**Tuesday 29 September**

**Virgin Trains launches new menu in collaboration with Bryn Williams**

Acclaimed chef, Bryn Williams, has launched a new on-board menu, especially for two routes on the West Coast Mainline in collaboration with Virgin Trains.

The new Evening Menu, which is exclusive to the North Wales and Shrewsbury routes, is the second Bryn has created for Virgin Trains passengers, since the partnership began in January 2015.

Available to customers travelling in First Class on Monday – Friday evenings, the new menu offers a choice of three mains (Slow Roast Chicken; Herb Gnocchi; or Hand Cured Salmon); and two desserts (Lime and Lemon Posset; or Cheese and Biscuits).

Rob Taylor, Virgin Trains First Class Product Development Manager, said: “Working with local people and suppliers is something we take real pride in, so to have Bryn on board for a second menu is fantastic. We’re passionate about the quality of our food. Bryn’s culinary expertise along with our knowledge and experience, has allowed us to we have created something special for our First Class customers.”

The partnership began when a member of the Virgin Trains team from Holyhead approached Bryn with the idea of working with Virgin Trains, after she noticed he was travelling regularly between London and North Wales whilst setting up his new restaurant at Porth Eirias in Colwyn Bay.

Bryn Williams, who is from Denbigh, said: “It is amazing to work with Virgin Trains and do something like this on my home patch. I’m proud to be able to offer customers quality food that is tasty and well thought-out; the dishes are classic combinations, using seasonal ingredients. The collaboration is a great team effort with people who share the same dreams and passion. Virgin Trains has this in abundance – from the catering team that produce the food to the on board staff who serve it, and without them it wouldn’t have been possible.”

Vicki Jones, North Wales Customer Experience Manager, said: “We’re really proud to offer our customers something unique and tasty that has been developed by an acclaimed local chef. Bryn has been fantastic to work with and listens to what we and our customers want. The new food has only been available for one week and it is already going down a treat.”

The new menu is available now until 8th January 2016.

ENDS

**Editors’ Notes**

Main courses:

* Slow Roast Chicken, Fondant Potato and Wild Mushroom
* Herb Gnocchi and Rich Tomato Sauce
* Hand Cured Salmon, Tender Stem Broccoli and Potato Salad (served cold)

Desserts:

* Lime and Lemon Posset with Poached Plums
* Cheese and Biscuits

The Bryn Williams Menu is exclusive to First Class customers on the North Wales and Shrewsbury routes and is available between 17:00 and 18:59 Monday – Friday.

It is available on the following services: 17:10; 18:10; 18:23 from London Euston.

It is not available on 19:10 from London Euston or the 17:35 from Chester.

Bryn Williams is Chef Patron at Odette’s in Primrose Hill, London. He opened his new restaurant, Bryn Williams at Porth Eirias in Colwyn Bay in July this year.

**About Virgin Trains**

Virgin Trains is the brand name of Virgin Rail Group (VRG), which is owned by Virgin Group (51%) and Stagecoach (49%). Virgin Trains has operated the West Coast passenger train franchise since 1997, serving key UK cities including London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow. In June 2014 the Department for Transport (DfT) awarded VRG a new franchise until at least April 2017.

Virgin Trains is committed to delivering a high speed, high frequency service, offering shorter journey times, more comfortable travel and excellent customer service. We provide the most frequent long-distance rail service in Europe (London - Manchester and London – Birmingham, both every 20 minutes).

Since 1997, Virgin Trains has introduced over 70 new trains at a cost of £1.5 billion. The service carries more than 34.5 million passengers a year and Virgin Trains employs approximately 3,290 staff.

Virgin Trains customers consistently rate the company as one of the top long-distance rail franchise operators in the National Passenger Survey (NPS) commissioned by industry watchdog “Passenger Focus”.

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Press Office: 0845 000 3333. Company website: [www.virgintrains.co.uk](http://www.virgintrains.co.uk).

**About Virgin Trains East Coast**

Virgin Trains East Coast is the brand name of InterCity Railways Ltd (ICR), which is owned by Stagecoach Group (90%) and Virgin Group (10%). Virgin Trains East Coast began operating services on the East Coast Main Line in March 2015, serving key UK cities including London, Peterborough, Doncaster, Leeds, York, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness. The franchise will last until at least 31 March 2023.

Visit the Virgin Trains East Coast Media Centre at: [www.virgintrainseastcoast.com/media-centre](http://www.virgintrainseastcoast.com/media-centre) for the latest news and images.