



## Press Release

### **SPRAUVE WINS SPOT ON 2010 BVI CULINARY TEAM**

**Road Town, Tortola, November 23, 2009** – Elton Sprauve, owner and bartender at Virgin Gorda's Mine Shaft Restaurant beat a field of seven other contenders for the single spot of bartender on the British Virgin Islands 2010 Culinary Team.

Excited about representing the Territory, Sprauve shared that he received some hospitality training in the United States, but always had a dream of coming back to his home island of Virgin Gorda to make a contribution in the tourism industry. "I have worked all over in the United States but my goal was to always come home and establish a good product. At the Mine Shaft, we want to stay involved, we want to make it work for the betterment of tourism and the BVI. I believe that the BVI has a good tourism product and we just need to stay involved to make it work."

Chairman of the BVI Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association (BVICCHA), Dr Birney Harrigan expressed gratitude to all participating establishments. "The competition was truly fun, we had a great time and the hospitality industry really supported us, and we are grateful for that partnership." Dr Harrigan also commented on Sprauve, a son of Virgin Gorda being selected as the winner of the bartending competition. "His performance was outstanding. He is very charismatic and he loves to entertain obviously and bartending seems to be an art of his." She also added, "It is good to have Territory wide representation on the Culinary Team and I think that will enhance and strengthen the team and really be a true representation of the British Virgin Islands."

Acting Director of the BVI Tourist Board, Hadassah Ward, also



congratulated Sprauve on his win. “We are glad to know that the BVICCHA made every effort to include professionals in the hospitality sector on as many of our islands as possible. Mr Sprauve is known for his showmanship at the Mine Shaft and I look forward to him showing the rest of the Caribbean what the BVI has to mix up at the bar. I join with the entire Virgin Gorda community and the wider hospitality sector to congratulate him on this success.” Ward also congratulated the efforts of all participating bartenders and urges them to stay involved in the industry and follow the 2010 Culinary Team.

There were two rounds of competition before the winner was finally selected. Contenders were judged on their mixture of three drinks, a non – alcoholic drink, a rum drink and a vodka drink. Additionally, they were judged on presentation, creativity and showmanship.

The first round of competition was held at Charlie’s Restaurant on October 30. The three competitors in that round were; Wycliffe Gumbs of The Boathouse, Prince Joseph of Myetts and Shavon Stoutt of Bananakeet. The second round was held at Village Cafe on Virgin Gorda, on Wednesday, November 18. Including Sprauve, competitors included, Ernest “Captain” Francis of Biras Creek Resort, Simon SanXavier of The Rock Café, Japheth Destoucha of Charlie’s Restaurant, and Andre Felix of Bitter End Yacht Club. On Wednesday Gumbs was also named the alternate bartender. In the event Sprauve is unable to compete, Gumbs will compete as the team’s bartender.

Dates for the pastry and cooking chefs’ competition will be announced in the coming weeks. The competitions are organised by the BVICCHA with support from the BVI Tourist Board. Sponsorship for the bartender’s competition came from Road Town Wholesale. Once selected, the BVI Culinary Team will travel to the annual Taste of the Caribbean Competition and participate in local and regional culinary events.

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**Note to Editors:**

**Caption for the attached photograph** – Elton Sprauve, owner and bartender at Virgin Gorda's Mine Shaft Restaurant beat a field of seven other contenders for the single spot of bartender on the British Virgin Islands 2010 Culinary Team. (photo courtesy of BVITB/S. Barnes)

