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MEDIA RELEASE

World Class chef team take on NEW Waikawa restaurant

Hospitality recruitment in the current climate is difficult at best. To be able to attract a chef team with world class credentials to a venue is unthinkable. But that's exactly what's happened at the Waikawa Boating Club in the Marlborough Sounds.

Sandra Wareham will be taking over the kitchen at the Waikawa Boating Club from 4 August, making for a seamless transition for the venue. The handover won't be without change however with the restaurant being rebranded as Bernie's on the Wharf.

Sandra's partner Stephen will be part of her team and they're quite clear that Sandra is the lead in this kitchen and business and her resume is worthy of that approach. Sandra qualified as a chef in 1996 and worked at the Naval & Military Club on St James Square, London. To add to the pressure of what was a private club for gentlemen of the British Armed Services, Sandra became the first female chef allowed into the kitchen in the club's 400 year history.

Sandra's career continued to develop in London, becoming a Sous Chef for Chelsea Football Club where she catered for players and management in their corporate boxes. Then becoming Head Chef at GE Finance and then onto BT Leavesden, where it was more than her career that she developed when she employed Stephen into her kitchen; going on to marry him and have five kids together.

When asked about her most impressive place to work, Sandra quickly identifies being in the kitchen of brothers Albert (OBE) and Michel Roux at what was Roux on Riverside. Sandra's in good company here, with Gordon Ramsay also listed as a graduate of the Roux kitchen.

Meeting Sandra and Stephen, it's clear they are passionate about the kitchen and what they deliver to their guests. The way they talk and feed off each other, it's also clear they are a team. But there are inevitably a few questions for French trained chefs of this caliber and how they will deliver to a Waikawa club market.

So where does Bernie's on the Wharf come from? Turns out that Bernie is Sandra's long standing nickname having been a Burnham before marrying Stephen.

No doubt Sandra can deliver Instagram worthy plates, but what is your specialty? Sandra loves home cooked style with full flavours that let you know you're eating something special.

Sandra sees the big opportunity for the market is in a proper carvery. Roasts carved in front of you by someone who knows what they're doing with a knife. Then help yourself to your favourite vegetables, salads and condiments.

And what of Stephen's chef heritage? Well that's a whole royal story for another day.

The Waikawa Boating Club is open to members and their guests and to any member of a Clubs of New Zealand affiliated club.

ENDS

Images

Sandra in uniform

Sandra at desk

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