

# M E D I A   R E L E A S E

14 May 2002

## MALMAISON NOUVEAU BAR & BRASSERIE

Malmaison Edinburgh has officially opened its completely redesigned Bar, Brasserie and Reception. It's the first phase to complete of an overall £4m redevelopment of the hotel. The second and final phase of the development will see another 40 rooms opening in June, bringing the total number of rooms in the hotel to 100.

General manager Andrew Spearman commented: "It's always slightly dangerous to change something that's very successful. But in order to satisfy demand and provide an even slicker service we decided that the time was right for some serious change. The world has moved on enormously since we first opened in August 1994, nearly 500 000 people have passed through our doors since then so it's time to push the boundaries again. We've always been very conscious of our 'industry leader' tag, and with that reputation brings certain guest expectations. To maintain our number one position it's vital that we continue to evolve our product in the right direction, and that's exactly what this redevelopment is doing for us in Edinburgh. Malmaison has always been internationalist in its outlook, cosmopolitan in its mix. Attracting both visitors to the city looking for something different along with locals who just know they're guaranteed a great modern brasserie experience and a great bar. So in that context then nothing's changed, we've just made the best better"

Both the Bar and Brasserie maintain their views over Leith waterfront, particularly from their now extended al fresco terraces. The food and overall cultural approach remain as a very contemporary take on the great French Brasseries of the last century. Signature dishes include Char Grilled Rib Eye with Café de Paris butter and Pan Fried Skate Wing with Spinach and Capers, mixing comfortably with more modern dishes like Grilled Sweet Potato and Carmelised Onions with Buffalo Mozzarella and Tomato Chutney or Spiced Leg of Guinea Fowl with a Warm Salad of Aubergine, Potato, French Beans and Tomato Vinaigrette. The exclusive Malmaison wine, bought direct in France, continues to offer blockbuster classics from small growers at affordable prices.

The new Malmaison Edinburgh designs are by London based interior designers, Jestico & Whiles. They continue and evolve Malmaison's now famous subtle colour palette, mixed with highlights of bold colour and strong stripes, always coupled of course with the slightest touch of humour. Jestico & Whiles is also working on the new £22m Malmaison in Birmingham.

**ends**

**For further information on Malmaison, please contact Karen Morrison/Rachel Collins at Citigate SMARTS on 0141 229 7634/3; mobile: 07816 848105**

**Notes to Editors**

- Malmaison Edinburgh's extension is to increase its total bedroom capacity from 60 to 100.
- Architectural planning and interior design is being carried out by London-based Jestico & Whiles and construction was handled by HBG.
- Jestico & Whiles are interior designers for the new £22m Malmaison in Birmingham scheduled to open this autumn. The company also worked on the refurbishment of Malmaison Manchester, which opened last year.
- Malmaison was launched in 1994. There are currently five Mals in the UK - Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, Leeds and Newcastle.
- The Malmaison portfolio currently totals over 500 rooms across 5 hotels, with room rates from £115/£120 midweek and from £170 for two night weekends.
- Bookings can also be made online at Malmaison's web site: [www.malmaison.com](http://www.malmaison.com)
- Malmaison has won the UK Hotel of the Year Award for the last three years, at the Observer and Guardian Travel Awards.