

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE STAR BRISBANE WELCOMES ITALIAN ROYALTY TO CUCINA RESTAURANT FAMILY: CUCINA REGINA

The Star Brisbane has unveiled a new authentic Italian dining experience fit for royalty, announcing Cucina Regina will join its rapidly expanding culinary line-up from 2024.

Taking cues from its sister venues - *Cucina Vivo* on the Gold Coast and *Cucina Porto* in Sydney - **Cucina Regina** promises elevated Italian dining in the heart of the city, taking the simple and familiar and transforming it into something both sensational and satisfying.

Affectionately coined Regina - Italian for Queen - in honour of its prime location within **Brisbane's \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf precinct**, Cucina Regina is the first of **The Terrace** culinary experiences to be announced – a **riverfront terrace** that will welcome thousands of locals and visitors into the resort via the Neville Bonner Pedestrian Bridge.

The Star Brisbane General Manager Food & Beverage, Dustin Osuch, said Cucina Regina will be a prominent expansion of The Star's signature Italian offering into Brisbane, and is testament to Italy's reverence for simplicity and quality.

"Those who have enjoyed the warmth and welcoming nature of our Italian venues will attest that our Cucina experience gives meaning to the heart of the home. A place where favourites are prepared with the care and precision you would expect when visiting a loved one or a dear friend, transforming the familiar into something special," Mr Osuch said.

"Having first launched Cucina Vivo on the Gold Coast in 2014, I am thrilled to introduce our newest Cucina family member to Brisbane and bring one of our much-loved dining experiences into a city that is rapidly evolving into one of the nation's top culinary destinations."

True to the spirit of Italian hospitality, The Star's Cucina venues are a nod to Italy's beloved 'passeggiata' where people walk around before or after a meal socialising and enjoying a spontaneous appetiser, refreshment or gelato. Cucina Regina's location on The Terrace is no exception, catering up to 160 guests through indoor and outdoor dining and providing direct access to world-class entertainment.

With an Italian family table showcasing a mix of classics, comfort food and signature dishes, Cucina Regina will reward guests with a fun mix of antipasto, woodfire pizzas and homemade pasta in a casual-cool space with a touch of old-world charm. From the theatrics of finishing dishes tableside to dessert trolleys showcasing the classics like pannacotta both delicate and trembling, to elegantly paired seasonal stunners like fresh figs finished with a balsamic reduction, and house-made focaccia, studded with garlic confit.

The venue's beverage menu has been designed to be a celebration of craftsmanship. Featuring approachable and pronounceable Italian wine varietals, the bittersweet joy of a perfectly balanced Amaro Sour to the loved Negroni or zesty Limoncello spritz favourites – all meticulously created.

Designed by Australian-based Design Studio Tom Mark Henry, Cucina Regina promises to create an atmosphere that pivots from the norm whilst bringing a sense of déjà vu and warmth.

"From the first moments upon entry, it's evident Cucina Regina deviates from clichéd Italian design cues," said Tom Mark Henry Design Manager, Carla Matias.

"The venue's interiors meld traditional and modern accents inspired by Italian towns and villages, inviting guests through to a dining area patterned with textiles, bold pops of colour, natural textured layers and a curation of local art pieces to create a homely space. Coloured textured glass within the shopfront bathes the space with a golden light, regardless of the weather. While the bar serves as the keystone for the venue, leaning into a neutral palette that speaks to the laidback aesthetic of Brisbane and sets the scene for an effortless transition from day to night."

Cucina Regina will be one of a myriad of dining and entertainment experiences, a 100-metre-high Sky Deck, 12,000sqm open-air Leisure Deck, luxury retail and four future luxury hotels delivered within The Star Brisbane, inviting diners to

settle in for a long celebratory lunch or spontaneous dinner as they enjoy sweeping views and the buzzing energy of the passing pedestrian thoroughfare that will connect Brisbane's two largest leisure precincts.

With the countdown on to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the tourism forecasts exciting for Brisbane, Queen's Wharf is set to attract an additional 1.4 million visitors to the region each year and will contribute to the diversity of Brisbane's dining offerings.

For more information, visit star.com.au/brisbane

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FAST FACTS

- **Cucina Regina is the newest and third venue from The Star's Cucina restaurant family** and will take cues from its sister venues Cucina Porto in Sydney (opened 2020) and Cucina Vivo on the Gold Coast (opened 2014).
- Affectionately coined Regina in honour of its prime location within **Brisbane's \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf precinct**, **Cucina Regina** is first of **The Terrace** culinary experiences to be announced on Level 4, The Star Brisbane.
- Cucina Regina will reward guests with a **fun mix of antipasto, woodfire pizzas and homemade pasta**.
- **Designed by Australian-based Design Studio Tom Mark Henry**, the venue's interiors meld traditional and modern accents inspired by Italian towns and villages.
- Cucina Regina's unveiling provides a further **glimpse of more than 50 new venues and experiences** that will make up The Star Brisbane and Queen's Wharf precinct when it opens from 2024. Fat Noodle, Sports Bar and Cherry were the first venues to be announced in August this year.

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.

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.

Media Contacts:

Media Contacts:

Nicole Barclay, Marketing Communications Manager, The Star Brisbane, Nicole.Barclay@star.com.au

Karryn Wheelans, Head of Media, The Star Entertainment Group, Karryn.Wheelans@star.com.au

Graham Witherspoon, Head of Communications, Destination Brisbane Consortium, gwitherspoon@destinationbrisbane.com.au