



# CROWN HOSTS A CONSTELLATION OF THE WORLD'S BEST STAR CHEFS DURING THE 20th ANNIVERSARY 2012 MELBOURNE FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

TUESDAY 6 MARCH – SUNDAY 18 MARCH 2012

Melbourne, Australia. Crown Melbourne is thrilled to announce a diverse culinary program of events will take place for 12 consecutive days from 6-18 March 2012.

The confirmed Michelin Star-studded line-up of guest chefs include Italy's three Michelin Star chef, **Luisa Valazza**, four of France's best chefs including double Michelin Star chef, **Thierry Marx** from the newly opened Paris restaurant, Sur Mesure, one Michelin Star chef, **Serge Vieira**, the 'Prince of Pastry,' **Stephane Bour** and **Jacques Marcon** from three Michelin Star Restaurant Regis and Jacques Marcon, double Michelin Star chef, **Sang-Hoon Degeimbre** from Belgium's renowned L'Air Du Temps, acclaimed Tokyo triple Michelin Star chef, **Jun Yukimura** and two Michelin Star-rated Shang Palace's chef **Mok Kit Keung** from Hong Kong.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, the 2012 'Stars of Stars' program will host more world-renowned chefs and more events than ever before.

The program includes 7 one-off special dinners, including a once-in-a-lifetime gala dinner taking place on Saturday 10 March at the Melbourne Exhibition buildings as well as a fantasy dinner showcasing dishes for the future in the year 2032. This extraordinary dinner will be a culinary highlight on the festival's calendar. Molecular gastronomy experts, Thierry Marx and Stephane Bour will collaborate to transform today's ingredients into a menu that aims to predict what diners will be eating in 20 years time.

Other dinners will celebrate regional French dishes prepared by Serge Vieira and Jacques Marcon matched with Dom Perignon, an exquisite degustation prepared by Jun Yukimura paired with specially selected sake by visiting Sake Master from Japan, a contemporary dinner teamed with wine and vodka expertly crafted by Korean-born, Belgium-based Sang-Hoon Degeimbre, an Italian feast accompanied by some of Piedmont's best wines and a not-to-be-missed banquet of

wok-free Chinese dishes prepared by induction cooking enthusiast, Mok Kit Keung at Crown's iconic Silks restaurant. In addition, all visiting chefs with the exception of Jun Yukimura will host cooking classes at Crown's purpose-built, world-class training facility, The Culinarium.

Thierry Marx, Serge Vieira, Jun Yukimura, Sang-Hoon Degeimbre and Luisa Valazza will also participate in the festival's Masterclass weekend.

The 'Stars of Stars' is the fourth installment in Crown's innovative Michelin Star focused 'Stars' series of events and follows on from three successful years which included 'Stars of Europe' (2009), 'Stars of America' (2010) and this year's stellar success, 'Stars of Spice.'

Due to popular demand, Luisa Valazza, Thierry Marx and Jun Yukimura are all returning to Crown.

Luisa Valazza, from Italy's Al Sorriso restaurant and Thierry Marx visited Crown in March 2009 as part of Crown's "Stars of Europe" program of events while Jun Yukimura, the triple Michelin Star chef from Tokyo's renowned Yukimura restaurant visited Melbourne as part of Crown's 'Stars of Spice' program of events.

**Luisa Valazza** will be a guest chef in residence at Crown's JJ's Bar & Grill from 14-18 March 2012. Chef Luisa Valazza was the first Italian woman to win three Michelin stars at her restaurant, Al Sorriso, in Piedmont Italy. Diners from all over Europe descend on this prize-winning venue to experience Chef Valazza's gastronomic creations. Guests will not have to travel to Italy to dine from Valazza's unforgettable menu. Instead, diners can simply visit the intimate JJ's Bar and Grill to enjoy a host of Italy's best creations.

**Thierry Marx** is one of the pioneers of molecular gastronomy. He is currently based at Sur Mesure at the Mandarin Oriental in Paris. He is going to be a guest chef in residence at Number 8 restaurant and wine bar from 6-11 March 2012.



CROWN PRESENTS 

# STARS OF STARS 2012

6-18 MARCH

MEDIA RELEASE



**Jun Yukimura** is one of Japan's most revered chefs. In 2012, he will once again create a 'Pop Up' restaurant at Crown's award-winning Koko restaurant from 6-11 March.

**Stephane Bour** is without dispute one of France's best pastry chefs. He has worked alongside the revered Marc Meneau and Marc Veyrat and will be showcasing his extraordinary pastry prowess at Number 8 restaurant & wine bar from 6-11 March including two afternoon teas on Saturday 10 March and Sunday 11 March.

**Chef Mok Kit Keung** from Hong Kong's Shang Palace will be guest chef in residence at Silks from 13-18 March. His feature menus will include some of his signature dishes, braised bird's nest with pumpkin cream Japanese-style and braised spare rib in chin kiang vinegar with cabbage.

From the 13-18 March, acclaimed double Michelin Star chef, **Sang-Hoon Degeimbre** is going to be a guest chef at Number 8 restaurant & wine bar. Belgium's L'Air du Temps restaurant is widely regarded as one of the country's best restaurants largely due to 37 year old chef, Sang-Hoon Degeimbre.

**Serge Vieira** is one of France's best known single Michelin Star chefs. He and his wife operate Restaurant Serge Vieira in the Cantal region at Chaudes-Aigues. Serge is best known for his obsessive use of local ingredients. Serge will be resident chef at JJ's Bar & Grill from 8-11 March.

**Jacques Marcon** works alongside his father, Regis Marcon at the triple Michelin star eponymously named, Restaurant Regis and Jacques Marcon in regional France. The father and son team are regarded as masters of the mushroom and incorporate funghi in their French cuisine.

Bookings can be made by contacting +61 3 9292 6213.

ENDS



Jacques Marcon



Jun Yukimura



Mok Kit Keung



Luisa Valazza



Sang-Hoon Degeimbre



Serge Vieira



Stephane Bour



Thierry Marx

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