

**PRESS RELEASE
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INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING CHEFS GIVE FESTIVAL A GOURMET TWIST IN SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's inaugural literary festival, **The Galle Literary Festival**, was launched today in the newly renovated Law Court Square of Galle Fort - the magnificent UN World Heritage site.

The festival which is running over 4 days from 10th to 14th January 2007 promises to be a world class event providing locals and international visitors with a chance to come and enjoy their favourite Sri Lankan & International authors and chefs.

Festival Director, Libby Southwell says "We are thrilled to be hosting some of the world's best chefs at this inaugural festival giving visitors the opportunity to enjoy incredible gourmet food with a mix of both international and local award winning authors."

Fans of the award winning cookery writer and world authority on Indian food, **Madhur Jaffrey** will be able to hear her discuss her award winning recipes and latest memoir *Climbing the Mango Trees* at the stunning **Amangalla** hotel.

Founder and owner of London's enormously successful River Café, **Rose Gray** will be presenting a 3 course Italian dinner at one of the world's best hotels, **The Dutch House**. Rose will also be teaching guests how to make the perfect pizza at an al fresco lunch held at the bio-diversity farm **Samakanda**, just 40 minutes inland from Galle.

Participants can enjoy a delicious lunch cooked by celebrated Australian chef, author, food writer, food manufacturer, presenter, teacher and gastronomic traveller **Christine Manfield**, as she shares how her culinary work draws on the exotic spices and flavours of many cultures. Christine has published four award-winning books with Penguin Australia - *Stir, Spice, Paramount Cooking* and *Paramount Desserts*.

Peter Kuruvita, one of Australia's leading chefs & owner of Sydney's award winning restaurant, Flying Fish will present a 3-course dinner at **The Fort Printers**, a boutique hotel in Galle Fort recently listed on USA Conde Naste Traveler's Hot List.

Australian, **Janet de Neefe** is the owner of two of Bali's leading restaurants, Casa Luna & Indus and founder of the Casa Luna Cooking School, recently listed amongst the World's Best Cooking Schools by The Australian will be presenting her finest contemporary Indonesian. She is also the author of a memoir, *Fragrant Rice*.

Amongst this fine line up of chefs the festival also has an exciting line up of international authors.

Fans of the recent 2006 Man Booker Prize winner, **Kiran Desai**, will be able to hear her discuss her award winning book *The Inheritance of Loss*. Internationally acclaimed author and historian **William Dalrymple** will take you on a dramatic journey as he unveils his enthusiasm for India's last Mughal emperor with his recently launched book *The Last Mughal*. World renowned, ex BBC India correspondent and author **Mark Tully** will join other leading journalists from the region including foreign correspondent **Christopher Kremmer**, author of 3 books, his latest being *Inhaling the Mahatma*. Distinguished biographer **Victoria Glendinning** will bring to life her latest biography *Leonard Woolf - a life*. 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist **Suketu Mehta** will share his passion for the throbbing metropolis of Bombay with his book *Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found*.

The four day programme will be filled with gourmet literary lunches & dinners, writing workshops, panel discussions, topical debates, poetry readings, a children's program and much more.

The Galle Literary Festival will be held in & around the historic city of **Galle** and its magnificent UN World Heritage Fort. Galle offers the perfect location for the literary festival providing a range of unique & memorable venues for individual events as well as providing the perfect springboard for which visitors can explore the rich culture & history of the coastline & villages of the Southern Province.

The Galle Literary Festival is proudly sponsored by: **Sri Lankan Airlines, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, , Dilmah Tea, The British High Commission, Lunuganga, Amangalla, The Dutch House, The Lighthouse Hotel & Spa, Barefoot Gallery, The Sun House, The Fort Printers, The Fort Gallery, Perera Hussein Publishing House, Samakanda, Cathay Pacific, Six Senses Resorts & Spas, The British Council, Pyxle PVT Ltd, The Fortress, Aditya, Casa Colombo, Emirate Airlines, USAID, The Tourism Cluster, The Competitive Project, Grant McCann Erickson, Response Marketing (PVT) Ltd, The Favourite Group, Samayawardhana Printers (PVT) Ltd, The Economist and The Australian High Commission, Colombo, Emirates, Sri Lanka InStyle, Closenburg Hotel.**

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