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Serious fun for foodies, too

THE Ginger Factory will not only burst into bloom with the very first ginger flowers and heliconias for the year, but also showcase a stellar line-up of celebrity chefs and gardeners in a glorious tribute to Queensland's sub-tropical lifestyle next weekend.

From Friday to Sunday, visitors at the 2012 Ginger Flower and Food Festival will be treated to a visual spectacular of living bouquets comprising more than 120 varieties of ginger plants, exotics and flowers together with an exciting new format designed to bring the indoors out.

The festival will unveil a re-ramped demonstration and cooking format with celebrity chefs preparing beautiful dishes on a main stage, themed around barbecues, picnics and cocktails and canapés, while also introducing new guided garden walks with some of the country's most revered green thumbs.

Celebrity chefs include Channel Ten star of Ready Steady Cook,

Dominique Rizzo.

Dominique will headline centre stage daily with other cooking identities including ABC radio personality, author and Sydney Seafood Cooking School teacher Julie Ray; Michael Jenkins, the new executive chef at Noosa's Outrigger Little Hastings Street Resort; and the Sunshine Coast's own culinary darlings, South African Matilda Scarfe and Japanese master Aki Kitabatake.

Adding to the expert gardening line-up is the passionate and vivacious Dezley Hughes, of Noosa hinterland's leading floral art, coffee and homewares emporium, Twig & Grace.

Her vibrant personality is matched perfectly with her amazing and creative knowledge of floral art and design.

Her brilliant craft earned her a spot at Melbourne's prestigious International Flower Festival together with a string of pictorial features in Australia's leading glossy design and living magazines.

Coupled with the gorgeous

showcase of exotic plants and free and informative cooking and gardening presentations will be the chance for a lucky visitor to win their own special outdoor setting comprising an outdoor furnishing package, potted landscaping and a seriously impressive multi-burner barbecue.

For a full program of events, speakers and dates, visit www.gingerfactory.com.au.



COOKING UP A STORM: Dominique Rizzo is one of the chefs, joining the ginger flowers, right, in adding colour to the festival. PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

