



RUDDING PARK STAFF TAKE TO THE FIELDS TO APPRECIATE FOOD PROVENANCE FIRST HAND... - CLOCKTOWER FOOD HEROES CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES MARCH 2008 -



15 January 2008 – Rudding Park's restaurant staff are to be sent out into the Yorkshire countryside to meet local farmers as part of an innovative new campaign - *Clocktower Food Heroes* - to be launched in March 2008.

An evolution of the Clocktower restaurant's existing *Yorkshire Selection* dishes, the *Food Heroes* concept brings the issue of food provenance to the fore, highlighting Rudding Park's ongoing commitment to using the freshest seasonal produce from local suppliers.

Drawing inspiration from a dozen local producers or *Food Heroes*, the year-long campaign will include a new, daily menu offering a choice of four starters, main courses and puddings, each featuring a principle ingredient sourced in Yorkshire within a 100 mile radius of Rudding Park and annotated with the food miles travelled respectively.

However this unique concept stretches beyond the menu with the introduction of an innovative staff familiarisation programme. Comprising a series of monthly *Food Hero* 'field trips' for small groups of kitchen and waiting staff, the campaign will ensure the entire restaurant team visits local suppliers in situ thus developing an in-depth knowledge of the ingredients and farming processes, which can subsequently be passed on to Clocktower diners.

The 12 *Clocktower Food Heroes* have been hand-picked according to a selection of criteria including locality, quality and seasonality. From Sheppard's Purse Yorkshire Blue cheese and Plumpton Rocks asparagus to West Moor Farm free-range pork and Ampleforth Abbey cider, the *Food Heroes* collectively demonstrate the wealth of exceptional produce available across Yorkshire.

The new menu will focus on a different *Food Hero* each month with an emphasis on simply prepared dishes that showcase the ingredients to best effect. It will complement a revised version of Clocktower's existing a la carte menu. A selection of *Clocktower Food Heroes* recipes will also be available for download from www.ruddingpark.com.

Photo Caption:

Stephanie Moon, Rudding Park's Executive Chef with Tom Piercy of West Moor Farm in Easingwold, suppliers of free-range pork and March's Clocktower Food Hero.

Notes to Editors:

Situated on the outskirts of Harrogate in North Yorkshire, Rudding Park is privately owned by Simon Mackaness and his family. Over the last 30 years, a comprehensive programme of improvement and redevelopment has been carried out, which includes the opening of Rudding Holiday Park in 1978, the renovation of Rudding Park House in 1987 and the subsequent opening of the 50-room hotel in 1997.

The estate also comprises an 18 hole, par 72 golf course set in mature Parkland, complemented by an 18 bay floodlit driving range and Golf Academy. A new development of 18 luxury holiday lodges adjacent to the golf course opened in May 2006 and a six-hole short course will open in April 2008.

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