Makan highlights

Culinary news and happenings in the country worth marking your calendar for this month

BY DIANA KHOO

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WHAT: Tuna-cutting ceremony

WHERE: Kampachi Pavilion KL

WHEN: Nov 16 at 12.30pm

A 50th anniversary celebration requires bells and whistles on it. And the Kampachi chain of restaurants, founded at the original Hotel Equatorial Kuala Lumpur in 1974 and certainly the country's oldest Japanese dining room, aims to do just that. Sushi culinary circles have traditionally been the domain of male chefs, although women are beginning to make their presence felt. As such, Kampachi aims to pay tribute to this groundbreaking shift by welcoming Rai Yamashita and Yume Ikeda, two pioneering female sashimi chefs from Japan's Ehime Prefecture, to lead a tuna-cutting ceremony on Nov 16 at 12.30pm.

"For 50 years, we've committed ourselves to preserving and elevating Japanese culinary traditions. Hosting the first lady tuna-cutting chefs from Ehime in Malaysia is not just an event but also very much part of the pioneering heritage Kampachi has developed over the decades," says Donald Lim, managing director of Kampachi Restaurants Sdn Bhd. "Many of our customers will recognise the innovation that has been a characteristic of Kampachi all these years: the Japanese buffets now mainstream in Malaysia's dining scene got its start at the Kampachi with its legendary Sunday Buffet; the introduction of saké (and today's artisanal varieties from breweries with centuries of history); leading the way with Kobe beef at a time when wagyu was not even part of the lexicon among diners locally. So much of what is commonplace today among diners got its introduction to Malaysia by Kampachi."

Tuna fillets prepared by the two chefs will be available for immediate sale after the ceremony. Promising tuna of exceptional freshness and quality, guests are invited to dine in or take away as they wish. Should you opt for the former, do know that Kampachi will also offer a curated lunch menu priced at RM478+ after the tuna-cutting demonstration. (kampachi.com.my)