



Homes-Extra

NEW HOMES & CONDOS

Albi cookin' up new designs in The Galleria

Albi Homes opened its new design studio, The Galleria, in tasty fashion with a night filled with a passion for food and fine Italian wine.

Lauren Barr

CALGARY SUN

And a surprise birthday party for Albi's founder and co-chair, Tom Mauro. The evening took place on Feb. 25 and featured an exclusive cooking demonstration in the Tuscan-inspired gourmet "cucina" (kitchen) found in the Galleria with celebrity chef David Rocco of the Food Network and TLN.

Rocco was assisted by the Three Italian Mamas — Caterina Caracciolo, Vittoria Cioffi and Maria Giannatelli, from Mercato's Gourmet Cultura, a presenting sponsor of the evening.

While the chefs enjoyed some good-natured banter back and forth, the real winners were the audience, who enjoyed some five-star food,

including Rocco's beet risotto.

"Chef Rocco was a highlight of the Galleria grand opening," said Allan Klassen, president and managing partner of Albi Homes. "His enthusiasm, commitment to high quality and his brilliant presentation mirrors Albi's home-building philosophy."

The evening included a surprise for Mauro, with the private event being the forum to announce the creation of the Tom Mauro Endowment Fund, in support of SAIT Polytechnic students.

"I had no idea about the development of the endowment fund," said Mauro. "Anyone who knows me knows that I am passionate about carpentry and Italian food. Tonight was a celebration of both of my passions with the added honour of the endowment fund."

All proceeds raised at the event, through donations and live auction items, will be allocated to the

endowment fund.

The Galleria features close to 5,000 sq. ft. of premium quality products and interior finishes, in an environment that captures the sophistication of Old World luxury.

The Galleria embodies the "timeless elegance" that Albi Homes is known for, while offering the latest design-forward products by a team of industry professionals unique to Albi.

Each of the impeccably decorated rooms in the Galleria showcases the beautiful products available, from tiles, flooring, bathtubs and plumbing to luxury materials and more.

"The Galleria will be inspiring and, at the same time, will simplify the experience for our customers," Klassen said.

"We continue to strive towards delivering world-class products and services for each and every homeowner and this venue allows us to do just that."



LAUREN BARR/CALGARY SUN

Italian Mamas Vittoria Cioffi, left, Caterina Caracciolo and Maria Giannatelli were in the Italian-inspired kitchen with Tom Mauro, right, Albi Homes founder and co-chair, at the opening of Albi's the Galleria.