

Roasted bone marrow helps raise \$200,000

STIMES0020071114e3bf0002h

Life! - Life News

Huang Lijie

341 Words

15 November 2007

Straits Times

English

(c) 2007 Singapore Press Holdings Limited

ROASTED calf leg bones isn't something one would imagine being served at a sophisticated gala dinner.

But British chef Fergus Henderson, 44, who is known for elevating offal to haute cuisine, had 250 guests at the charity dinner for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (Unifem) digging marrow out of the bones on Tuesday night, when he served his signature dish, roasted bone marrow and parsley salad.

The Say No To Oppression Of Women Benefit, held at the Conrad Centennial Singapore, raised a three-year record high of some \$200,000, surpassing its \$160,000 target.

Tables for the benefit, priced at \$5,000 and \$10,000 for 10 and 12 people respectively, were snapped up two months before the event.

Proceeds will go towards supporting Unifem's anti-trafficking initiatives in the Mekong region and the Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre, which helps women and girls who have been trafficked illegally integrate back into society.

The event, jointly organised by Unifem Singapore and the Financial Women's Association of Singapore, featured a nine-course dinner prepared by four chefs from the world's top 100 restaurants, as rated by the prestigious British food magazine, Restaurant.

Aside from chef Henderson of St John in London (ranked 34), there were also Shannon Bennett, 32, of Vue de Monde in Melbourne (ranked 71); Sam Leong, 41, of My Humble House in Singapore (ranked 94); and Justin North, 32, of Becasse in Sydney (ranked 96).

Chef Henderson also served a second course - smoked bacon with prunes and pig's trotters. Mr Michael Tan, 37, president of Fiji Water Asia, who attended the dinner with friends, found the dinner a 'well-organised' event and the food 'enlightening', particularly the roast bone marrow, which he was having for the first time.

The dishes were paired with wines donated by four women vintners from Bordeaux, France - Pauline Vauthier, Juliette Becot, Anabelle Cruse-Bardinet and Coralie de Bouard - worth a total of \$14,750.