

For immediate release



A new neighbourhood experience  
in the heart of King West.

Officially Opens on Thursday, March 20th

(TORONTO, ON, March 18, 2014) -- **The Citizen** officially opens its doors Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 522 King Street West, taking you back in time to when great food was approachable, mixologists were called bartenders and everyone in the joint knew your name.

Inspired by the classic bars of the 1930s, The Citizen offers timeless dishes and craft cocktails in surroundings that pay homage to the elegant comfort of a bygone era.

Executive Chef Amanda Walti, a burgeoning talent in Toronto's food scene, draws on her family background to create a menu steeped in comfort. "I come from three generations of cooks and butchers," says Chef Walti, who spent her teenage summers in Switzerland and France and first learned how to cook in her grandfather's restaurant. "Food has always been about sharing good times with great company. I'm bringing that family vibe to The Citizen table by serving our guests comfort food that is approachable, tasty and satisfying."

Walti, who recently held the Chef de Cuisine position at Origin and previously worked at Drake Hotel, makes abundant use of local and seasonal ingredients to showcase traditional home-cooked classics (including fried chicken, meatballs, and beef brisket) as well as her own unique take on bar snacks (including sweet potato jalapeno poppers, truffle poutine, and popcorn shrimp).

The Citizen bar, headed by Waseem Dabdoub, offers inventive cocktails without any pretense. Dabdoub, who perfected his trade at hotspots such as Origin, Yours Truly and Chantecler, says, "I keep up to speed with the latest techniques and rely heavily on seasonal, fresh ingredients but I don't consider myself a mixologist. I'm just a bartender who makes good drinks. It's all about everyone at The Citizen having a great time."

The Citizen's keen attention to refined comfort goes beyond food and drink. Ian Rydberg, principal designer and founder of Solid Design & Build, was hired to re-create the look and feel of a timeless neighbourhood spot. "The design mixes historical references with modern elements to create a classic and comfortable space where every individual component has been chosen for its quality," says Rydberg, whose previous restaurant projects include Home Of The Brave, Valdez and La Carnita.

To celebrate Toronto's heritage, Rydberg sourced original beams from the historic Gooderham and Worts distillery, and in the main bar, luxurious leather tufted stools complement vintage wood paneling. Throughout the space, The Citizen blends old school charm with modern touches, offering guests digital conveniences such as phone charging stations and complementary WiFi.

The Citizen is located at 522 King Street West (entrance on Brant St)  
Hours of Operation: Tuesday/Wednesday: 5pm-Midnight, Thursday/Friday: 5pm - 2am  
Saturday: 6pm -2am. Closed Sunday and Monday.

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