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Flavours of China

*Discovering Montreal's Chinatown Foodstores
& a 10 course dinner at Tong Sing restaurant*

Friday, May 18, 2012

guided tour from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Meeting at Place d'Armes station, SW corner of Viger & St-Urbain
& dinner from 7:30 pm

Tong Sing restaurant

43, Gauchetière street
(Subway Place d'Armes station)

Costs : Guided tour \$7, Dinner \$23

RSVP (limited booking) at 514.885.5075 before May 17th, 2012

Montreal, March 1st, 2012 – After introducing the pleasures of the Indian and Tibetan flavours to Montreal's audience, after making them discover the refined, sophisticated and delicate aspects and flavours of the Japanese food, **Festival Accès Asie** invites you, this year, to make an intrusion in the Chinese culinary delights. A ten course Chinese meal is usually a festive celebration for special occasions and this special occasion and dinner will whet your tastebuds and fill your tummy for days to come. We are inviting you to come and discover the Montreal's Chinatown as you have never probably have seen it before, with a bilingual guided tour (in French & in English) of specific foods and ingredients for your home use and for your enjoyment. You will be able to appreciate all the peculiarities of this cooking that is more than one thousand years old before enjoying the flavours of the Chinese food while sharing dinner all together in one of the restaurants of Chinatown, at **Tong Sing** (<http://www.tongsing.ca/>).

The Chinese neighborhood or **Chinatown** is an area where you can find all kinds of Chinese and Asian products. Often people ask what is this, is this a vegetable, how do I cook it, where can I buy it, what is it called, how can I ask for it at Chinatown. Here is your chance to find out about all kinds of culinary delights. From simple ingredients, spices, dried products, sweets, barbecued pork, mock duck or chicken, Asian sweets, seeds, crackers, nuts, the numerous types and form of soya based products... the list is endless.

The Chinese area of Montreal is crossed by De la Gauchetière street and surrounded by four monumental gates. At the entrance of Montreal downtown, these huge multicoloured arches evoking the Chinese Empire welcome you in this little part of Asia. Walk in its pedestrian street, come to its typical and unique stores, its restaurants and grocery shops, you will feel like being in China for sure. Everything here helps you to feel this change of scene – the scents from the East, the bronze sculpted streetlights and cobblestones that decorate the street of De la Gauchetière, the commemorative park of Sun Yat-Sen and the hotel with pagodas on its roof.

The origins of the Chinese neighborhood go back to the 1850's. Around these years, the 'dragon people' began to settle in Canada working for the construction of the railways. It's in these streets of Montreal occupying roughly the area of a city block of the Saint-Laurent, officially named « Chinese area » in 1902, that the first Chinese opened their stores, restaurants and groceries. Montreal's Chinatown is a very vibrant area where we can still meet the Chinese diaspora and the descendants of the second and third generation. All the restaurants we can find, the numerous Chinese medicine stores and the recent construction of the Chinese hospital show the economical strength of this community and its intention to maintain this area very active.

Come to explore China walking in its neighborhood, its streets and grocery stores before getting the flavours of a rich gastronomy full of traditions where the colours, the scents and flavours, essential components of the Chinese food, will stimulate and awaken the visual and tasty pleasures of all the food lovers!

