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THE NEXT GEN-ERATION OF GLUTEN FREE BAKING

Martha Perkins

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Hamid Salimian and Jennifer Peters gave people a taste of their new product at Mijune Paks (centre) 6 Course Discourse as part of Dine Out Vancouver. — Martha Perkins

For the past year and half, Hamid Salimian and Jennifer Peters have turned their house into a test kitchen.

The husband and wife chef duo have developed a new line of gluten-free baking products called NextJen Gluten Free. And once their website gets up and running in the next week or so, they'll also be posting the 45 recipes that they've created to best showcase the products.

Hopefully consumers will have an easier time because we've done all the legwork, Salimian said as his wife presented their smoked salmon canapés at the 6 Course Discourse Jan. 20.

Peters (La Belle Auberge, Raincity Grill) is gluten-intolerant but wasn't willing to give up all the breads and baked goods she loved. The gluten-free all-purpose flours she could find on the market didn't quite sift it for her.

All recipes calling for flour aren't created equal. What's good for the cookie isn't always good for the pastry. She and Salimian (Diva at the Mets executive chef and now at teacher at Vancouver Community College) tried out different combinations for different recipes, coming up with the

best mix. (A frozen puff pastry still eludes her but shes working on it.)

The products will be available through their website, NextJen.ca, as well as soon-to-be-determined retail outlets.

This weekend sees the return of the Gluten Free Expo. Given that BC leads other provinces in the number of people who follow a gluten-free diet, organizers are expecting a crowd. (Last year they seemed a tad overwhelmed.) Its January 25 and 26 from 10am to 4pm at the PNEs forum. Go to GlutenFreeExpo.ca for details on speakers, products and tickets (\$12 or \$15 at the door.)

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