



# Breakas Beach Resort

## VANUATU

3 January 2012

**Media Release**

### **Brisbane chef Mario Alfieri hosts cooking class in Vanuatu**

From 4-9 March 2012, Breakas Beach Resort in Port Vila will take visitors on an unforgettable journey into the romantic world of Italian cooking with the *Mario Alfieri Masterclass Cooking Tour*.

Learn the art of crafting authentic Italian cuisine in an alfresco kitchen on the beach with the sand between your toes, from a master of Italian cooking.

Mario Alfieri, multi award-winning chef and owner of *Mario at The Dining Room* in Hendra, has been a well-known restaurant identity in Queensland for the past 38 years.

His cooking style is renowned for serving "hearty, wholesome food" that goes back to the basics.

"I believe that a good tasty meal can be created simply at a reasonable price," said Mario whose restaurant was awarded The Courier-Mail's Best Italian restaurant in 2011.

"In Australia, we have an abundance of food and we over-shop for our needs. "The new style reality cooking shows have encouraged people to believe they should create extremely complicated food when, in many cases, this is neither practical nor affordable in these tough economic times."

For the past five years, Mario has been a guest chef at Breakas Beach Resort and has mentored the local chefs. The self-titled March cooking tour is the first of a series that will continue every six weeks throughout 2012.

Well accustomed to creating extraordinary combinations using fresh, locally-sourced ingredients, Mario will begin the class with a tour of the local produce markets and share his intimate knowledge of Melanesian culinary culture.

Showcasing the seasonal flavours of the South Pacific, guests can enjoy recreating Mario's signature Italian sauces and learn professional pasta making techniques while holidaying in a stunning location.

The *Mario Alfieri Masterclass Cooking Tour* includes:

- Return flights with Air Vanuatu
- Return airport transfers
- 4 nights in a garden fare (villa) twin share
- Continental breakfast daily
- Two-day chef lead culinary cooking class
- Guided coral reef walk
- Cultural village tour
- Price \$1,650 inclusive

As bookings are limited, advance reservations are highly recommended.

For more information contact [groups@spacificatravel.com](mailto:groups@spacificatravel.com)

### **About Mario Alfieri**



### **A true pioneer of Italian cuisine in Queensland**

Seasoned chef and restaurateur Mario Alfieri has been at the forefront of creative Italian cuisine for more than 30 years. The original owner of Nicolini's on the Gold Coast, Mario relocated to Brisbane in 1992 and opened the award-winning restaurant Mariosarti in Toowong.

His latest venture, Mario at the Dining Room in Hendra, follows in Mariosarti's footsteps with an emphasis on authentic Italian cuisine, generous portions and a warm, neighbourly atmosphere.

The crab and prawn meat fettuccine is a favourite with those in the know. Mario is old-school when it comes to service and hospitality, prowling the dining room to see that all are greeted like old friends and kept informed of the nightly specials.

## **Awards**

- Good Life Restaurant Award  
2002/2003/2004
- Best of the Best: The Courier-Mail  
2005/2009/2010
- Finalist RCA Best Italian Brisbane  
2005/2008/2009
- Finalist RCA Best Italian Queensland  
2006
- Winner RCA Best Italian Brisbane  
2006/2007
- Winner RCA Best Italian Queensland  
2007
- Finalist RCA Best Italian Australia  
2007
- Who's Who Book of Lists (Queensland Edition)  
2008
- Gourmet Traveller Best Restaurants in Australia Guide  
2006/2007/2008/2009/2010
- Finalist RCA Best Italian Australia  
2010
- The Courier-Mail Best Italian Brisbane  
2011