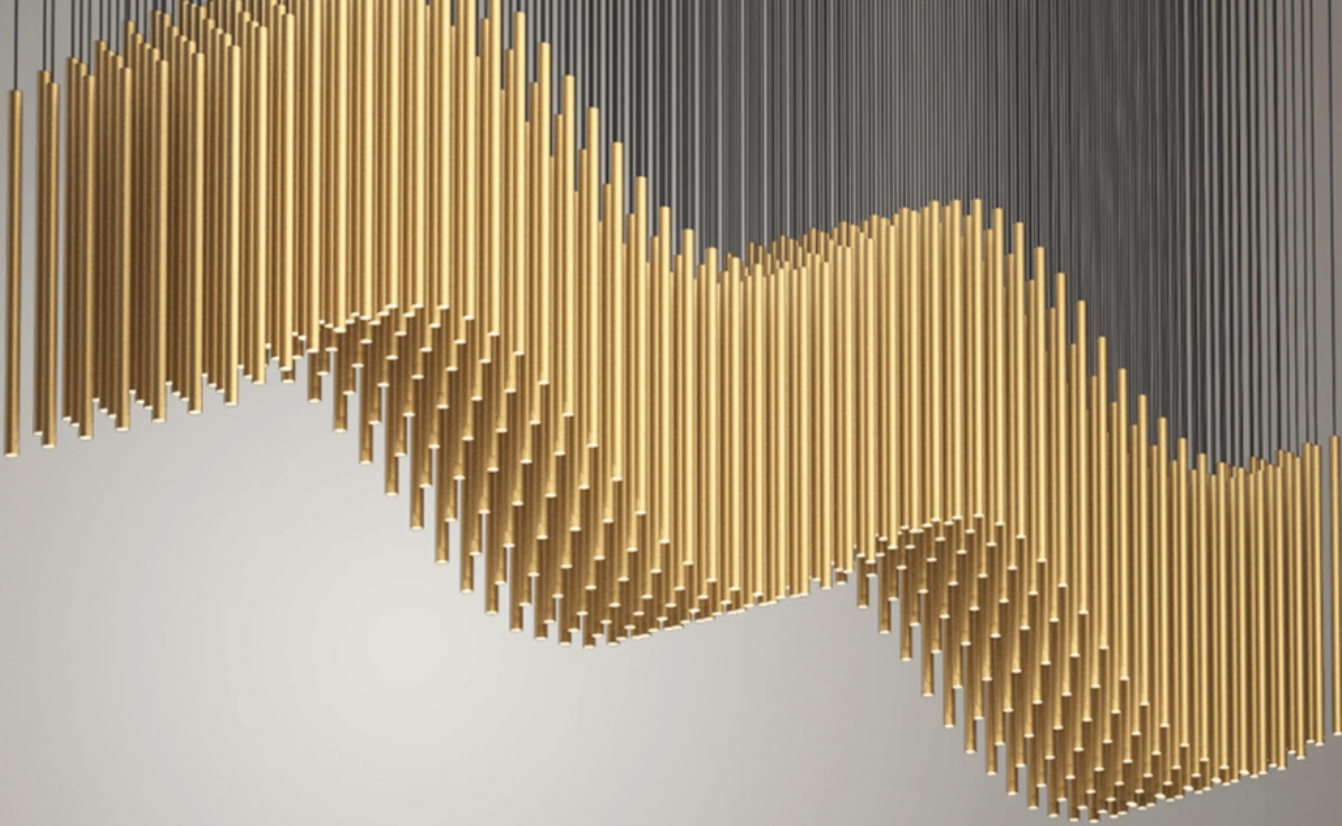
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# Pentola d'Oro P

## 2022

PENTOLA D'ORO AWARD – Paul Bravi, Food Basics, Metro Ontario  
ITALY – CANADA AWARD – Francesco Zulian, Italiana FoodTech  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – Frank Commisso, Commisso Estate Winery  
INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEUR AWARD – Alex Barrotti, Touch Bistro  
BEST GELATO AWARD – Gemma Gelateria  
FAVOURITE HOTSPOT AWARD – Il Covo

## 2021

PENTOLA D'ORO AWARD – Cataldi Fresh Market Inc.  
ITALY – CANADA AWARD – Eataly Toronto  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – Rossana Di Zio Magnotta, Magnotta Winery  
INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEUR AWARD – Giulietta Restaurant

## 2020

PENTOLA D'ORO AWARD – Gabriele Torchetti, Lady York Foods  
ITALY – CANADA AWARD – Massimo Capra, Capra's Kitchen  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – Joe Pulla, Johnvince Group of Companies  
INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEUR AWARD, Salvatore Mele, Mele Group  
ITALIAN WINE AWARD – Halpern Enterprises

## 2019

PENTOLA D'ORO AWARD – Gus Longo, Longo  
ITALY – CANADA AWARD – Frank Gambioli, Loblaw Companies Limited  
FAVOURITE HOTSPOT AWARD – Avenue Cibi e Vini  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – Gesualdo Mastruzzo, Numage Trading Inc.  
BEST GELATO AWARD – Punto Gelato  
LCBO BEST PERFORMING ITALIAN SUPPLIER AWARD – Santa Margherita Gruppo Vinicolo

## 2018

JAN K. OVERWEEL LTD. PENTOLA D'ORO AWARD  
AIR CANADA TRUE ITALIAN TA  
PIZZA NOVA FAVOURITE HOTSPOT  
BEST PIZZA AWARD – Pizzeria V

## 2017

JAN K. OVERWEEL LTD. PENTOLA D'ORO AWARD  
CITY OF VAUGHAN ITALY- CANADA AWARD  
CITY OF TORONTO FAVOURITE HOTSPOT AWARD

## 2016

PENTOLA D'ORO AWARD – Carlo  
ITALY-CANADA AWARD – Domenico  
FAVOURITE HOTSPOT AWARD

## 2015

PENTOLA D'ORO AWARD – Lorenzo  
ITALY-CANADA AWARD – Tumi  
FAVOURITE HOTSPOT AWARD

# Best Winners

OLA D'ORO AWARD – Pusateri's Fine Foods  
STE ITALY- CANADA AWARD – Rob Nella, Nella Cutlery  
SPOT AWARD – Aria Ristorante  
Via Mercanti

OLA D'ORO AWARD – Vince Scornaienechi, Fortinos  
ADA AWARD – Pietro Nenci, Costco  
E HOTSPOT AWARD – Noce Restaurant

rmine Fortino, Metro  
enic Primucci, Pizza Nova  
– Rob Gentile, La Buca

ngo  
no  
– Terroni

## 2014

ITALY CANADA AWARD – Massimo Mottura  
FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY AWARD – Mary Dalimonte  
2014 MARCHIO OSPITALITÀ AWARD  
Cibo Wine Bar -Toronto  
ORO Restaurant -Toronto  
La Fenice Ristorante -Toronto  
Claudio's Ristorante – Hamilton  
Sorrento Ristorante- Maple

## 2013

Joe Vitale





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