

For Immediate Release

Gradini Ristorante Italiano Opens at The Pottinger

Hong Kong

Classic Italian cuisine in the historic heart of Central

(Hong Kong, 6 October 2014) Gradini Ristorante Italiano has opened its doors at The Pottinger Hong Kong, adding classic and authentic Italian cuisine to the historic heart of the city.

Led by celebrated Italian chef, Giovanni Greggio, Gradini Ristorante Italiano specialises in time-honoured Italian dishes. Hearty Italian flavours are amplified by the elegant ambience and intimate old-world charm of The Pottinger Hong Kong, where East meets West and heritage meets modernity.

Born in Viterbo and hailing from Verona, Italy, Chef Greggio is passionate about celebrating Italian favourites, and specialises in classic Italian cuisine. He is known in Hong Kong as the former Head Chef of Nicholini's at Conrad Hong Kong, where under his leadership Nicholini's received the international accolade of 'Best Italian Restaurant Abroad' from the President of Italy, Mr Oscar Luigi Scalfaro.

Drawing inspiration from the freshest ingredients, signature dishes include 'Grigliata de polpo con spinaci in balsamico e olio di olive', grilled Mediterranean octopus with citrus salad on a bed of hand-picked baby spinach leaves; 'Rigatoni Alla Norcina Piccanti', pasta with Tuscan sausage in spicy tomato sauce with a generous sprinkling of parmesan cheese and 'Spigola Alle Erbe Al Forno', salt-crusted whole Italian line-caught sea bass with fresh aromatic herbs. Cognoscenti should not miss the 'Classico tiramisù del pasticciere', a classic tiramisù with layers of savoiardi biscuit flavour with aramotto topped with mascarpone cream and cacao.

'Throughout my career I have launched a number of Italian restaurants but Gradini Ristorante Italiano holds extra meaning. Being within The Pottinger Hong Kong is like being part of living history and Gradini shares this historical importance, symbolising the meeting of East and West through food that is intrinsically true to my Italian heritage,' says Chef Greggio.

Designed by LCL Architects, the elegant dining room of Gradini Ristorante Italiano reflects the timeless style of the hotel. High ceilings give a sense of class within oriental inspired surrounds that illustrate the historical importance of the restaurant's location.

The centre piece of the dining room is a spectacular copper Italian coffee machine, the 'Victoria Arduino Venus'. A special release, the machine is a limited edition commemorating the 100th anniversary of the prestigious brand. With only 100 machines produced, it is as unique and treasured as Gradini Ristorante Italiano itself.

Adjacent to the dining room is the Gradini Bar, which provides a stylish and ambient escape from the hustle and bustle of Central Hong Kong to catch up with friends or enjoy a pre-dinner drink. The signature Bellini Gradini Cocktail is a sure favourite. Fresh peaches are blended with champagne and grappa to create this romantic cocktail which was originally inspired by a 15th century Venetian painting. With 'Gradini' the Italian word for steps, the Bellini Gradini is the perfect statement drink for the Gradini Bar and is a connotation of an elegant lady waiting on stone steps.

'Pottinger Street', or 'slab street' as the locals call it for its trademark granite slab steps, is the cultural and historic epicentre of the city. Pottinger Street has witnessed the development of Hong Kong into a world city, while treasuring and protecting its traditions and heritage.

'The Pottinger Hong Kong and Gradini Ristorante Italiano have been built upon the foundations of this historic area. Through every step of our planning – from the enchanting pictures of Fan Ho adorning the walls of the hotel, to the coffee machine that symbolises the Italian roots of the restaurant – we have been striving to create an establishment that pays tribute to its heritage and the meeting of East and West,' says Ms Gina Tam, Hotel Manager of The Pottinger Hong Kong.

Opened in June 2014, The Pottinger Hong Kong is fast building a strong reputation for its elegant bar and restaurants. Gradini is the centrepiece of the hotel's dining options.



Above: 'Rigatoni alla norcina piccanti,'
Tuscan sausage in spicy tomato sauce with
parmesan cheese



Above: 'Grigliata de polpo con spinaci in
balsamico e olio di olive', grilled
Mediterranean octopus with citrus salad
on a bed of baby spinach leaves.



Above: 'Lombo di angello in crosta al
forno', lamb rack with a herb crust and
Chianti mustard



Above: 'Classico tiramisu del pasticciere',
layers of savoiardi biscuit flavour with
espresso and aramatto, topped with
mascarpone cream and cacao.



Above: Gradini Ristorante Italiano main
dining room.



Above: The Gradini Bar



Left: The ‘Bellini Gradini’ cocktail, a mixture of fresh peaches with Champagne and Grappa.

Hours of Operation:

Breakfast 6.30am – 10.30am

Lunch 12.00pm – 3.00pm

Afternoon Tea 3.00pm – 6.00pm

Dinner 6.00pm – 23.30pm

Weekend Brunch (Sundays) – 11.30am – 3.30pm

Address: G/F, 74 Queens Road, Central, Hong Kong

Phone: (852) 2308 3088

Email: gradini@thepottinger.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thepottingerhongkong>

Media Contacts

For more information or interviews, please contact Sinclair Communications.

Jessica Playford | jessica@sinclairasia.com | (852) 2915 1324

Grace Lai | Grace@sinclairasia.com | (852) 2915 1234

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About The Pottinger Hong Kong

The Pottinger Hong Kong is a luxury hotel launched in June 2014, offering 68 exquisite guestrooms and suites. Standing on the historic Pottinger Street in Central, a Grade 1 historic place graded by the Antiquities Advisory Board of Hong Kong, The Pottinger reflects the rich romantic heritage and diversity of its surrounds.

This heritage is emulated by the elegant décor of the hotel which features works from world-acclaimed photographer Fan Ho. This is the first time Mr Ho, now 83 years old, has collaborated with a hotel and his pictures tell the story of Central Hong Kong over the ages.

About Sino Group of Hotels (www.sino-hotels.com)

Established in 1994, Sino Group of Hotels is the hospitality management arm of Sino Group and an affiliate of Sino Land Company Limited (HKSE: 083). It operates a number of properties on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon, as well as a resort-style hotel on Hong Kong Gold Coast.

Its portfolio covers The Royal Pacific Hotel & Towers, City Garden Hotel, Hong Kong Gold Coast Hotel, Island Pacific Hotel, The Pottinger Hong Kong and Gold Coast Yacht & Country Club. While each property on its portfolio offers a unique guest experience, which share common values in providing best possible services and facilities. A trusted brand in the hospitality industry, the hotels and yacht club cater to both business and leisure travellers while celebrating the local communities.