

Media Release

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MEREDITH & BOSLEY PUT THE PACIFIC ON A PLATE

Award-winning chefs Michael Meredith and Martin Bosley have partnered with Style Pasifika to showcase their culinary talent at a gala dinner before this year's *Westfield Style Pasifika: Best of Style Pasifika* fashion event.

This year Westfield Style Pasifika will be staged over two nights, right in the middle of Rugby World Cup 2011 finals week. Creative Director and Show Producer, Stan Wolfgramm has taken the opportunity to host a VIP experience on the second night with a Pasifika -inspired dinner before the spectacular Westfield Style Pasifika fashion show.

Titled *Style Pasifika: Best of Pasifika Cuisine,* the exclusive pre-show corporate and VIP hosting event will include a sumptuous three-course dinner crafted by Meredith and Bosley.

Wolfgramm has challenged the duo to consider what food will capture the distinctive flavours of Pasifika New Zealand.

"The Westfield Style Pasifika Fashion Awards are all about celebrating the distinctiveness of Pasifika New Zealand, our uniqueness, our geographical and cultural point of difference to the rest of world – and that's what guests at our corporate dinner will experience on their plates as the best of Pasifika cuisine; flavours and foods unique to this region," says Wolfgramm.

Samoan-born Meredith plans on bringing a taste of his heritage to the menu.

"I'll be showcasing food from my Polynesian childhood," says Meredith. "Our food has good, honest flavours which I've learnt to refine in my cooking."

Both Meredith and Bosley share a philosophy that eating locally and in season delivers the best dining experience to their customers.

"The quality of our local produce alongside our place in the Pacific continues to inspire our cooking," says Bosley. "We're so fortunate that the clarity of flavours we seek for our cuisine are so pristine - and that we don't have 2000 years of tradition prescribing how things should look and how they should taste. We're able to bring influences from cultures around our Pacific into our cooking – and this subsequently becomes New Zealand cuisine."

Guests to the exclusive event can expect a three course meal matched with a wine selection from Nelson-based Maori-owned Tohu Wines.

"We see a unique synergy in the relationship between Style Pasifika and Tohu wines who understand that a dining experience embodies more than just a great wine; it's also about a community, a nation, a heritage, a high performance standard, respect and mana - all things important to the success of Style Pasifika" says Wolfgramm.

To round off the Style Pasifika Cuisine dream team is hospitality industry icon and former Restaurant Association president Don Fletcher who will operate as a consultant to Style Pasifika to ensure delivery of the best possible culinary experience.

"Don's an old friend and has agreed to come on board to liaise with and speak the language our chefs' best understand. I struggle to keep up with!" says Wolfgramm.

Wolfgramm promises this year's Style Pasifika is an event not to be missed.

"If you've never seen a Style Pasifika show, this is the year to do it. With the inclusion of this special event dinner there's the opportunity for New Zealanders and international guests to really experience a taste of Pasifika.

"Style Pasifika has its own unique flavour; it's unpredictable, it's contemporary. I know Martin and Michael's culinary interpretation will deliver an equally outstanding result. I'm honoured to have them working as part of this year's Style Pasifika Cuisine team."

Westfield Style Pasifika

When: Tuesday 18 October (public event) & Wednesday 19 October 2011 (Hosting/VIP event) Where: Vector Arena, Auckland For more information visit www.stylepasifika.co.nz

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For more information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact Sarah Moore at Goode PR on (09) 481 0962, 021 744 709, <u>sarah@goodepr.co.nz</u>

Westfield Style Pasifika 2011

Rugby meets the world of fashion, music, technology and dance in two incredible nights of distinctly New Zealand entertainment. **Westfield Style Pasifika - Best of Pasifika New Zealand** has been selected as a key event for the REAL New Zealand Festival, a nationwide celebration of all the things we love most about New Zealand.

For two exclusive evenings in the week of Rugby World Cup Final 2011, musicians, dancers, cultural entertainers, artists and designers will come together to showcase the best of New Zealand and Pacific innovation and creativity. This will be an event that will not only strike a chord with Kiwis, but will catapult our unique Pasifika culture onto the world stage.