

THAI DINING

CHAOPHRAYA

noun: *chow-pry-ä*

Press Release
July 2016

CHAOPHRAYA TO OPEN IN HISTORICAL OLD MONKEY HOUSE SITE

Thai Leisure Group to launch its celebrated Thai restaurant, Chaophraya, on 29 July 2016

Contemporary dining Thai restaurant, Chaophraya is to open in Aberdeen this month, following the success of the brand in both Edinburgh and Glasgow. Owned and operated by Thai Leisure Group, the UK's leading Thai hospitality company, the move comes after more than two years of searching for a site in the city, driven by regular social media and email requests to bring the restaurant to the city from residents.

Setting its roots in the site formerly occupied by Aberdeen's renowned heritage pub The Monkey House, the restaurant will accommodate 160 diners and create 40 full and part-time jobs, with the majority of hires being from the city.

The fine dining restaurant pays homage to its roots with opulent interior reminiscent of modern Thai design, whilst complementing the historical interior of the Union Terrace building, originally built in 1855.

Chaophraya provides a unique experience for diners, being a comfortable place to meet friends and family over lunch, as well as a destination for special occasions. Diners will be the first in the UK to experience the new menu, one month prior to the group's nationwide launch, with highlights including aged steak served on a self-sear Himalayan salt rock alongside traditional Thai dishes with a contemporary twist and an array of expertly crafted signature cocktails.

The launch comes at an exciting time for the UK's fastest growing Thai restaurant group and is the eighth site for the brand, with other sites in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Leeds, Manchester and Birmingham.

Speaking of the launch TLG's managing director, Ian Leigh says: "The demand for upmarket dining in Aberdeen is booming, and we couldn't be more excited to bring the first Chaophraya site in two years to this beautiful city. Following the unprecedented success of our Thaikhun restaurant, we're looking forward to offering Chaophraya's aspirational dining experience to people we know love Thai food, at its best.

"For me, Chaophraya provides the perfect backdrop for occasions and celebrations, whilst still being completely accessible to everyone. This premium dining experience, combined with the exclusive

launch of our new menu, is sure to wow the people of Aberdeen and we look forward to opening our doors on 29 July.”

For further information visit www.chaophraya.co.uk/aberdeen or follow @chao_aberdeen on Twitter.

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Note to Editors

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Notes to Editors:

The Thai Leisure Group is a group of restaurants and bars that is owned jointly by Kim Kaewkraikhot and Martin Stead. The Thai Leisure Group currently owns and operates ‘Chaophraya’, a successful group of restaurants recognised and valued nationwide. Since opening their first restaurant in 2004, a niche market of Thai gourmet dining in prime locations, has swept the UK.

Kim started off cooking food on the streets of Bangkok and eventually opened up her own small restaurant in the city. Kim’s food was renowned in the local neighbourhood for its fantastic flavours and people would travel many miles to taste it. Her recipes, including her secret Pad Thai recipe, became so famous Kim went on to win awards back in her native Thailand.

When Martin, a UK entrepreneur, met Kim a vision was born: to bring authentic Thai cuisine and genuine Thai hospitality to the UK. The couple’s first restaurant opened in Leeds in 2004, and today TLG has 17 Thai restaurants across the UK with six more planned for 2016.