

obsession

• northcote

FESTIVAL OF FOOD & WINE, TWO THOUSAND & NINE

A delicious Obsession 26th January - 1st February 2009

In the food capital of Britain, January simply wouldn't be January without the annual Festival of Food and Wine, now known to the world as 'Obsession'. 2009 is the ninth year that Northcote is playing host to this prestigious week-long event and, yet again, it has attracted a line-up of top chefs eager to add their unique and distinctive styles to this sell-out occasion.

In the first eight years, over 50 chefs showcased their talents, and thousands of diners were treated to a night of delicious adventure. This year will be no exception as Nigel Haworth and Craig Bancroft welcome eight masters of their art to Northcote's charming rural location, just outside the village of Langho. But while it's hard to imagine this quiet corner of the world could be home to such a prestigious event, devotees of fine food and wine will have had the last week in January crossed off their calendars for some considerable time.

Back in 2001 Nigel and Craig would hardly have believed their idea of celebrating food with friends and colleagues would take on such a massive momentum. But while each year the scale of the organisation required gets bigger and bigger, they have no regrets at all. "We're normally exhausted before the week even starts", says Craig, who hosts each evening and uses his award-winning skills as a leading expert to select wines to complement each and every dish created throughout the week. "By the end of the week, we're out on our feet, but it's amazing what you can achieve when the adrenalin rush kicks in".

Of course, the guests are usually oblivious to the frantic behind the scenes activities as Northcote's legendary kitchen brigade works alongside chefs who command enormous respect in the kitchens of their own famous establishments. And with a glittering collection of Michelin Stars between them, competition to outshine each other is keen...although the whole week generates as much laughter in the kitchen as it does heated activity.

For Nigel it's the high point of the year. A long time champion of our regional producers and growers, he gets to introduce his local heroes to his fellow chefs, who then get to cook with some of the finest, freshest ingredients available anywhere in the world. "This event is all about the love of fine food", says Nigel. "It doesn't earn a lot of money but, in a way, it's a thank-you to our customers for supporting us and an opportunity for the staff to work in seven different ways."

Long may their wonderful 'Obsession' continue.

The Chefs



Monday 26th January

Daniel Clifford, Midsummer House, Cambridge

www.midsummerhouse.co.uk

Sponsor - *Wright Wine Company*



Tuesday 27th January

Shaun Rankin, Bohemia Bar & Restaurant, Jersey

www.bohemiajersey.com

Sponsors - *Thwaites, Dunbia*



Wednesday 28th January

Glynn Purnell, Purnell's, Birmingham

www.purnellsrestaurant.com

Sponsors - *Total Food Service, CNG*



Thursday 29th January

Phil Howard, The Square, London www.squarerestaurant.org

& Brett Graham, The Ledbury, London www.theledbury.com

Sponsors - *Waverley Vintners*



Friday 30th January

Atul Kochhar, Benares Restaurant & Bar, London

www.benaresrestaurant.com

Sponsors - *Synexus, Sharrocks*



Saturday 31st January

Jason Atherton, Maze, London

www.gordonramsay.com/mazegrill

Sponsors - *Wellgate Fisheries, Begbies Traynor*



Sunday 1st February

Nigel Haworth, Northcote Manor, Langho www.northcote.com

& Paul Heathcote, The Longridge Restaurant, Preston www.heathcotes.co.uk

Sponsors - *Neales, Greaves, Lancashire & Blackpool Tourist Board*

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