



Matt Merrin at Quayside Terminal, Townsville

TASTE THE NORTH

More than just a meal

Within a two-hour radius of Townsville lie juicy fresh mangoes, creamy milk and cheese produced by local cows, some of the best fresh-caught seafood and prime export quality cattle.

There's such an unmatched abundance and variety of produce available in the tropical north that for JAM Restaurant chef/owner Matt Merrin, it's a crime not to use each and every flavour that embodies the Townsville region.

And so was born his latest idea.

The award winning chef has attracted much attention for his passion for food which shows in his masterpiece dishes on the Jam menu and so his latest venture, an annual gala dinner is tipped to draw a crowd of hungry feasters.

The first of these dinners launches October 24 this year, with the Townsville BMW Taste The North gala dinner celebrating the unique taste of our region at the beautiful Quayside Terminal building.

At this remarkable event, diners will be treated to an amazing culinary experience while admiring the sweeping views of Magnetic Island and Castle Hill.

"How it came about is we were seeing the need to really promote our region," Mr Merrin said.

"It's about putting Townsville on the map and showcasing what we have available in our region."

As well as being a night out for the tastebuds, Mr Merrin said he hoped the event would stray from other black tie events on offer as it would incorporate a unique mix of local performing art talent from the synergy of Dancenorth performers to the collaboration of some of the best chefs of the region's restaurants and proudly feature the best of our locally grown produce.

"We've got a diverse food bowl up here, as we call it, with everything from amazing local seafood to the like of the Tablelands procuring cheese; there's some cattle grazed up in the

Gulf, it's a whole array of food," he said.

As well as providing a launching platform for what Mr Merrin hopes will grow into an annual festival in the future, the Townsville BMW Taste The North dinner will really be a showcase event promoting the best in North Queensland food to locals and visitors alike.

The idea is that for every table purchased, between two and four of those seats will be for guests invited from overseas, interstate or out of the region to give them a night out experiencing the best Townsville has to offer.

The event is still in planning stages, but details on ticket prices and where to buy a table will be available soon. For an update, head to Tastethenorth.com.au

WHEN

24 October 2015

WHERE

Quayside Terminal, Townsville

MORE INFO

townsvillenorthqueensland.com.au/events