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CARA IRISH PUBS ANNOUNCES 2019 EXPANSION AND PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AND GLOBAL AWARDS FOR CHEF VINCENT FRANCOUAL

Cooper to become The Local West End and Chef Francoual Recognized as Best Chef by the Irish Hospitality Global Association

November 26, 2018 – Minneapolis, MN – Initially, when Chef Vincent Francoual closed his eponymous restaurant and joined Cara Irish Pubs as Culinary Director, it was an unexpected and shocking move. Since then, he has successfully invigorated the culinary teams at Cara Irish Pubs and refined the menu offerings to the delight of their customers. In so doing, he has received recognition by the Irish Hospitality Global Association and awarded Best Chef. Nominated by the public, Chef Francoual won not only Best Chef North America, a division that has 3,600 member restaurants, but also Best Chef Global which includes Ireland, Europe, Asia, Africa, Middle East and Pacific regions.

“It’s like winning the Oscar’s of Irish Pubs,” said Peter Killen, Cara Irish Pubs CEO, “We are so thrilled for Vincent to receive both of these awards.”

“It has been a great challenge to refine the classic Irish Pub food served at our restaurants, and I have enjoyed it very much, receiving these awards shows that the public, is enjoying it too.” said Chef Francoual.

In addition to the awards, Killen is excited to announce, early next year, pending approval from the City Council, **Cooper** in the West End will become **The Local West End**. As part of a larger expansion plan for the next several years, Cara Irish Pubs will be adding new locations throughout the Metro for **The Local**, with the goal of expanding to 10 locations.

In early 2019, **Cooper** will close briefly for remodeling, for mostly cosmetic changes to bring the look and feel of **The Local Downtown** to the West End. The design and build for the remodel is being done by OL Irish Pubs, based in Dublin. The results of the remodel will make the space cozier, add new furniture, and color schemes for both the interior and exterior of the building, setting a standard for future locations.

Killen recently traveled to Ireland to oversee the carpentry for **The Local West End**. Upon his return, he stopped in Washington D.C. to attend a hospitality seminar. Killen was invited to join 30 Class A Members of the Irish Hospitality Global Association from the United States, and 10 Members from Canada, to attend the seminar hosted by the Irish Tourist Board and Irish Food Board to foster strong connections between the countries and pub owners.

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