

The West Australian

WA restaurateur George Kailis to open new hospitality hub at Sorrento with \$12 million investment



George Kailis – the brains behind some of WA’s best restaurants – will open four new venues in Sorrento, as Perth’s luxury hospitality footprint shifts north.

Kailis is investing \$12 million for the site and fit-out at the 1000sqm hospitality hub, will include bars, restaurants and cafes within the Ora Sorrento residential development, with venues set to open in 2027.

It adds to his three existing Cottlesloe venues, including Gibney, which was recently crowned WA restaurant of the year by Gourmet Traveller.

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An investment by a top restaurateur in a suburb once considered a coastal outpost would have seemed unusual a decade ago, but with the area now part of a fast growing corridor, it is increasingly attracting investment and development dollars.

Mr Kailis said the residential population was booming from Scarborough to Yanchep.

“Sorrento is smack-bang in the middle of that,” he said.

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“We clearly jumped at the opportunity to acquire all the restaurant sites. The opportunity to now deliver a fully-integrated beachside hospitality precinct with multiple brands and offers a once-in-a-generation situation and one that we are extremely excited about,” he said.

Kailis is not ready to divulge the concept behind the new venues, but said it won't imitate his his most famous restaurant because “there can only be one Gibney”.

But it will be designed by the same architectural team Rezen Studio, with a high level of design but a “more approachable” vibe.

Kailis Hospitality's group sommelier Nina Throsby and group bar director James Gentile will also work on the project.

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Mr Kailis also created Magic Apple and The Shorehouse in Cottesloe, and was previously involved in family businesses Canteen and Island Market in Trigg.

Megara director Jamie Clarke said the Group was the ideal custodian for its major development on West Coast Drive.

“When creating Ora Sorrento’s collection of luxury residences, our vision was to pair world-class design and development with partners capable of delivering an equally outstanding hospitality offering,” he said.

“Their proven track record, particularly the success of Gibney in Cottesloe, gave us full confidence they will bring the same calibre of quality, innovation, and design to Sorrento and delight future residents.”