

FROM MACAU TO THE NEW MECCA OF SPORTS



Celebrated international chef Jochen Beranek joins the VenuesLive team at Perth Stadium

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WIDELY-ACCLAIMED chef Jochen Beranek has spent almost 30 years developing his culinary style in restaurants across Europe, Asia, North and Central America, and Australia. Now he has set his sights on delivering an unprecedented food experience at the new Perth Stadium.

Mr Beranek has been appointed Executive Chef at Perth Stadium, joining an elite group of executives in the VenuesLive team that will operate the Stadium under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer, Mike McKenna. He will take up his position in May.

Currently employed as Executive Chef at Altira Macau, one of the leading hotels of Asia, Mr Beranek says he is excited to be joining the team that will open the new Perth Stadium, but especially by the opportunity to take food and beverage offerings to new stadium levels for the fans.

“Having worked around the globe, I can put hand on heart and declare that Australia truly is the best country in the world,” Mr Beranek said.

“My wife Maureen is an Australian and I have worked in Perth (at Crown Perth) previously, so we love Perth and I can think of no project more exciting than the magnificent new Perth Stadium, which will be one of the great stadiums of the world when it opens for business.

“From a chef’s perspective, the Stadium is tremendously exciting . . . an executive lounge, VIP boxes, a signature restaurant, a banquet room for 1500 guests, and just the opportunity to provide fans with a better food and beverage offering than they will have ever seen previously.”

Jochen and Maureen Beranek will move back to Perth shortly with their children Finley, 5, and Ava, 3, in the countdown to the Stadium’s scheduled opening in early 2018.

Born and raised in Austria, Mr Beranek developed a deep appreciation for food and its origins from an early age. Indeed, regional European cuisine has given him the inspiration for some of his signature dishes, including Wagyu Beef Carpaccio, Truffel Polenta & Veal Cheek Cannelloni, Risotto with Merano Speck and Vino Rosso.

He started cooking in 1988 at Restaurant Mirabelle, awarded 1 Toque (Hat) by French Restaurant Guide *Gault Millau*, before refining his skills in restaurants throughout Austria and Switzerland.

Chef Jochen extended his passion and creativity for food in North & Central America, working for Hilton, Westin and Hyatt, before joining Crown Resorts Australia where he met Perth Stadium's newly-appointed General Manager of Catering, Craig Menzies.

During his time at Crown Perth, chef Jochen helped open 11 new restaurants, among them Italian, Japanese and Chinese cuisine, as well as being central to the rebranding of Crown Perth. He then led the taskforce for the openings of City of Dreams Manila Philippines and Studio City Macau.

While Executive Chef at Altira Macau, the hotel has been awarded 1 Michelin Star for Cantonese Cuisine and received 2 Recommendations for its Italian and Japanese restaurants in *The Hong Kong/Macau Michelin Guide for 2018*.

Mr Menzies said of chef Jochen's appointment: "Jochen is a highly-regarded chef with a wide variety of international experience across various cultures and cuisines, from which he has drawn on local traditions and tastes to create his own style of gastronomic perfection.

"The fact that a chef of Jochen's quality and experience wants to be part of the new Perth Stadium further illustrates how exciting this project is for the city and for the people of Western Australia."

General Manager Digital & Technology Appointment

Perth Stadium CEO Mike McKenna has also announced the appointment of digital marketing leader Mike Stephenson as General Manager, Digital and Technology, for VenuesLive at the Stadium.

Passionate about all things digital, Mike graduated from University of Western Australia with an eMBA (Master of Business Administration) and is a recognised expert in his field.

"Mike brings to us a wealth of experience in the digital and technology space and is a recognised leader in this area. His most recent work experiences, including his role at HBF, demonstrates his strong customer and commercial orientation," Mr McKenna said.

"The state-of-the-art technology at Perth Stadium will give us the opportunity to deliver a game-day experience like no other for our guests. With his experience and approach, Mike Stephenson is the man to lead the delivery of this aspect of the project for VenuesLive."

Mr Stephenson will join VenuesLive at Perth Stadium in mid-March. His appointment completes the seven-member VenuesLive executive team.

By the time Perth Stadium opens, there will be more than 70 full-time members of staff. They will be supported by over 1250 casual event-day staff, with ongoing work also for a range of local suppliers and contractors.

VENUESLIVE Executive Team at Perth Stadium

Mike McKenna – Chief Executive Officer

Brad Paatsch – Chief Operating Officer

Chris Loftus-Hills – General Manager, Events & Operations

Rebecca Barry – General Manager, Human Resources

Rob Affleck – General Manager, Corporate Services

Craig Menzies - General Manager, Catering

Michael Stephenson – General Manager, Digital & Technology

Keen to work at the new Perth Stadium? Follow the link to view current vacancies or register your interest in upcoming permanent roles:

<http://www.bfound.net/list.aspx?Cold=2056>

Or register your interest in casual work and stay up to date with the casual recruitment process at:

<http://www.bfound.net/list.aspx?Cold=2056>