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BOWEN CORN AND TOMATOES STAR IN CHEF'S MACKAY MASTERPIECE

The Bowen region's tomato producers supply the nation during winter, and produce from this year's harvest will be taking centre stage at an industry seminar in Mackay next week.

Tomatoes from Jurgens Produce farms, along with sweet corn from Vitalish Pty Ltd farms, will be transformed into a 'master chef'-worthy dish to demonstrate why Queensland has the edge when it comes to regional flavours.

It's all in a day's work for Alex Curmi, Sous Chef at The Star Entertainment Group's Treasury Casino & Hotel, who has a passion for inventing mouth-watering menus that showcase the best produce across the state.

It's a message he wants to spread at the special industry seminar on 26 August, which is being held to inform businesses in the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday Region about the potential jobs, training and supplier opportunities available with the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane integrated resort development and The Star Entertainment Group.

"The Queen's Wharf Brisbane development will contain 50 new bars and restaurants, plus five new hotels, and these are going to need the best produce from Queensland suppliers that we can get," Mr Curmi said.

"Regional flavours are essential in our restaurants across The Star Entertainment Group, because we constantly look for ways to use ingredients to deliver local spirit and authentic experiences and flavours for our international and domestic guests.

"Next week I'll be plating up a dish on stage that will feature a sweet corn and tomato salsa – all sourced from the Bowen region – plus beetroot from Chinchilla, and fresh herbs from the Lockyer Valley.

"I'll be showcasing Queensland on a plate, to demonstrate how we make local produce the star of our dishes to give our guests a quintessentially Queensland experience."

The Star Entertainment Group already procures Queensland produce such as seafood, meat, poultry, groceries, dairy and eggs, beer and smallgoods for Jupiters Gold Coast and Treasury Casino & Hotel in Brisbane.

However, its current demand for local produce will increase once the Queen's Wharf Brisbane integrated resort development is expected to open in 2022. The Star Entertainment Group is the lead partner in the Destination Brisbane Consortium which will deliver Queen's Wharf Brisbane.

Meanwhile, the company is also undertaking a \$345 million redevelopment at Jupiters Gold Coast which includes a new six-star all-suite luxury hotel tower and new dining offerings; and is seeking approval for a multi-billion dollar master plan concept at Jupiters which features proposed new hotels and/or apartments, new entertainment and dining offerings.

"Queen's Wharf Brisbane, plus the proposed further redevelopment of Jupiters Gold Coast, will create more than 3000 construction and 10,000 operational jobs in Queensland," said The Star Entertainment Group Managing Director Queensland Geoff Hogg.

"Together, these will offer many different opportunities for businesses across sectors, including engineering, construction, agriculture, tourism, hospitality and of course food, in regions all across Queensland.

“We know that Queen’s Wharf Brisbane will attract an additional 1.4 million tourists each year, and that these people will be looking to experience local food, wine and cuisine, and to learn what our region has to offer.

“We are looking forward to sharing information about the jobs, training and supplier opportunities that these projects will create when we participate in the industry seminar in Mackay next week.”

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

The series has been held in Brisbane, Toowoomba and the Sunshine Coast, and will also travel to Rockhampton, the Wide Bay Burnett region (via Maryborough), Springfield Lakes, the Gold Coast, Townsville and Cairns throughout the rest of the year.

For tickets and information on the series, visit www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/major-projects or phone (07) 4616 7306.

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