



Executive Chef Dave Vargas and owner Smoky Odom serve Duck Liver Paté and Sticky Toffee Pudding at the Tutto Bene booth, which featured a train traveling around an Antipasto Platter during the 2007 Taste of St. Croix. The Taste of St. Croix and the St. Croix Foundation are sponsoring a three-week training class for young people interested in entering the hospitality industry.

Taste of St. Croix, STX Foundation sponsoring food service course

ST. CROIX — The Taste of St. Croix and the St. Croix Foundation are sponsoring a three-week training class for young people interested in entering the hospitality industry.

The schedule and curriculum are being coordinated by Anton Doos, EdX at CTEC, to teach the basic aspects of food preparation and service. The course is open to 12 students, at least 16 years old, who will be required to follow school policies and rules of attendance. The applicants cannot be current culinary students at the CTCX.

Roger Dewey of the St. Croix Foundation said that funds are set aside each year from A Taste of St. Croix's net income to advance the hospitality industry on the big island.

"We're excited to work with Anton Doos to introduce an important first step in St. Croix's hospitality training for young people," he said.

Topics covered in the half-day workshops will include safety and sanitation; knife skills; basic food knowledge; hot and cold food preparation and customer service. The course will run July 16 to Aug. 2 for a total of 36 hours. Graduates will receive a certificate.

A Taste of St. Croix was started in 2000 by Kelly Odom, of Tutto Bene, and Katherine Pugliese, of Restaurant Baechus, to celebrate the food service industry and to showcase the island's variety of talented

restaurants, caterers and wine purveyors. Proceeds from A Taste of St. Croix are donated to the St. Croix Foundation because of the Foundation's deep impact on the community, according to Odom and Pugliese. With monies raised, the St. Croix Foundation is able to continue to focus on such important initiatives as public safety, education, economic development and community revitalization in addition to supporting hospitality and tourism on the island of St. Croix.

Applicants are asked to contact the Foundation, 773-9896, or staff@stxfoundation.org, for an application. The applicants will be interviewed and considered on a "first-come, first-served" basis.