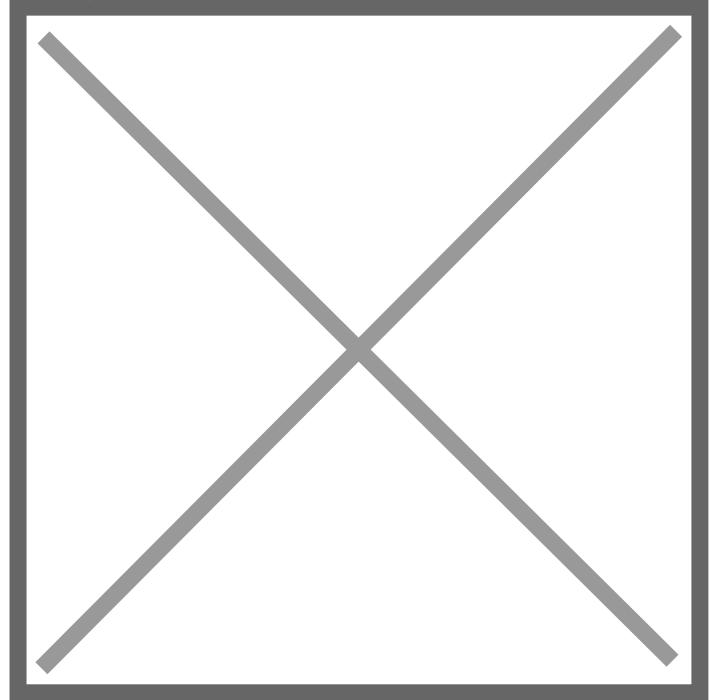
INTERSECT BY LEXUS - NYC TO WELCOME COMPÈRE LAPIN FROM NEW ORLEANS AS NEXT RESTAURANT-IN-RESIDENCE

September 29, 2021

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NEW YORK CITY (September 29, 2021) – **INTERSECT BY LEXUS** – **NYC** will debut its seventh Restaurant-in-Residence, New Orleans' <u>Compère Lapin</u>, on October 20, 2021. James Beard Award-winning owner and chef Nina Compton will return to New York City, offering her signature blend of Gulf coast ingredients and Caribbean-inspired flavors to guests at INTERSECT for an unparalleled dining experience.

Located in The Old No. 77 Hotel in New Orleans' Warehouse District, Compère Lapin's beloved Caribbean meets New Orleans-inspired menu is a taste of home for customers visiting from near and far. At INTERSECT BY LEXUS, guests will enjoy a variety of dishes from chef Nina Compton, along with a specially curated tasting menu, Taste of Two Creole's, offered exclusively at the New York City restaurant. Menu highlights include Pork Belly with tamarind set atop green chutney and garnished with pickled mango and herbs, Striped Bass Escovitch set on top of jerk carrots and carrot beurre blanc and Doberge Cake served with lemon curd and alongside a lemon buttermilk sorbet.

Inspiration for the menu comes from the traditional Caribbean folktales that chef Compton read during her childhood in St. Lucia. Drawing on the themes of exploration and play, she mixes the indigenous ingredients and rich heritage of New Orleans with those of her Caribbean roots to create an exceptional culinary journey from start to finish. Compère Lapin's beverage program at INTERSECT will complement the experience with cocktails such as Andromeda with Pisco, Green Chile Vodka, lime, grapefruit, rose and topped with a Peychaud's Bitters Rabbit Stencil and The Macondo with tequila, Sotol Por Siempre, Aperol, carrot and mango. In support of Compère Lapin's hometown, a portion of proceeds will be donated to New Orleans-based Second Harvest Food Bank.

"Compère Lapin represents the magic that is created when unique cultures and flavors combine, and we couldn't imagine a better way to round out our year of domestic restaurants-in-residence at INTERSECT," says Vinay Shahani, vice president of Lexus Marketing. "We look forward to supporting chef Compton's hometown of New Orleans throughout this residency and sharing the city's vibrant culture and cuisine with guests in New York City."

Compère Lapin opened in 2015 and is the first solo restaurant from chef Nina Compton, who was awarded Best Chef: South at the 2018 James Beard Awards. The restaurant is renowned for chef Compton's robust dishes that meld the flavors of her Caribbean upbringing and love for French and Italian cuisine while highlighting the Gulf and Louisiana's beautiful indigenous ingredients.

"We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to share Compère Lapin's story and cuisine with guests at INTERSECT BY LEXUS," says chef Compton. "This partnership is made even more special knowing that it will benefit our friends and family back in New Orleans, and I am personally thrilled to bring a little piece of home to the city where I started my culinary career."

The Restaurants-in-Residence program at INTERSECT introduces a new dining concept every four to six months, bringing innovative culinary talent from around the world to New York City. Following the successes of chef David Kinch of California's three Michelin star Manresa and chef Mashama Bailey of The Grey in Savannah, chef Compton and Compère Lapin will join INTERSECT as the third domestic residence of 2021, rounding out a meaningful year dedicated to supporting the revival of domestic dining at home in New York City. Past international restaurants-in-residence have included Frenchie from Paris and London, Restaurante 040 from Santiago, Mishiguene from Buenos Aires and O Pedro from Mumbai.

In accordance with mandated guidelines and protocols — as well as additional health and safety standards by Union Square Hospitality Group and Lexus — INTERSECT will continue to operate with the safety of employees, guests and the surrounding community as a priority. In an effort to keep our community safe, all guests and staff are required to show proof they are fully vaccinated with either a physical COVID-19 vaccine card, a New York State Excelsior Pass, a relevant state-provided vaccine pass or a photo of your vaccination card to share upon arrival.

INTERSECT BY LEXUS – NYC is located at 412 West 14th Street New York, New York 10014. Both the lounge and restaurant will be open Wednesday and Sunday 5–10 p.m., Thursday 5–11 p.m. and Friday–Saturday 5 p.m. –12 a.m. Reservations, as well as further details on all health and safety protocols, can be found at Intersect-NYC.com.