

**LYNN WYATT HOSTS FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE ROTHKO CHAPEL AT BUZZED-ABOUT CHINESE DIM SUM TEAHOUSE YAUATCHA TO CELEBRATE BELOVED ECUMENICAL CENTER'S 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MILESTONE**

***THE ROTHKO CHAPEL'S CULTURAL AMBASSADOR JOINS FORCES WITH HIGH PROFILE CULINARY IMPORT FOR EXTRAVAGANT PRIVATE DINNER AND CELEBRATION***

**HOUSTON** – Internationally acclaimed dim sum Chinese teahouse **YAUATCHA** played host to an intimate private dinner on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> for the Rothko Chapel's Cultural Ambassador **Lynn Wyatt** just two days before the restaurant opens in the Galleria's newly built "jewel box."

In celebration of the Rothko Chapel's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, style icon and renowned philanthropist Lynn Wyatt invited guests to join her for an evening of lively conversation, entertainment and elaborate five-course dinner that 15 lucky guests won't soon forget.

**Hakkasan Group's** stunning new Houston outpost – which opens to the public tomorrow – is partnering with the Rothko Chapel to become a long-term supporter of the nondenominational center for contemplation. With a diverse collection of world-class hospitality brands across North America, Europe, Middle East and Asia, Yauatcha's parent company Hakkasan Group is enthusiastic and well positioned to help the ecumenical center's mission to promote international, cultural, religious and philosophical exchanges.

The company will kick off its newly formed partnership with a sizeable donation to the Rothko Chapel's gala – dubbed *A Grand Occasion* – taking place at The Astorian on May 11<sup>th</sup> honoring Lynn Wyatt and Sissy Farenthood and chaired by Lori Cohen & Christopher Rothko and Gayle & Mike DeGeurin. Funds raised by the *Grand Occasion* gala will support the Chapel's rich program offerings and help maintain the landmark building and grounds.

At last night's intimate celebration for 16, beautiful young "Umbrella Girls" donning ornate Chinese costumes and decorative umbrellas greeted guests as they arrived to the restaurant's entrance at the "jewel box" – the new stand alone building in front of the Galleria.

"As the Chapel's Cultural Ambassador, I am here to give Yauatcha and Chef Ho Chee Boon a proper Texas welcome, and we are excited that Hakkasan Group and Yauatcha want to help the Rothko Chapel and its mission to promote human rights and religious tolerance around the world."

With that, the guests began an unforgettable culinary journey with a first course that included water prawn and zucchini dumpling; poached chicken Beijing dumpling in homemade vinegar; Shanghai siew long bun with pork soup dumpling; and the *Kura Mi Ami Martini* – one of the restaurant's signature creative cocktails consisting of Absolut Elyx vodka, gin, umeshu and junmai sake.

Next came the second course and scallop shui mai; prawn and crispy beancurd cheung fun; crispy prawn dumpling with plum sauce; and venison puff with a wine pairing of a 2016 Vincent Delaporte Sancerre from France.

The third and fourth courses dazzled the exuberant party with crispy aromatic duck with spring onion; cucumber and homemade pancakes; Jasmine tea smoked pork ribs; Stir-fry Malaysian kwetio noodle with prawn, scallop and peanut; Seared redfish with homemade soy sauce; Spicy aubergine, sato bean, okra and long bean with peanut; and egg and scallion fried rice. Lavish wine pairings accompanied both of these courses as well.

As is her custom, Lynn Wyatt switched places with a guest at the other table of 8 for the dessert course – a tropical dome with coconut dacquoise, passion fruit & pineapple; raspberry délice composed of raspberry, Manjari chocolate and lychee; blue mountain black tea with red grapefruit rinds that is only available at Yauatcha Houston; and a Tropical 75 cocktail selection for good measure.

During the dessert course a show stopping customary Chinese Lion Dance by performers wearing elaborate lion costumes mimicking the majestic lion proved to be icing on the cake for the group who placed crisp \$10 bills in the lions' mouths for good fortune.

The lucky 16 celebrating this rare occasion included Rothko Chapel Director of Advancement Thuy Tran, Sanford and Susie Criner, Tony Chase and Dina Al-Sowayel, Danny and Isabel David, Mike and Gayle Deguerin, Pierce Bush with girlfriend Sarabeth Melton, Brady and Alexandra Knight, Marcy Taub Wessel and Dorothee Potocki DeChaudenay.

#### **ABOUT YAUATCHA**

Yauatcha is a Chinese dim sum teahouse offering an all-day dining experience. It launched in Soho, London in 2004 gaining immediate critical acclaim and receiving its Michelin star within a year of opening, which it maintains to this day. Yauatcha City opened in May 2015 following the success of the Soho restaurant. Yauatcha provides a unique dining experience, offering authentic dim sum with a contemporary influence. The menu includes a wide selection of dim sum and a list of over 30 types of tea. Yauatcha is also known for its hand-made petits gateaux and macarons. Yauatcha's innovative cocktail program brings together Asian-inspired ingredients such as tea and lemongrass with fresh tropical fruits. The design offers full view of the kitchens allowing passers-by to witness the preparation of the expertly made dishes. Yauatcha is a part of Hakkasan Group, which has pioneered Chinese fine dining globally through its Michelin-starred Cantonese restaurants Hakkasan, HKK and Yauatcha. Yauatcha also has four restaurants in India; Mumbai, Bengaluru, New Delhi and Kolkata, and recently launched in Waikiki, Hawaii in February 2017, Houston, Texas in March 2017, and Saudi Arabia in 2018.

#### **ABOUT ROTHKO CHAPEL**

The Rothko Chapel is a spiritual space, a forum for world leaders, a place for solitude and gathering. It's an epicenter for civil rights activists, a quiet disruption, a stillness that moves. It's a destination for the 90,000 people of all faiths who visit each year from all parts of the world. It is the home of the Óscar Romero Award. The space contains 14 murals created by American artist Mark Rothko. Philip Johnson, Howard Barnstone, and Eugene Aubry were the architects. Outside, Barnett Newman's *Broken Obelisk* rises above the reflecting pool on the Plaza. The sculpture is dedicated to The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose active outer life in service of social justice, informed by a deeply spiritual interior life, resonated with founders John and Dominique de Menil. The couple also founded the nearby Menil Collection, which offers a

different sort of unique experience. For more information, please visit [www.rothkochapel.org](http://www.rothkochapel.org)

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