



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**RELEASED: July 2009**

**RENOWNED RESTAURATEUR  
EXPANDS TRADE AT SALT VILLAGE**

Internationally acclaimed restaurateur, Steven Snow, is set to open two new dining venues at Salt Village, following the award-winning success of his current restaurant, Fins at Salt.

Mr Snow and business partner Marco Cenfi plan to open an Italian and Mediterranean restaurant and bar, known as Bellini, and a gelateria bar, known as Piccolo.

The new venues are expected to be open by September this year.

The business expansion follows the release of three new premium retail tenancies at Salt Village.

Just one of the tenancies remains available, with negotiations currently underway with a major national fashion retailer.

In addition to the opening of Bellini and Piccolo, Salt Village's IGA X-Press is set to undergo a major expansion and amalgamation with Salt Cellars Bottle Shop, to offer residents and guests even more food choices.

Ray Group head of commercial and retail, Jack Ray, says the demand for space from top national retailers is indicative of the retail precincts' increasing popularity offering operators a unique non-competitive captive market in one of Australia's fastest growing resort and residential areas

"Salt Village's retail precinct has been trading extremely well thanks to more Australians choosing to holiday locally and a strong rate of migration and home building completions in the area," Mr Ray said.

"Salt Village Retail is the only commercial precinct in this rapidly growing resort and residential community, and retailers are realising how lucrative a tenancy at Salt Village is.

"The launch of Mr Snow and Mr Cenfi's new dining venues will add to Salt Village's reputation as a world-class dining precinct.

"The expansion and amalgamation of the IGA X-press will offer residents and resort guests a one-stop-shop for groceries, liquor and a new range of high quality affordable take away food including a new fresh pizza and chicken express bar."

Development applications for all of Salt Village's new retailers were lodged in June, and the upgraded precinct is expected to be operating by September.

Mr Snow and Mr Cenfi's authentic Italian and Mediterranean café and bar, to be known as Bellini, and boutique gelateria bar to be known as Piccolo, are expected to be open in time for the September school holidays.

Mr Snow says the new venues will add to the array of high-quality dining options at Salt Village.

"Salt Village is a fantastic place to work – it's a high-quality destination with huge potential, and it has already gained a national reputation as a dining and entertainment hotspot," Mr Snow said.

"Bellini will provide diners with an authentic Italian and Mediterranean culinary experience for breakfast, lunch and dinner, modelled on the success of Marco Cenfi's Belli Bar in Sydney, which is renowned for its excellent European and Mediterranean food.

"Piccolo will be a colourful cafe-style takeaway bar offering high quality authentic snacks such as cake, gelatos, frozen yoghurts, fruit juices, pasta and coffee.

"Marco will be using his expertise as a restaurateur and respected interior architect to oversee the concept and design of both venues.

"I have worked with Marco on several other projects, including the design and \$1 million fitout for Fins at Salt which looks incredible, and I'm sure Bellini and Piccolo will have the same 'wow' factor.

"I will remain committed with Fins at Salt but will also take responsibility for ensuring the menus and food served at Bellini and Piccolo are of the highest standard."

Mr Ray says the retail precinct's expansion and the region's new infrastructure advances will help draw even more people to the Tweed Coast to shop, dine and play.

"Salt Village is becoming an increasingly popular destination for day trippers thanks to the recently opened Tugun Bypass, which means you can now reach Salt Village from the Brisbane CBD in just over an hour without stopping for one traffic light," Mr Ray said.