

Street food culinary competition at VCCT Maribor

Vocational College for Catering and Tourism Maribor is a modern and European oriented school always looking for innovative and creative ideas. Embraced with the awareness of the importance of local ingredients and working for the benefit of the community, VCCT Maribor carried out a special project named *GOURMET XMAS STREET FIGHT*. Thinking about Christmas holidays and the end of the year brought the idea of organising street food culinary competition thus giving the citizens of Maribor two days of culinary and festive experience and opportunity to socialise with friends and taste snacks prepared by students of VCCT.

The project was also inspired by the past, the life, and the development of this part of the town in the previous century. Cafova and its neighbouring streets were once the centre of the city due to the vicinity of the Southern Railway. The building of VCCT was once a home of the prestigious hotel Zur Stadt Wien and later on the first cinema in the city.

The two-day event took place just before Christmas on 22th and 23th December from 2 pm until 6 pm on Cafova Street in front of the building of VCCT. Five teams of students competed in the competition, and each team was composed of three students – a chef, a waiter and an animator. Each team had to prepare and decorate their own Christmas stand as a whole with their offer of food and drink and decoration. Visitors had to buy coupon to taste the offer of one team. On the first day of the competition, five teams were doing their best to attract and convince as many guests as possible to buy their coupon and the best three teams competed in the finals on the second day of the competition. The team with the highest number of sold coupons won.

The competition was not the only part of the project. At the dusk special Christmas lights on the building of VCCT started to sparkle together with the projection of old photos of the street and its buildings presenting on the building's front. Following this projection was the fashion installation of the neighbouring hair salon Studio Orange presenting models with their special outfit and hairstyles. Fashion installation took place on the first floor of the building behind the glass wall.

However, this was not the end of surprises prepared by VCCT. Holidays, filled with nostalgia and memories, triggered the idea of creating the winter fairy tale of snowy nature in the centre of the city. Summer lounge of the school Restaurant 7 was covered and turned into a transparent winter pavilion offering guests an atmosphere of a warm comfortable living room. Our aim was to bring beautiful winter nature to the city centre thus giving our guests a new place to socialise and give their taste buds a special treat.

This project was the last activity of a very successful and creative year 2016. VCCT Maribor is looking forward to a new year filled with possibilities and new projects.



Photo: Christmas lights on the VCCT building (photo: VCCT Maribor)



Photo: Cafova Street during the event (photo: VCCT Maribor)



Photo: Winning team of students (photo: Mediaspeed)



Photo: Fashion installation of Studio Orange (photo: Mediaspeed)



Photo: Winter pavilion on the terrace of the Restaurant 7 (photo: Mediaspeed)