

Press Release

5th March 2009

KEVIN THORNTON TO OPEN NEW RESTAURANT IN THE FITZWILLIAM HOTEL BELFAST

Menu by Kevin Thornton to open at the new Fitzwilliam Hotel Belfast

Michelin star restaurateur Kevin Thornton is heading North to open a new restaurant. The restaurant which will be called Menu by Kevin Thornton will be located at the much anticipated Fitzwilliam Hotel Belfast which opens 13 March on Great Victoria Street in the heart of Belfast.

Kevin's Michelin-starred Thornton's Restaurant is located in the Fitzwilliam Hotel in Dublin and his new venture sees him overseeing a totally different dining experience with a keenly priced, casual dining style restaurant. Menu by Kevin Thornton will offer dishes such as tomato and basil tartlet, grilled fillet of Fermanagh angus beef, warm berry compote with lemon sabayon and will seat 130 people in a stunning, modernistic setting by noted interior designer Christopher Ash.

Menu by Kevin Thornton will be led by Head Chef Patrick Leonard, formerly of Claridges Hotel in London. Harry Gribben, who trained at former Michelin Star restaurant Shanks in Bangor and was Head Waiter at Deane's Restaurant in Belfast, has been appointed Restaurant Manager and Sommelier.

Speaking of the announcement at The Fitzwilliam Hotel Belfast, Kevin said "Belfast is an exciting and vibrant city and I'm looking forward to being part of it. Opening a casual dining restaurant is something I've wanted to do for a long time and I'm very happy to be working with Hotel Partners, who will be managing the hotel".

Menu by Kevin Thornton will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day and Kevin will also provide menus for bar food, "Little Treasures", room service, conferencing and private dining throughout the Fitzwilliam Hotel Belfast.

The new Fitzwilliam Hotel Belfast will have 130 guestrooms and suites, will employ over 110 staff and will be managed by Hotel Partners. The hotel will have three conference rooms, a private dining room, restaurant, bar, fitness suite for hotel residents, valet parking and a business centre.