

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 13 November, 2023

THE STAR BRISBANE FIRST CULINARY HEAD GOES GLOBAL

The Star Brisbane has announced internationally regarded chef Uday Huja as the first Director of Culinary at Queensland's newest \$3.6 billion tourism and leisure destination, with an expatriate chef-finding mission on the menu.

With a wealth of international hospitality experience, including cooking for former U.S. President Barack Obama at the White House and at Michelin-starred venues, Chef Huja will lead a growing culinary team at The Star Brisbane - the entertainment hub of the Queen's Wharf Brisbane precinct.

That includes a recruitment blitz in the United Arab Emirates aimed at luring Australian expats home.

"I am so excited to take on this challenge and be part of a once in a lifetime opportunity to contribute to Queensland's culinary voice," Chef Huja said.

"While there are hundreds of jobs up for grabs for Queenslanders to be part of something special, we also have some specialised culinary positions to fill," he said.

"The main aim of the Dubai trip is to entice some ex-pats to return and be part of the dynamic food and lifestyle scene that is already thriving in Brisbane and set to boom even more.

"We have approximately 400 incredibly talented food and beverage and events team members, who will transition from Treasury Brisbane to The Star Brisbane and arguably Australia's best in-house culinary apprentice programs to develop and foster homegrown talent.

"The food philosophy I have embraced over many decades of 'great ingredients, simply prepared with finesse is equal to the passion I have of growing and building careers in hospitality.

"From the day we open our venue doors, we will be showcasing the best of Queensland from native ingredients to artisan suppliers, local produce to our people."

The Culinary Ambassador for the 2022 Magic Millions, Chef Huja was previously the executive chef at The Star Gold Coast and underpinned by over a quarter of a century of experience in the chef whites including at luxe Las Vegas hotels The Signature and The Mansion (part of MGM Grand), as well as founding and managing his own restaurant, Marfa in Texas.

He was also part of the alumni of the Michelin-starred The Inn at Little Washington.

Chef Huja will oversee the menus, culinary development and roll-out of more than half of the 50 food and beverage experiences at the new entertainment resort, including the signature restaurant on Sky Deck and The Star Brisbane's Event Centre anchored by Brisbane's largest hotel ballroom - with the capacity to cater for up to 1,440 guests.

The Star Brisbane last week unveiled Italian restaurant Cucina Regina as the first of many dining experiences on The Terrace, the pedestrian level of the resort connecting to South Bank via the Neville Bonner Bridge.

Cucina Regina has joined a growing list of food and beverage offerings, including Fat Noodle by celebrity chef Luke Nguyen, Cherry, Sports Bar and Food Quarter already revealed.

The Star Brisbane General Manager Food & Beverage and Events Dustin Osuch said Chef Huja will be the first culinary lead to have worked across all three of The Star's properties, including at The Star Sydney as Culinary Director.

"With his exceptional talent and an impressive array of accomplishments, Chef Uday is an inspired lead for The Star Brisbane's world-city food focus," Mr Osuch said.

"We will be revealing a host of exciting F&B experiences over the next few months and as we look to the future and of course the 2032 Games, we are proud to be part of Brisbane's growing reputation as a lifestyle city and must-visit destination."

Queen's Wharf Brisbane is being delivered by Destination Brisbane Consortium – a joint venture led by The Star Entertainment Group alongside its Hong Kong-based partners, Chow Tai Fook Enterprises and Far East Consortium.

A staged opening is set to commence from April 2024.

For more information, visit thestarbrisbane.com.au

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The Star Brisbane

Positioned at the heart of the Queen's Wharf Brisbane precinct, The Star Brisbane will deliver four future world-class hotels, a myriad of new restaurants, bars and entertainment experiences, luxury retail, and a thrilling new era of events to Brisbane's CBD. Not to mention The Star Brisbane's striking showpiece Sky Deck, a 250m rooftop runway of restaurants and bars floating 100m above the Brisbane River and the resort's Leisure Deck, a 12,000sqm open-air oasis which delivers two football fields of public space. From a selection of Brisbane's grandest hotels to delectable dining, spectacular sky-high views and unique experiences for locals and tourists alike, The Star Brisbane promises to celebrate the best of our river city.

Queen's Wharf Brisbane

Set to commence a staged opening from April 2024, the \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane development blends stunning contemporary architecture with thoughtfully restored heritage buildings and beautifully curated landscaped riverside parklands across more than 12 hectares on Brisbane's river edge. It is expected to attract an estimated 1.4 million additional visitors each year once open and will provide a pedestrian link between two of Brisbane's largest cultural and lifestyle precincts, linking South Bank to Queen's Wharf and The Star Brisbane via the Neville Bonner Bridge.

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