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SAJU, HOTEL MELA'S NEW RESTAURANT, OFFERS "HAUTE VIETNAMESE" CUISINE IN THE HEART OF TIMES SQUARE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK -- Hotel Mela, New York's new boutique hotel, announces the opening of Saju, an eclectic culinary experience featuring exotic "haute Vietnamese cuisine" in an enchanting and sophisticated atmosphere. Saju's menu includes enticing delicacies created by Chef Hung Nguyen from the finest in fresh ingredients in a warm and seductive, Asian-inspired setting that blends city chic with "colonial Vietnam." The restaurant, which seats 110 guests, is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and features a full-service bar offering several signature cocktails created with unique flavors such as ginger and lemongrass.

Created by restaurateur Philippe Bernard, co-owner of the widely acclaimed Osteria al Doge, the restaurant was designed by Pierre Hitier to transport guests to an exotic oasis in the middle of Times Square. Accented in orange, yellow and green, the space features chic teak floors, an imported bamboo ceiling and stunning details including exposed brick walls that create an alluring setting. Saju compliments Hotel Mela's modern, sophisticated and elegant style with its sleek design, swank decor and cosmopolitan ambiance.

Executive Chef Nguyen, born in Kansas City, Missouri, developed an interest and appreciation of Vietnamese cuisine at a young age by spending time in family friends' restaurants. Realizing his passion for cooking, Nguyen enrolled in culinary school in Austin, Texas and began working for Tyson Cole, voted one of Food & Wine's best new chefs in 2005. Under Cole, Nguyen mastered modern Japanese cuisine before making his New York City debut at Café Boulud and then Jovia where he worked under the expertise of Josh Dechellis. Expanding his culinary portfolio, Nguyen moved to Bouley where he relished his experience and education in French cuisine.

With the opening of Saju at Hotel Mela on West 44th Street, Chef Nguyen introduces his approach to creating an exotic gastronomic experience. Saju's menu will feature signature Vietnamese dishes, with select menu choices available for room service to all guests of Hotel Mela. The restaurant will also offer a separate room service menu for breakfast. In addition to the cutting edge cuisine, Saju's philosophy and service represent the welcoming custom of Vietnamese culture.

Saju Dinner Menu

Dinner

Pre-opening Menu

Rolls

Crispy Spring Rolls with shrimp, pork, glass noodles
Crispy Vegetarian Rolls with mushroom, taro root, tofu, glass noodles
Fresh Summer Rolls with shrimp, mint and peanut sauce
with mushroom, tofu, jicama and peanut sauce

Salad

Green Papaya with tiger shrimp and lime fish dressing
Seared Tuna with grapefruit, fennel, herbs and soy dressing
Grilled Beef with rocket, endive, grape tomatoes and kalamansi vinaigrette
Boston Lettuce, King Mushrooms, Mint and Lime Vinaigrette

Appetizers

Manilla Clams with kaffir lime, lemongrass and chilies
Shrimp Ravioli with basil, bean sprout and crisp shallot
Barbeque Baby Pork Rib Lacquered with honey, dijon mustard and spices
Crispy Calamari with tamarind dipping sauce
Grilled Lamb Sausage with pickled root vegetables and peanut sauce

Soup & Noodles

Soup Du Jour
Pho Bo, Hanoi's Beef Noodles Soup with Flank Steak

Meat & Poultry

Pan-seared Chicken Breast with anise ginger sauce and sauteed garlic spinach
Lemongrass Chicken with young scallion, long chili and sweet onion
Grilled marinated Pork Loin with sauteed pickled mustard greens and sweet potato puree
Wok-sauteed Beef Fillet with garlic, vidalia onion, rocket, tomatoes
Grilled Skirt Steak with red wine soy sauce, garlic spinach and sweet potato fries

Seafood

Steamed Wild Sea Bass with shitake mushroom, glass noodles, ginger sauce
Grilled Salmon with kaffir, lemongrass, tomato sauce and garlic spinach
Lemongrass Tiger Shrimp with garlic, pearl onion, eggplant, roasted chili
Roasted Black Cod with light curry sauce, king mushroom, rice paddy herbs
Vietnamese Bouillabaisse with king prawn, scallop and clams

Vegetarian

Wok-Sauteed Curry Lemongrass Tofu with shitake mushrooms and market vegetables
Wok-Sauteed Buddha Vegetarian sliced tofu, chayote, king mushroom and soy bean

Sides

Jasmine Rice
Home Style Sticky Rice with Sweet Sausage
Sauteed Bean Sprout with Garlic Chives
Grilled Eggplant with Young Scallion

Desserts

Lemongrass Kaffir Lime Scented Flan with Fresh Fruit
Chocolate Cake with vanilla tahitian ice-cream
Five Spices Banana Spring Roll with caramel coconut sauce and vanilla ice-cream
Pandan Yucca Cake with hazelnut ice-cream and tapioca sauce
Sorbet
Ice-cream

Located at 120 West 44th Street, the 228-room Hotel Mela was designed to combine high style with the rich culture and history of New York by emphasizing their ‘At Home Sophistication’ design concept, defined as “the little touches and accents that provide the ultimate in comfort, style, luxury and familiarity of home.”

A member of Desires Hotels, Hotel Mela features a signature “Your Desires” program offered exclusively at designated hotels within the Desires Boutique Division. Hotel Mela’s “Your Desires” program will center on the diverse and culturally rich New York marketplace, bringing to hotel guests the very best the city has to offer, along with unparalleled comfort and personalized service.

Hotel Mela is ideally located just steps from some of New York City’s most celebrated landmarks including Broadway, Times Square and Bryant Park, the location of choice for the upcoming fashion week extravaganza.

For more information visit the website at www.hotelmela.com or contact us at 1-877-452-6352.

About Tecton Hospitality and Desires Hotels

Tecton Hospitality and Desires Hotels, the boutique division, provides a wide range of management services to both institutional and individual owners of hotels in the United States and Caribbean. The Desires portfolio currently includes the award-winning 93 room Sagamore Hotel, the 66-room Wave Hotel, the 83-room Circa 39, the 40-room Hotel Astor, the 62-room Betsy Ross Hotel, the 24- room St. Augustine Hotel and the 87-room condo hotel The Strand Ocean Drive in Miami Beach, Fla., the award-winning 76-room San Juan Water & Beach Club Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the 110-room Glenn Hotel in Atlanta, Ga., and the recently opened 235-room Hotel Mela in New York City, NY.

The Miami-based company also operates franchise hotels, including full and select service properties and resorts under the Marriott, Hampton Inn, Choice and Intercontinental Hotel brands.

For more information about Tecton Hospitality and Desires Hotels, call (305) 577-8484 or visit www.tectonhospitality.com and www.desireshotels.com.

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