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FOOD NETWORK CANADA SPROUTS A SIZZLING NEW SPRING SCHEDULE

Corus Studios' *The Big Bake: Spring* Debuts on March 31 Welcoming Yolanda Gampp, Raiza Costa and Debbie Wingham as Guest Judges

Top Performing Series *Buddy vs. Duff* Returns for a Rematch on March 15

New Series *Tournament of Champions* and *Chopped Sweets* Join the Schedule



(L-R: Brad Smith, Eddie Jackson, Harry Eastwood and Debbie Wingham of *The Big Bake: Spring*)

Photo Courtesy of Food Network Canada

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For Immediate Release

TORONTO, February 19, 2020 – Spring has sprung on **Food Network Canada!** The season warms up with fresh competition series featuring fan-favourite hosts, sensationally sweet standoffs, and fiery culinary battles. Beginning **March 8**, the new series ***Tournament of Champions*** hosted by **Guy Fieri** debuts at **9 p.m. ET/PT** and *Chopped* spinoff ***Chopped Sweets***, with host **Scott Conant** premieres on **March 10 at 10 p.m. ET/PT**. Food Network Canada's most-watched show in over 5 years* and ranking in the Top 10 specialty entertainment programs**, the epic baking battle ***Buddy vs. Duff*** makes its exciting return on **March 15 at 10 p.m. ET/PT**, with a one-hour special at **8 p.m. ET/PT**. The series sees longtime rivals **Buddy Valastro** (*Cake Boss*) and **Duff Goldman** (*Ace of Cakes*) return to battle in round two as each elite baker faces difficult challenges that test what it means to be a true cake artist. New season

premieres continue throughout spring with returning series ***Spring Baking Championship*** on March 9 at 9 p.m. ET/PT and a highly-anticipated all-stars season of ***Top Chef*** on March 19 at 10 p.m. ET/PT.

On **March 31 at 9 p.m. ET/PT**, Corus Studios' seasonally themed baking competition series, *The Big Bake*, branches out and blooms with *The Big Bake: Spring*. A celebrity chef guest judge joins each episode including Kin Community Canada's **Yolanda Gapp** of *How to Cake It*, pastry chef **Raiza Costa**, and luxury cake designer **Debbie Wingham**. The first new episode "Cute and Cuddly Creatures" showcases teams from: Milton, Ont., Toronto, Ont., and Superior, Colo., as they create astonishing cakes featuring adorable animals. Throughout the episodes, the pantry is stocked with high-quality flour from **Ardent Mills**, for the baking teams to create their ambitious cake designs. For a full list of the competing spring teams and to learn more about the key cast, please visit foodnetwork.ca.

Food Network Canada's spring slate includes:

***Tournament of Champions* (1x90, 3x60, 1x90)**

New series premieres Sunday, March 8 at 9 p.m. ET/PT

Tournament of Champions features 16 talented chefs going head-to-head as Guy Fieri puts their cooking skills to the test in a series of challenges using ingredients and special cooking tools and equipment, all while racing against the clock.

***Spring Baking Championship, Season 6* (9x60)**

New season premieres Monday, March 9 at 9 p.m. ET/PT

Eleven talented bakers are tested to create extraordinary, jaw-dropping spring treats for a chance to be crowned Spring Baking Champion and win the \$25,000 grand prize. In each episode host **Clinton Kelly** introduces the bakers to two demanding rounds of spring-themed challenges that push the limits of their skills, imagination and ingenuity, as the bakers must impress judges **Nancy Fuller**, **Duff Goldman** and **Lorraine Pascale** for a coveted spot in the finale.

***Chopped Sweets* (12x60)**

New series premieres Tuesday, March 10 at 10 p.m. ET/PT

In a sweet spinoff of the ultimate culinary competition, host Scott Conant challenges four bold pastry artists to take on one of the toughest tests of their lives. Faced with baffling basket ingredients and an unrelenting clock, the sensational, sugar-savvy chefs must demonstrate their skill, concentration and imagination as they race to see who will claim the \$10,000 prize.

***Buddy vs. Duff, Season 2* (1x60 Special, 7x60, 1x90)**

New special premieres March 15 at 8 p.m. ET/PT

New season premieres March 15 at 10 p.m. ET/PT

Longtime rivals Buddy Valastro and Duff Goldman go head-to-head in round two of the most epic baking battle. This season's supersized cake creations will push the limit of imagination and ingenuity, as they are judged on a point system based on creativity, difficulty, adherence to the theme and the incorporation of a special challenging element. The pressure is on as the two biggest names in cake vie to rise to the top to be crowned king!

***Top Chef: All-Stars LA, Season 17* (14x60)**

New season premieres March 19 at 10 p.m. ET/PT

Top Chef: All Stars LA features the fiercest group of competitors the show has seen with 15 finalists, front runners and fan-favourites from seasons past who have all returned to finish what they started and battle it out for the coveted title. The Emmy and James Beard Award-winning series returns with host **Padma Lakshmi**, head judge **Tom Colicchio** and judge **Gail Simmons**.

***The Big Bake: Spring* (7x60)**

New episodes of *The Big Bake: Spring* premiere March 31 at 9 p.m. ET/PT

Corus Studios' *The Big Bake* is a larger-than-life holiday baking competition series with themed Halloween (4x60), holiday (7x60) and spring (7x60) episodes. In each episode, three professional baking teams have five hours to design, bake and decorate a grand-scale cake creation based on a particular theme. These bakers need to think big and bold, blowing up their designs to gigantic proportions and

thinking outside the (bakery) box. In the end, the most ambitious, eye-popping and delicious cake will go home with a \$10,000 prize. *The Big Bake* is hosted by television personality and restaurateur, **Brad Smith**, with resident judges, celebrity chef **Eddie Jackson**, and author and television personality **Harry Eastwood**.

For more scheduling information, recipes and inspiration, visit foodnetwork.ca.

Sources:

*Numeris PPM Data, Sep 1/14 – Jan 26/20, confirmed data, 3 + airings, A25-54, F25-54, AMA(000), Total Canada, Food Network

**Numeris PPM Data, SP'19 (Dec 31/18 – May 26/19), confirmed data, 3 + airings, A25-54, F25-54, AMA(000), CDN SPEC COM ENG – excluding sports, Total Canada

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#TheBigBake

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