

Stoke Park Club Executive Chef to Star in ITV's Hell's Kitchen

Submitted by: Susan Flynn PR

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Chris Wheeler from Stoke Park Club, Buckinghamshire is to star alongside Jean-Christophe Novelli in ITV's Hell's Kitchen

Stoke Park Club's Executive Head Chef will be joining his old boss and long standing friend Jean-Christophe Novelli as he prepares to battle Gary Rhodes on Hell's Kitchen from Monday 18th April 2005.

Chris was asked to take part in the show for ITV1 in a phone call from Novelli in March. When asked how he felt about being selected for the role as Jean Christophe's second in command Chris said, "This is such a great opportunity for me, it's a big show and I haven't worked with JC for a while so it's going to be a bit mad but definitely interesting viewing."

When asked why he chose Chris to be his number two, Novelli said "Chris and I go back a long way, he knows everything about me so it was natural to ask him to be on my team. We work well together so it will be fun to be reunited for the programme."

Chris who joined Stoke Park Club in 2002 has received enormous praise for his food by the press, Club Members and restaurant guests. As a key player in the organisation (Chris heads the kitchen of the award winning The Park Restaurant) he is well known and a popular face around the Club. Described as "down to earth" and "fair" by his brigade, Chris will have many supporters wishing him well.

Chris trained to be a chef at Bournemouth Catering College and following an industrial placement at Hotel and Restaurant Domaine De Bassibe in France he joined Jean Christophe Novelli at Provence Restaurant in Hampshire*.

Chris' cooking style can be described as Modern British with European influences. Favourites from The Park menu include Pan Fried Gressingham Duck Breast with Confit Leg and Thyme Mash, Mange Tout, Baby Onion Ring, and Duck Jus and the selection of Mini English Favourite Desserts. (See Park Menu attached)

*Chris Wheeler met Jean Christophe Novelli over 13 years ago at Le Provence in Lymington, Hampshire where Novelli won his first Michelin Star. Their friendship was to stand strong through the successes and disappointments that were to follow during the nineties. Their working relationship ended on a sweet note when Novelli took over as Chef Patron at Auberge Du Lac, Brocket Hall marking the resurgence of his career.

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

Stoke Park Club is a privately owned Hotel, Golf Club and Private Members Club set in Buckinghamshire. The Park Restaurant is open to the public daily 19:00-22:00 and Sunday for lunch 12:00-15:00 by

reservation only. Tel: 01753 717172

Dinner: £31 for two courses / £36 for three courses

Sunday Lunch: £27.50 for three courses

Hell's Kitchen starts on Monday 18th April and will be on week nights at 9pm on ITV1 followed by Hell's Kitchen Extra Portions on ITV2 at 10.30pm

Stoke Park will be welcoming Chris back from Hell with a party on Friday 6th May in The Park Restaurant. For further details contact Susan Flynn PR (details below).

Journalists for further information contact

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