FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, BC | May 6, 2009: For food aficionados, few places in North America have as much to offer as Quebec City and its surrounding countryside. Chef Eric Arrouzé knows this first-hand: for the third summer he will lead a group of adult learners on a two-week UBC Continuing Studies program in July and August to explore the culinary landscape of Quebec and to refine their cooking skills in an “old world” cooking school. Arrouzé, a well-known local French chef and culinary arts instructor, asserts that the Quebec City area is as rich in cultural and culinary discoveries as anywhere in Europe. According to Arrouzé, the program provides all the benefits of a cooking school in France or Italy without the expense or travel.

Enthusiates one of last year’s participants: “I really enjoyed exploring Quebec City and the surrounding region, and getting to know the other participants. The visits to local farms were very enjoyable and informative. Chef Eric is a wonderful teacher, an amazing and creative chef, and a great storyteller!”

Offered in cooperation with the Collège Mérici of Quebec City, participants in the Culinary and Historical Discovery of Quebec City are housed on campus and take daily hands-on culinary classes with Chef Arrouzé in the college’s professional state-of-the-art teaching kitchen. When not in the kitchen classroom, participants are taken to the spectacular countryside around Quebec City, visiting farms and small local food producers, to procure the ingredients they will use in regional specialities such as Saguenay Lac St-Jean blueberry tartlets, tarte au sucre des Quebeccois and venison steaks with blackcurrant sauce. They also make time to tour the historical wonders of Quebec’s capital city and savour some of its finest restaurant dining.

The Quebec City culinary arts program is just one of the distinctive courses from UBC Continuing Studies Languages, Cultures & Travel which aim to reinforce learning a language with the study of the cultural (and culinary) traditions of those parts of the world in which the language is spoken. Classes are in English, but the program offers plenty of opportunities to practice speaking French with local residents as well as with Chef Arrouzé. Details of the program can be viewed at www.languages.ubc.ca/travel/

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Photographs from the 2008 Culinary and Historical Discovery of Quebec City available upon request.