



THE STAR

Media Release

SWEET TASTE FOR WIDE BAY BURNETT REGION AS IT READIES TO SAVOUR LOCAL INGREDIENTS IN MAJOR QUEENSLAND INTEGRATED RESORTS

29 September 2016

Avocado and mandarin from the Wide Bay Burnett region will be the stars of a Queensland dessert to be created in Maryborough next week, giving locals a sweet taste of why regional produce is important in creating authentic Queensland experiences for locals and visitors to the state.

The culinary demonstration is part of a roadshow touring Queensland talking about jobs, training, and procurement opportunities with integrated resort company, The Star Entertainment Group.

The company is the lead partner in the Destination Brisbane Consortium, which will deliver the multi-billion dollar Queen's Wharf Brisbane integrated resort development due to open in Brisbane's CBD in 2022.

Treasury Casino & Hotel Sous Chef Lauren Curmi will whet appetites with an avocado and chocolate mousse featuring a wattleseed ganache, ginger and macadamia crumb, and spiced citrus using mandarin from the family-owned Abbotsleigh Citrus located near Gin Gin.

Starting her school-based apprenticeship and culinary career in Townsville prior to joining the property, Mrs Curmi is looking forward to returning to regional Queensland to show how The Star Entertainment Group uses local ingredients in its menus.

In Queensland, the company operates the Treasury Casino & Hotel in Brisbane, and Jupiters Gold Coast.

"While I grew up in Brisbane and spent a lot of time in my grandmother's bakery, I've always had a soft spot for regional Queensland as it's where I first got my foot in the door at the age of 15, leading to where I am today enjoying the sweet life as head of Treasury's pastry kitchen," Mrs Curmi said.

"At Treasury, we seek to find the best and freshest produce right across the state to highlight in our diverse offerings and a lot of it comes from the Wide Bay Burnett region including oranges, zucchini, sweet potatoes, capsicums, and tomatoes.

"We know that locals and visitors want to experience high quality, authentic, and local Queensland flavours – that's what creates special memories for them and keeps them coming back.

"This will be so important when Queen's Wharf Brisbane opens in years to come, as it is expected to attract an extra 1.39 million tourists to Queensland each year.

"The development will have 50 new bars, cafes and restaurants, so this is just one of the aspects we want to speak to north Queensland suppliers about: to start the conversation about how they might leverage this opportunity with their locally-grown produce, and to help us meet this demand."

The Star Entertainment Group Managing Director Queensland Geoff Hogg said the roadshow aims to drive awareness and innovation to help create 'quintessentially Queensland' integrated resorts.

"Queensland tourism has a bright and exciting future with record demand coming from Asia, in particular China, and forecasts predicting this will continue to rise strongly in the future," Mr Hogg said.

"The size and scale of our developments will provide significant jobs, training, and supplier opportunities for Queenslanders – but these do not need to be limited to the south east corner."

The Queen's Wharf Brisbane integrated resort will create a world-class tourism, leisure, and entertainment destination, and is expected to generate more than 2000 jobs at peak construction, and 8000 jobs once fully operational.

Meanwhile, Jupiters Gold Coast is currently undergoing a \$345 million transformation including a refurbishment of the existing five-star hotel and the building of a new six-star all-suite hotel.

This investment could potentially increase to around \$850 million with a proposal for a new 700-key hotel and apartment tower.

"We're really looking forward to starting a conversation across regional Queensland about what will be needed in the form of jobs, training, and suppliers with our developments in the years to come," Mr Hogg said.

"We want people and businesses to start thinking now about whether they could help contribute to making these developments a great success stories for Queensland."

The roadshow is being delivered by the Department of State Development, in partnership with The Star Entertainment Group, as part of its annual Major Project Series.

Following seminars in Brisbane, Toowoomba, the Sunshine Coast, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville, and the Wide Bay Burnett region, the roadshow will continue onto Brookwater/Ipswich, the Gold Coast, and Cairns until the end of November this year.

The Wide Bay Burnett event is set to take place within the 2016 regional Economic Development Growth Forum, presented by the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils, the Department of State Development, and Regional Development Australia (Wide Bay Burnett).

This event will be held on Thursday 6 October 2016 from 9.30am to 3.00pm at the Brolga Theatre, Walker Street, Maryborough. However, the culinary demonstration will take place after lunch from 12.45pm.

To register, or to view the full 2016 Major Projects Series schedule, visit www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/mps.

For more information:

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