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**ASCOT RACECOURSE REVEALS THE ADDITION OF J SHEEKEY AND
NEIL RANKIN'S TEMPER, PLUS DETAILS FROM FORTNUM & MASON
FOR ROYAL ASCOT 2019**

Tuesday 18th – Saturday 22nd June

London, 16th May: Ascot Racecourse has announced it will continue its partnership with Fortnum & Mason for 2019, whereby racegoers may pre-book luxury picnic hampers and collect them when arriving at the racecourse.

In addition, it has been revealed that the iconic Covent Garden restaurant J Sheekey will make its debut in the Royal Enclosure this year, as well as Neil Rankin's Soho barbecue restaurant Temper, which will take up residence in the Windsor Enclosure for Royal Ascot. Both new food establishments are demonstrative of the racecourse's commitment to elevating the customer experience, offering an unrivalled choice for racegoers throughout the Royal Meeting.

Fortnum & Mason Picnics

Fortnum & Mason picnics will be available to pre-book, from a 'Garden Picnic' to a 'Fortnum's Feast'. This year's delicious picnics are perfect for al fresco dining and can be savoured in the Royal Enclosure, Queen Anne Enclosure and Village Enclosure. Delicacies include prawn & lobster cocktail, truffled pecorino & farfalle salad with rocket pesto.



Temper by Neil Rankin Windsor Enclosure Debut

Marking the first time the Windsor Enclosure has welcomed a celebrity chef to the Royal Ascot experience, chef Neil Rankin has developed a menu of sizzling barbecue feasts including aged cheeseburger tacos, grilled spring chicken and succulent steaks. Also serving a selection of takeaway options, such as fish tacos, 'Ginger Pig' burgers and salty chips, Rankin's food can be enjoyed in the famously vibrant atmosphere of the Windsor Enclosure.



J Sheekey Pop-Up in the Royal Enclosure

Royal Enclosure guests will be familiar with the timeless charm of Covent Garden seafood restaurant J Sheekey. Offering walk-up sittings, highlights from the restaurant's iconic menu, including the finest fish, shellfish and seasonal game, will be available each day of Royal Ascot. For discerning customers who don't wish to pre-schedule a meal at the races, but who appreciate fine food and wine, this new restaurant provides the perfect solution.



Rankin says, *“Every year me and the senior team from Temper attend Royal Ascot. So, to be cooking and serving my food there this year is a truly exciting opportunity.”*

Francesco Cappucci, Restaurant Director of J Sheekey, said: *“I am thrilled to bring J Sheekey to Royal Ascot this year, and proud to be part of such a classic British summer event. Our menu will include classic Sheekey dishes such as pan-fried Dover sole with béarnaise sauce & jersey royals; and our seafood platter with dressed crab, gravlax, tiger prawns & stone bass ceviche, ideal dishes to be enjoyed on a beautiful day at Royal Ascot.”*

Speaking about Fine Dining at Royal Ascot in 2019, Jonathan Parker, Director of Food & Beverage at Ascot Racecourse, said: *“We are excited to welcome so many exceptionally talented and highly respected chef-restauranteurs to the Royal Meeting this year. Ascot is a leading light in sporting venue gastronomy, and we have an incredible platform to showcase some of the country’s top chefs, making a day at Royal Ascot like nowhere else.*

“Over the past 300 years, Ascot Racecourse has established itself as a national institution and food and drink plays a huge part in a racegoer’s experience. With a reputation of being the highlight summer event in society’s calendar, we are constantly evolving and enhancing the experience for our customers and 2019’s food and drink really does set the bar high.”

Royal Ascot promises five days of world-class horse racing, high fashion, pageantry and Fine Dining as the racecourse opens its gates to more than 300,000 racegoers from across the globe. From the arrival of the Royal Procession at 2pm to communal singing around the Bandstand after the last race, each day of Royal Ascot is a truly remarkable and memorable occasion.

Royal Ascot Food & Drink 2019 Summary:

- Eight Michelin Stars collectively make 2019 the most illustrious Royal Ascot Fine Dining line-up ever
- HIDE’s Ollie Dabbous to make his Royal Ascot debut in The Balmoral, Royal Enclosure
- Raymond Blanc OBE returns to play pivotal role, hosting The Panoramic restaurant in the Royal Enclosure
- Simon Rogan returns to the Royal Enclosure Gardens for a second year
- Phil Howard headlines ON 5 in the Queen Anne Enclosure once again
- Master pâtissier Eric Lanlard makes his debut, presenting Afternoon Tea at Royal Ascot – available in 1768 Grill & Tea Rooms, Windsor Greys and the Parade Ring Restaurant
- James Tanner returns to the Queen Anne Enclosure for a third year to host the Queen Anne Kitchen and his gourmet burger pod
- Neil Rankin will make his Royal Ascot debut in the Windsor Enclosure, with Temper
- J Sheekey takes up residence in the Royal Enclosure for the first time
- Fortnum & Mason picnics will be available to pre-book for 2019

Royal Ascot will be held from Tuesday 18th – Saturday 22nd June 2019. Tickets start from £37 with Fine Dining Packages starting from £269+VAT per person with Private Boxes from £810+VAT per person. Early booking is advised to avoid disappointment with several restaurants already sold out.

www.ascot.co.uk #RoyalAscot

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NOTES TO EDITOR

Ascot Racecourse was founded in 1711 by Queen Anne who saw the land had potential for horseracing. Royal Ascot in June is an occasion like no other in the sporting calendar. While its five days of Flat racing attracts entries from around the World and is demonstrably a celebration of horseracing at its very best, it is also a social occasion like no other, steeped in history and synonymous with pageantry and style.

On each of the five race days, The Queen arrives by Royal Procession along the racecourse with her guests, in full view of the 300,000 weekly spectators. At the heart of Royal Ascot is the Royal Enclosure which dates back to 1807 and the reign of George III. Within this area, a dress code of morning dress for men and formal day wear for ladies applies.

Outside of the Royal Meeting, Ascot Racecourse has a further 21 days of both Flat and Jumps racing which includes four dedicated family racedays, the King George Weekend at the end of July, the Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup and Post-Racing Concert in August and QIPCO British Champions Day in October – the finale of the Flat season.

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