



West Australian
Thursday 9/08/2018

Page: 9
Section: Today
Region: Perth, AU
Circulation: 147676
Type: Capital City Daily
Size: 332.00 sq.cms.



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Food diary

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Sue Yeap

Perth is set to get its own version of New York Restaurant Week. Nikki Milne, of The Perth Collective, has been busy signing up restaurants to be part of the **Sample Menu Program** running during her State of Events program, from August 18-23.

Restaurants that have signed up already include Fraser's, BWG Steak House, The Old Brewery, Cook and Mason, Tradewinds Hotel, Grand Orient (The Melbourne Hotel), Julio's (Sage Hotel;

gnocchi below), Black Brewing Co (Margaret River), Miss Chow's (Whitfords), Nic & Kolo, Tiisch, East Village (Whitfords), Hunter & Barrel (Whitfords), Duende and Odyssea City Beach. Participating restaurants will offer three or five-course menus for \$50 per person. "Some jumped at the chance, like the Fraser's Group. They can see the long-term potential for it to grow annually," Milne said of recruiting participants. "New York Restaurant Week is a glowing example, which now has over 380 restaurants participating annually and has been running successfully for 20 years. Other local restaurants have watched with interest and as it gained media attention and public support, added their restaurants to the growing list." Milne said it was also a positive news story for the industry, given all the recent coverage of restaurant closures. "They are glad this concept will give the opportunity to expose what they do well, such as using local produce and having passionate chefs that love what they do." Milne said being from outside the food industry was an advantage. "Using my social media platforms with over 85,000 local followers, plus my love of marketing, I think they could see this concept was different. I am also a small local business owner whose core mission is to support WA – many could relate when I share my reason and background as to why I am doing this." Milne said it made



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sense to launch the menu program during the generally quieter winter period but there could also be a summer edition. See stateofeventswa.com to see the menus.

The new Fresh Food Precinct at **Belmont Forum** launches today with a four-day festival. Food Hacker author Rosie Mansfield will be doing book signings and demonstrations today at 12.30pm and 5.30pm, while Themomix guru Tenina Holder will present Cooking With Tenina sessions on Saturday at noon and 2pm. The precinct, part of the centre's \$65 million redevelopment, includes fresh produce, grab-n-go and sit-down options. Outlets include Bread Top, Dumplings and Duck, Five Seasons Fresh and La Belle Patisserie, a second outlet for the popular croissant, macaron and pastry makers from Lathlain.

Fish Boss will transform the Winter Lodge at Yagan Square into a Louisiana-style **Crab Shack** for two nights only. Indulge in whole seafood with Louisiana seasoning, served with all the trimmings and bibs and hand buckets to clean up the mess. Fish Boss will join forces with the Street Eats crew, who will serve up US-inspired cocktails and beers. The fun happens on August 17-18. Tickets are \$100, including three hours of food, drink and music, from Eventbrite.



La Belle Patisserie is now at Belmont Forum.





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Grand Orient is taking part in the Sample Menu Program.