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RUBY DOWNS WATERMELON TO STAR IN CHEF'S TOOWOOMBA CULINARY DEMONSTRATION

A locally-grown watermelon will take centre stage at an industry seminar in Toowoomba this week.

Fruit from Ruby Downs will create a delicate watermelon gel that a chef from Jupiters Gold Coast – part of The Star Entertainment Group – will use to showcase the importance of local produce to the company's dining offerings.

The special industry seminar on 29 July is being held to enable businesses in Toowoomba and on the Darling Downs to understand the potential jobs, training and supplier opportunities available via the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane integrated resort development and The Star Entertainment Group.

Jupiters Gold Coast Executive Sous Chef Steven Forrester said The Star Entertainment Group has a strong commitment to using Queensland produce, with regional flavours being a critical component in the company's approach.

"Buying locally and then using that produce to influence our menus helps us deliver local spirit and authentic experiences and flavours for our international and domestic guests," Steven said.

"This week I'll be using watermelon from Ruby Downs, near Oakey and Toowoomba, plus lavender from a boutique farm in Kingaroy, to create a delicious dessert that will bring together quintessentially Queensland flavours.

"My 'Watermelon Eton Mess' dish will feature watermelon gel, macarons, vanilla cream, strawberries, mint, Kingaroy lavender meringue shards and shaved bitter chocolate – all South East Queensland ingredients.

"The best watermelons come from this region around September, which is the perfect time for this dessert as it is just starting to warm up. This dessert is sweet and creamy, yet light and not too rich.

"This is a great style of dessert for our Garden Kitchen and Bar restaurant at Jupiters Gold Coast, as it can be prepared in advance then plated up when required for serving."

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

The company is the lead partner in the Destination Brisbane Consortium, which will deliver the Queen's Wharf Brisbane integrated resort development in the city's CBD.

The Star Entertainment Group is also undertaking a \$345 million redevelopment at Jupiters Gold Coast, which includes a new six-star all-suite luxury hotel tower, and many new dining offerings.

At the same time, it is seeking approval for a multi-billion dollar master plan concept at the property, which features proposed new hotels and/or apartments, new entertainment and food and beverage opportunities.

“Queen’s Wharf Brisbane and 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 food service, 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 Toowoomba this 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.

Launching in Brisbane earlier this month, the series will also visit the Sunshine Coast, Mackay, Rockhampton, the Wide Bay Burnett region (via Maryborough), Springfield Lakes, the Gold Coast, Townsville and Cairns throughout the rest of the year.

For tickets to the Toowoomba industry seminar, and information on the series, visit www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/major-projects, email toowoomba@dsd.qld.gov.au or phone (07) 4616 7306.

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