

Skybury coffee on web

SKYBURY Coffee is now available via cyberspace with the launch of the plantation's website to meet growing consumer demand.

Coffee lovers all over the world can choose from dark, medium and house roast and choose whole beans or different grinds in packages up to 1kg.

Skybury managing director Ian MacLaughlin said the new website allowed the company to ensure the delivery of fresh coffee.

"On-line sales are an excellent way for us to maintain total quality control," Mr MacLaughlin said.

"When we receive the order, the beans are roasted and ground so the coffee our clients receive is absolutely plantation fresh."

Skybury's Australian Coffee Centre, near Mareeba, produces more than half of Australia's national coffee crop with an annual harvest of between 120 to 140 tonnes per year.

The new website can be viewed at www.skybury.com.au

Chopper faith in Port

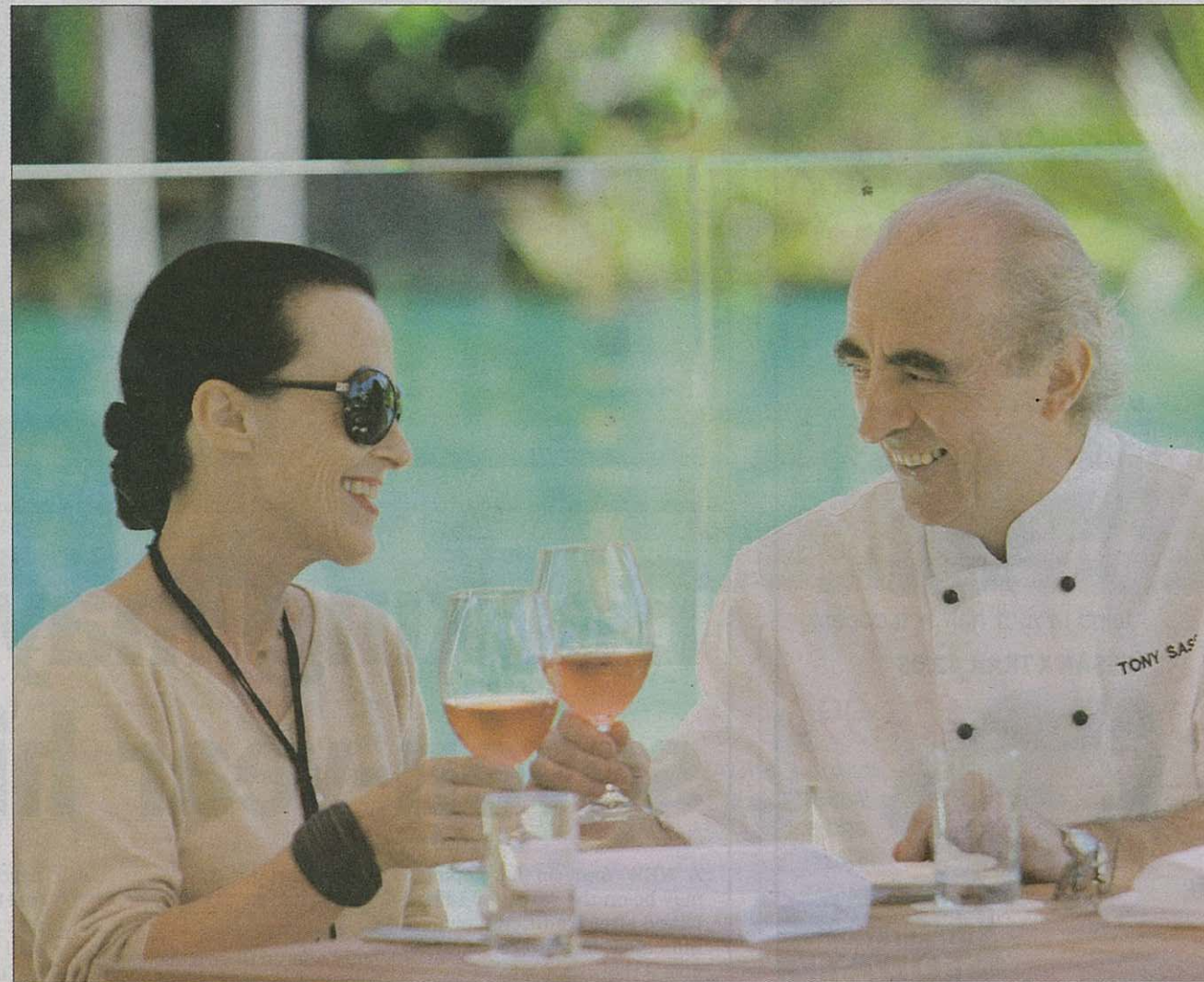
HELICOPTER company GBR has added a new Robinson R44 chopper to its fleet to exclusively service Port Douglas.

GBR Helicopters spokesman Neil Swann said the aircraft, named *Faith in Port*, would fill a gap in the Port Douglas market by providing affordable access to Far Northern attractions and locations.

To be piloted by Nigel Thomas, the helicopter features leather seats, inflight commentary and courtesy transfers.

"*Faith In Port* is such a distinctive aircraft we know the locals will take ownership of her," Mr

Maestro of Italian flavours is back in Port



Kicker: Di and Tony Sassi toast the opening of their new cucina, Sassi at Bale, at Port Douglas.

Picture: MICHELLE COLEMAN

AUSTRALIAN restaurant royalty Tony and Di Sassi are back in the kitchen at Port Douglas with the latest cucina bearing their name, Sassi at Bale.

It's a welcome return, after being out of the game for the past two years. Italian-born Tony Sassi's flair for reinvigorating traditional Italian flavours for the tropics earned him state and national accolades at their last eatery, Sassi Island Point.

The latest dining experience is casual elegance. The restaurant is already operating its club lounge overlooking a large wet-edge pool, while the 100-seat dining room, bordered on three sides by floor to ceiling bi-fold doors, will permit the full indoor and outdoor experience.

Included in the fare will be two of Toni Sassi's signature dishes, the divine carpaccio and Sassi oysters, known for the delicately blended lime-soy-salmon caviar sauce.

"Tony is known for his unique tastes sensation - the flavours come together in harmony," said Di.

Sassi at Bale is open seven days for breakfast, lunch and dinner at 1 Bale Drive, Port Douglas. Bookings 4084 3085.

Mission to win back Japanese travellers

Easier to go to Sapporo

THE Far North will become the unexpected launching pad for Australian skiers into the northern hemisphere's ski season with Continental Airlines launching daily flights between Cairns and Sapporo via Guam.

Continental sales and marketing vice president Walter Dias said more than 20,000 Australian skiers visited Sapporo, Hokkaido during the 2006-07 winter season.

"With the launching of the daily schedule this winter, we are pleased to provide the customers in Australia with convenient access to popular ski resorts in Hokkaido," Mr

TOURISM Tropical North Queensland hopes a mission to Japan will renew interest in Cairns and district as a travel destination.

Japanese tourist numbers have dropped off significantly in the past few years so TTNQ's Japan mission comes at an important time.

TTNQ chief executive Rob Giason said the mission would run from July 9 to 14 in co-operation with airlines Qantas and

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Nagoya and Osaka, which commence in August," Mr Giason said.

"There will be trade seminars and workshops conducted in Osaka and Nagoya and Jetstar will be providing product seminars, which will outline the two class services they will offer on these routes."

"They will be meeting with key trade representatives as well as participating in promotional activity directly targeting consumers," he said.

"TTNQ has worked with Tourism Australia, Tourism Queensland, Qantas and Jetstar to develop various marketing activities for this mission."

In Nagoya, TTNQ and Tourism Queensland will work with radio stations and magazines to stage a two-day consumer event

Mosaic and travel agency Han-kyu Express.

"A highlight of the collateral we are taking to Japan is the hot off the press Japanese version of our beautifully presented *Cairns and Great Barrier Reef Region Gazette*."

"Boosting the focus on our own natural attractions will be a 16-page booklet produced by Tourism Australia highlighting all of Australia's natural world heritage attractions."