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Old Mission Peninsula embraces local flavor at Mission Table

January 21, 2010, TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN – Chef Paul Olson has crafted a new dining destination around the farm-to-table concept.

This spring Olson and owners Jon Carlson and Greg Lobdell will unveil Mission Table at Bowers Harbor Inn, a restaurant that embraces its breathtaking Northern Michigan surroundings with a menu based on the highest quality ingredients coming directly from local farms, vineyards and purveyors who source locally grown food.

Olson's seasonal tasting menus will incorporate fresh fare in his innovative way, placing flavor and quality above all else. Herbs are grown on-site in a garden located in the back of the property. All of the kitchen staff helps to maintain and harvest the herbs. Vegetables come from nearby Kroupa and Werp Farms. Even locally-grown teas from Light of Day Organics and coffee from the Leelanau Coffee Roaster will be served.

That dedication to local, sustainable foods will not be confined to the tasting menu. Mission Table will also serve wine, beer and spirits derived from local growers. While Mission Table is working with master distilleries from around the world, the restaurant will also serve Civilized, a brand of spirits distilled on-site. A full tasting room at Mission Table will allow guests to taste and experience Jolly Pumpkin, North Peak and Grizzly Peak beers along with Civilized spirits and Mission Table's private label, Bonafide wines.

As the restaurant lies in the heart of wine country, its extensive wine list will reflect all the bounty available in Northern Michigan, including its own grapes, grown on the Bowers estate. Many North Peak beers are produced on site, and a majority of the hops come from Union Hop Exchange, grown not only on Mission Peninsula but all over Northwest Michigan. In an effort to reduce and reuse the brewery gives its spent grain to area cattle farmers to feed cows.

It's a cyclical process that shows Mission Table's investment in sustaining its community while offering the best of local flavor in a friendly, comfortable setting. An over-sized community table will serve as the focal point of the restaurant. Large groups may converge there, or smaller parties may share the space.

"We hope our guests will find Mission Table to be a warm, inviting gathering place where the comforts of food, family and friends meet to create a memorable dining experience," said Olson. "Our welcoming, attentive staff is an essential part of that experience."

"We want to be sure all of our guests feel welcome and relaxed as they walk through our doors. Whether they choose a table by the fireplace, or choose a view of the bay, we will provide an unparalleled Old Mission experience."

Mission Table is located at 13512 Peninsula Drive on the Old Mission Peninsula in Traverse City. The historic location was built in the 1880s and remodeled in the 1920s as a retreat for Chicago lumber baron J.W. Stickney and his wife. In 1974, it became a fine dining establishment. In 2006 Jon Carlson and Greg Lobdell purchased the property, formerly Bowers Harbor Inn, to preserve it as a significant historic site and award-winning restaurant. Call (231) 223-4222.

For more information on Mission Table please contact Jim Miller at millerj@publicityworkspr.com or Stephanie A. Casola at scasola@publicityworkspr.com at Publicity Works, or call 248.691.4466.

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