



**There's a First for Everything**  
*Paganelli's enters competition first time and takes home the first Diamond award*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Guelph, ON – October 28, 2015 – The Diamond Award was created in 2015 as a way to recognize the highest scoring product across all categories in the Ontario Finest Meat Competition™. First time entrants, Paganelli's Salumi of Toronto, took home the first top prize with their Gentile Salami.

Paganelli also took home four other awards that night - a Silver for their Lonza, and a Platinum each for their Pancetta Rolled, Fennel Cacciatore, and of course, the Gentile Salami.

“Needless to say we were surprised with the Diamond Award. Gabriele Paganelli certainly deserves this award, being relatively the new kid on the block and to take back such a prestigious award is definitely overwhelming,” says Rosie Scavuzzo, owner. “We can’t thank the judges enough for their time and recognizing the labor of love that goes into every submission.”

The 2015 Ontario Finest Meat Competition™, hosted by the Ontario Independent Meat Processors, attracted 148 entries from 18 Ontario processors. July 28 and 29, an impressive roster of knowledgeable, influential judges including retail buyers, media, chefs, authors and a home economist determined the award winners in each of 14 categories. See our behind the scenes [video](#).

Winners for Platinum, Gold, and Silver were announced at a gala event held in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Saturday October 24. Judging criteria was based on flavour, aroma, texture, uniqueness and visual appearance, and the top three entries from each category were selected based on the judges’ combined scores.

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**About Paganelli's Salumi and Speducci Mercato**

Business partners Gabriele Paganelli and Rosie Scavuzzo joined forces in early 2014, within a few short months Speducci Mercato located in the up and coming Design District became a successful and unique market destination in the West end of Toronto. While Scavuzzo oversees Speducci Mercato and developing the business and brands, Paganelli maintains Provincial Plant #6617 and oversees the product at Speducci Mercato.

**About the Ontario Finest Meat Competition™**

In 1987 the Ontario Independent Meat Processors (OIMP) launched its first meat competition with four categories and a handful of entries competing for peer recognition and bragging rights. The competition moved from an annual to a biennial competition in 2003 and now, in 2015, it is the largest of its kind in Canada with 14 categories that embrace both modern trends and the enduring heritage of Ontario’s artisanal meat and poultry products.

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