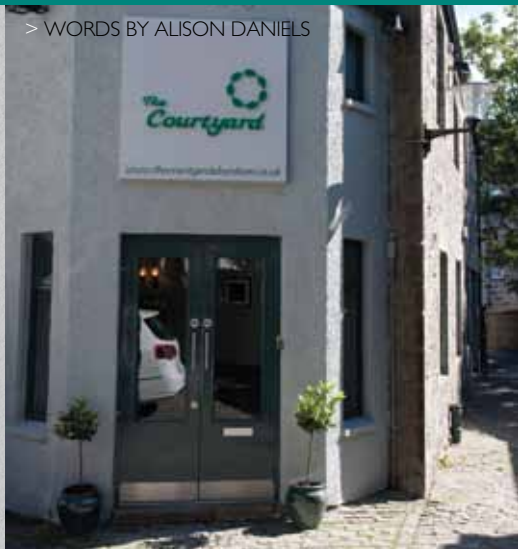


# A Star is Born!

> WORDS BY ALISON DANIELS



La Stella has quickly become one of Aberdeen's most sought after restaurants, with Head Chef Chris Tonner being renowned for his delightful menus, using the best seasonal ingredients.

Just eighteen months after opening La Stella, Chris is happy to announce a new addition to his family, with the opening of The Courtyard, La Stella's new sister restaurant on Alford Lane.

The Courtyard is where Chris's culinary career started when he was just fifteen, and he's happy to be back in such a great location. The downstairs room seats fifty in a relaxing atmosphere where chocolate tones are offset with a restful grey-green. Upstairs, there's a private dining room that can take up to thirty five guests.

The menu has been composed with a lot of care and it's readily apparent that the team lavish attention of every aspect of the dining experience, from the extensive wine list to beers chosen from as far away as the US and as close as Peterhead, to the amuse-bouche that the kitchen send to start dinner.

The restaurant is open for both lunch and dinner with an autumn menu that features a daily market selection of fish dishes, as well as Chris's favourites from La Stella and his latest recipes, such as a cep risotto that comes with a black olive croque monsieur, shallot reduction and roasted sweet potato, or a well hung Scottish fillet steak with heritage potato chips and roast autumn veg. Desserts are lovingly handcrafted in house and may make you want to take the pastry chef home.

It's obvious that the news about the Courtyard is spreading fast, going by the number of reservations being made during Trend's visit. Book as soon as you can, because La Stella's little sister is set to be a star in her own right.

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