



THE STAR

Media Release

GOLD COAST PUTS LOCAL PRODUCE ON THE TABLE FOR MAJOR QUEENSLAND INTEGRATED RESORTS

24 October 2016

Seafood and herbs from the Gold Coast and surrounding areas will be the stars of a culinary demonstration this week that will show why produce across the state is important in creating authentic Queensland tourism experiences.

Gold Coast tiger prawns from Pacifica Seafood Market, and fresh mint and flower petals from Sunshine Herbs in Logan Village will feature in the gourmet demonstration – part of a wider roadshow touring Queensland talking about jobs, training, and procurement opportunities with integrated resort company, The Star Entertainment Group.

In Queensland, the company operates the Treasury Casino & Hotel in Brisbane and Jupiters Gold Coast in Broadbeach, which recently hit the halfway mark on a 17-storey hotel tower being built at the front of the existing property – the first six-star hotel on the Gold Coast in more than 15 years.

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

Jupiters Gold Coast Executive Chef Dustin Osuch will have the 200+ crowd salivating over Gold Coast tiger prawn cakes, pea tendrils salad, garlic chive crème fraîche, and macadamia nuts.

Born in Chicago, Mr Osuch is looking forward to showcasing why he has loved working in his current role on the Gold Coast for the past three years.

The Star Entertainment Group Managing Director Queensland Geoff Hogg said the culinary demonstration will showcase some of the region's local produce.

"In addition to seafood and herbs, some of the produce we purchase from the Gold Coast area include heirloom tomatoes from the Fassifern Valley; beetroots and silverbeet from Boonah; mushrooms from Troy Marland's farm outside of Yatala; and cos lettuce and celery from Warrigal Farms, a 104-year old family-run property about 60km from here," Mr Hogg said.

"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 especially when our six-star tower opens here on the coast, but also when Queen's Wharf Brisbane opens down the road in years to come, as it is expected to attract an extra 1.39 million tourists to Queensland each year.

"This development will have 50 new bars, cafes and restaurants, so this is just one of the aspects we want to speak to Gold Coast 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."

Mr 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."

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.

This proposed new tower, and the six-star tower already underway, could generate more than 1000 construction jobs. Jupiters Gold Coast's operational workforce would increase to around 2300 employees once the projects were complete and the new areas fully operational.

Meanwhile, 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.

"We're really looking forward to starting a conversation across 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 Projects Series.

After travelling to Brisbane, Toowoomba, the Sunshine Coast, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville, the Wide Bay Burnett region, Brookwater/Ipswich, and the Gold Coast, the roadshow will make a final stop in Cairns on Thursday 24 November this year.

The Gold Coast event will be held on Thursday 27 October 2016 from 9.30am to 11.30am at Jupiters Gold Coast in Broadbeach.

Visit www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/mps to register.

For more information:

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