

MEDIA RELEASE

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VIVA P'ITALIA! ITALIAN WEEK BEGINS AT TREASURY CASINO & HOTEL

Brisbane will ignite in a burst of green, white and red when the official launch of Italian Week 2015 is held at Treasury Casino & Hotel tonight.

Celebrating nine years as a proud partner, Treasury's launch event starts the official week-long celebration of Italian National Day on 2 June, with a range of free community events and activities on offer across the city.

"Italian culture is deeply rooted and strongly present in modern Australia," Italian Week Festival Director Alessandro Sorbello said.

"In Queensland, there are more than 100,000 people of Italian origin, and more than 25 per cent are Italian speakers, making Italians one of the largest ethnic groups in the State.

"Italian Week provides an opportunity to celebrate all things Italian and the Italian way of life, and I warmly invite the people of Brisbane to take full advantage of this year's program of free events."

More than 200 local VIPs and members of the Italian Community will attend tonight's official launch at Treasury Heritage Hotel, where guests will be treated to an authentic night of themed entertainment and delicious Italian cuisine under the stars in the spectacular surrounds of The Courtyard.

"Brisbane is an exciting new world city and has tremendous cultural diversity," Treasury Managing Director Geoff Hogg said. "Treasury is proud to support our city's many different multicultural events each year, including the Vietnamese Lunar Festival, BrisAsia Festival, the Asia Pacific Screen Awards and the Brisbane Asia Pacific Film Festival."

Mr Hogg said Treasury's long-standing support of Italian Week epitomised the company's proud record of community contribution and sponsorship.

"Brisbane is the gateway to the Asia-Pacific region, and therefore it is vital that we continue to strengthen our connection with our regional neighbours.

"Queensland's great cultural diversity provides one of the initial impressions for tourists visiting our city, and we celebrate this diversity at Treasury every day with more than 25 languages spoken by our Brisbane staff."

Treasury Casino & Hotel and sister property Jupiters Hotel & Casino on the Gold Coast employ more than 3,500 people in Queensland and are committed to supporting a range of community groups, charities and sponsorships including Surf Life Saving Queensland (supported since 1994), Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland (supported since 2002) and Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland.

More than \$100 million has been contributed to the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund (now the Gambling Community Benefit Fund) since 1987 for grants to community groups across Southern Queensland.

For the full program of Italian Week events, visit www.italianweek.com.au

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