



Celebrity cooking contest, Battlechefs, sails on to W with P&O Cruises

March 30, 2016

Battlechefs, the first ever celebrity-led cookery contest set at sea featuring P&O Cruises ship, Britannia, will air on UKTV's W weekdays at 7pm from Monday April 4, 2016.

Filmed across two Mediterranean cruises, ten amateur celebrity chefs sail from port to port learning how to cook local specialities. With their new found skills they take it in turns to command Britannia's cookery club kitchen before being judged by the infamous restaurateur, **Marco Pierre White**, the ship's captain and his VIP guests.

The first voyage sees Blur's **Alex James**, comedian **Jenny Eclair**, actor **Debra Stephenson** (*Playing the Field*, *Bad Girls*), choreographer **Jason Gardiner** and Olympic gold medallist **Greg Rutherford** visit ports in Vigo, Lisbon, Cadiz, Valencia and Cartagena.

Episode one shown on Monday April 4, sees **Alex James** take on the role of head chef as the team visit Vigo in Spain and learn to cook octopus. But will Marco and the captain be impressed by what the trainee chefs serve up or will temperatures in the kitchen reach boiling point?

In the second cruise, shown from Monday April 11, **Keith Duffy** (*Coronation Street*), **John Partridge** (*EastEnders*), former JLS band member **JB Gill**, fashion expert **Susannah Constantine** and *The X Factor* winner **Sam Bailey** visit Barcelona, Rome, Cannes, Ajaccio and Alicante. But which of the five will dish up the winning meal?

Battlechefs will be shown on UKTV's premium entertainment channel W each weekday at 7pm from April 4. Tune in to see who will be crowned champion of the high seas.

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About P&O Cruises

P&O Cruises has a fleet of eight ships offering holidays tailored to British tastes combining genuine service, a sense of occasion and attention to detail, ensuring passengers have the holiday of a lifetime, every time. Azura was launched in April 2010 – officially named by Godmother Darcey Bussell CBE. Britannia, a new 141,000 ton ship, was named by HM The Queen on March 10, 2015.

About W

Sky 109/245, Virgin 124/191, BT & TalkTalk 311 On demand on Sky and Virgin

W is UKTV's premium entertainment channel, offering audiences a dazzling mix of original factual entertainment formats - *Get Me To The Church*, *Honey I Bought the House* - alongside hit shows from the US including *Code Black*,

Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders, CSI:NY, Grimm and The Strain plus the same day repeat of EastEnders.

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About UKTV

UKTV's eleven imaginative brands - UKTV Play, Dave, Watch, Gold, Alibi, Yesterday, Drama, Really, Home, Eden and Good Food - include the most popular non-PSB channel in the UK and account for 9% of the British commercial TV market. The company's most recent financial results showed record-breaking year-end revenue of £283m and EBITDA of £74.1m. It invested £123m in programming and related launches last year, and is becoming an increasingly significant investor in UK creativity.

UKTV has a truly innovative model, curating brand-defining commissions, high-profile acquisitions and the very best of BBC, alongside programmes originally shown on ITV and Channel 4. The network embraces technology to deliver inspired channels to audiences through Freeview, Sky, Virgin Media, BT, TalkTalk, YouView, Freesat and UKTV Play, and distributes its highly valued original programmes to 200 territories.

Now celebrating its 22nd year at the forefront of digital television, UKTV - an independent commercial joint venture between BBC Worldwide and Scripps Networks Interactive, Inc. (SNI) - is proud to be the only British television broadcaster to be recognised by Best Companies.

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