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## ***Spicy Win at the Harvest Fair -- 13 Awards for Local Catering Duo***

SANTA ROSA, CA -- Two women who became friends while working as cooks at the Blue Heron in Duncans Mills over two decades ago have won this year's Sweepstakes Award for Best Appetizer as well as Best Use of Sonoma County Seafood at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair. Deborah Rodgers and Sherry Soleski of A La Heart Catering in Santa Rosa also received 11 other awards for their original food creations at the annual showcase of the county's finest food and wine offerings.

Their thriving business, which began in 1982 when the two chefs offered to cater an ex-boyfriend's wedding, has won numerous awards at past Harvest Fairs over the years as they've perfected their culinary creations and event planning skills. Now catering weddings, Wine Country and Bay area events as well as an increasing number of corporate functions, the food artistry of A La Heart Catering continues to garner recognition for its uniqueness and excellence.

With a client list that includes the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Sonoma County Bar Association, City of Santa Rosa, and many local wineries, Rodgers and Soleski now find their business evolving to more specifically serve the needs of the area's burgeoning professional community.

"One of the things our corporate clients comment upon is our ability to stay calm and cool and handle anything that arises," says Rodgers. "That, and our delicious food!" Soleski chimed in when discussing their new focus on servicing business gatherings of 50 - 500+.

Rodgers and Soleski said they were thrilled by their multiple wins and were quick to acknowledge their invaluable Food Production Team of Maureen Bader and Ricky Tokubo "who have contributed significantly to the creation of original recipes and continually infuse our business with their energy and creativity."

A quote appearing in Sonoma Style Magazine previously said of the caterers, “I’d choose A La Heart Catering because those ladies know the value of drama in a food presentation and the need for a sense of humor in the script.” “Oh, and we’re still catering for ex-boyfriends too!” Soleski added to underscore the light-hearted attitude the two are equally known for.

The public will have the opportunity to sample the award-winning team’s hors d’oeuvres at The Sonoma County’s Independent’s upcoming Indy Awards which will be held October 12th at the Paradise Ridge Winery and will feature the weekly publication’s 6th annual voter results for best picks on the local scene.

Cited as simple to prepare and exhibiting well-balanced flavors, A La Heart’s winning original recipe follows.

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