

AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE TO OPEN FIKA CAFÉ THIS JUNE

Locally trained chef Michael Fitzgerald to lead Nordic-inspired menu

MINNEAPOLIS — June 13, 2012 — Fika (fee-kuh), a Nordic-inspired café, will be a part of the American Swedish Institute (ASI)'s new Nelson Cultural Center, opening June 30.

In Sweden, fika is a daily break, traditionally including coffee and treats. But the American Swedish Institute's Fika is about more than just caffeine and carbohydrates. From espresso and pastries to seasonally changing salads, open-face sandwiches, small bites, and beer and wine; Fika will feature traditional Swedish delicacies alongside modern interpretations of New Nordic Cuisine.

Guests at Fika will choose from a seasonal menu featuring regionally sourced ingredients, guided by Chef Michael Fitzgerald, who joins Fika from restaurants like Tilia, Sea Change, Solera and Barrio. Fitzgerald started his decade-long career at Auriga working with celebrated chef Doug Flicker.

"I'm excited to reflect the ASI's contemporary architectural style in the food we will serve at Fika. The Nordic food movement is an important part of what we'll do, and our menu will reflect its simple, honest and classic values," said Michael Fitzgerald, Fika chef. "Treating the world as a place we live in, rather than own, and doing something for the greater good of the world is very important to me."

Fika will be open seven days a week, ready with fresh baked goods and coffee at 7 a.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. Sundays. Always open for lunch, the café will be open for dinner and dessert until 8 p.m. on Wednesday evenings beginning in July.

The American Swedish Institute (ASI) is a vibrant arts and cultural organization, museum, and historic home located at 2600 Park Avenue near downtown Minneapolis. ASI attracts more than 65,000 people each year for tours of the landmark 1908 Turnblad Mansion, exhibits, classes and events that connect the community to contemporary Nordic culture and cultural heritage. Founded in 1929 by Swedish immigrant newspaper publisher Swan J. Turnblad, ASI serves as a gathering place for people to share stories and experiences around universal themes of tradition, migration, craft and the arts, all informed by enduring ties to Sweden. For more information, including café and museum hours, visit www.asimn.org.

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