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MODESTO MARINI RECEIVES KNIGHTHOOD FROM ITALY

KUALA LUMPUR (21 October 2016) – Modesto Marini, founder and owner of The Marini's Group, has been conferred Italy's prestigious Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy award.

The *Ordine Della Stella D'Italia*, which comes with the title of "*Cavaliere*", is one of the highest civilian honours of the Italian government. It recognises Italians living abroad or foreigners who have been instrumental in the preservation and promotion of national prestige abroad, who have made important contributions to relations between their country and Italy. It is awarded in many areas, including philanthropic activities, scientific and technological research, commercial enterprises and the promotion of Italian food and wine.

The Italian ambassador to Malaysia, HE Mario Sammartino, and former Prime Minister of Italy, Enrico Letta, presented the medal and certificate for the *Cavaliere dell'Ordine Della Stella D'Italia* to Marini in a private ceremony at Marini's on 57 yesterday evening. As a recipient of the honour, Marini will be allowed to style himself as "*Cavaliere Modesto*".

"I am truly honoured to receive such esteemed recognition from my home country and I am proud to have been able to contribute to both Italy and Malaysia. I have always been proud of my Italian heritage and this award is a humble reminder of that," said Cav. Modesto.

The savvy restaurateur and entrepreneur hails from Lake Garda in Italy where he grew up helping his parents in the family vineyards, vegetable and fruit farms. Cav. Modesto later attended one of Italy's leading culinary schools in Trento, north of Italy, where he graduated with high honours.

He spent much of his earlier years working as a chef at some of the most prominent fine dining restaurants in Italy, London, and Singapore before finally making Malaysia his home in the mid-1990s. It was here that Cav. Modesto met his wife, Elizabeth Hew – the couple married in 2004 and have two beautiful children.

Over the years, Cav. Modesto has cooked for some notable celebrities, including Valentino Rossi, Max Biaggi, Reubens Barichello, Felipe Massa, Eric Cantona, and the Scorpions. He changed the culinary landscape for Italian food in Malaysia when he introduced the thin crust pizza and he has continued to take Italian cuisine to greater heights in his restaurants.

Cav. Modesto has proudly promoted his Italian roots and connections in his establishments and has built up good relationships with many names and brands, including Jarno Trulli and Anna Fendi. His restaurants use 100% Italian ingredients and his company is one of the biggest importers of Italian fine cuisine where he exclusively brings in the Monte Verde food label in addition to his own house brands of wine from Italy.

One of these Italian wine brands is Trulli's Podere Castorani, where the former Formula One driver has entrusted the distribution of his wines in Malaysia and Singapore to The Marini's Group. Another wine label belongs to fashion icon Fendi's AFV, which includes a series of renowned vine varieties from Italy. Fendi herself personally selects wines from all over Italy and she handpicked The Marini's Group to be the exclusive distributor for AFV in Malaysia.

For more information on The Marini's Group, visit <http://marinisgroup.com/>.



About The Marini's Group

Founded by restaurateur and entrepreneur Cav. Modesto Marini in 2012, The Marini's Group prides itself on its luxury F&B and entertainment brands – Marini's on 57, Marble 8 and M Marini Caffè. Each prestigious establishment offers a unique dining and sensory experience.

Multi-award winning **Marini's on 57** is Malaysia's most iconic rooftop destination, and sits 876ft (267m) above sea level in the heart of Kuala Lumpur City. A beacon for international celebrities, tourists, and socialites since its opening in June 2012 due to their unparalleled level of service, exceptional contemporary Italian cuisine, and views of the city. Housing the most extensive cigar and whisky collection in Malaysia, the venue comprises of three distinct spaces [the restaurant, the lounge, the bar], each designed to encapsulate and project different moods and energy to enthrall all five senses. It is also the only luxury F&B venue in Malaysia to have release their own *Sunset Hours* compilation albums with music greats Jose Padilla, Chris Coco, Afterlife, and Simon Mills.

Marble 8 is the city's premier steakhouse specialising in dry-aged beef where their signature cuts are treated in their own custom-built dry-aging cellar.

M Marini Caffè is Malaysia's first dedicated champagne and caviar caffè that provides the city's most requested signature cold pasta offerings, champagne high teas and authentic Italian desserts in Suria KLCC shopping centre.

www.marinisgroup.com

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