

bites

kylie lang

THERE'S a whisper of sweet nothings in the air at Coorparoo where husband and wife team Tony and Sam Smith are putting the finishing touches on their new 40-seat dessert restaurant. Cream Patisserie will peddle everything from handmade chocolates and ice-cream to pastries and cakes by Dutch chef Saskia Kleijn, who Tony met while heading Lizard Island's food and beverage unit. Tony, who has managed the former Rae's in Mary Street and Tognini's on Main, tracked Saskia down after running up a hefty phone bill to her relatives in Holland. Cream Patisserie, in Cavendish Central, will offer takeaway and wholesale to restaurants and hotels.

At Coorparoo, meanwhile, Tony Smith is busy with final preparations for an a la carte restaurant to open in early March alongside his existing patisserie, Cream, in Cavendish Rd.

The new place will be called Double Cream. Chef Trent Robson, fresh from working in Michelin-star restaurants Le

Trumpet and The Glasshouse in London, waits impatiently in the wings.

"Going to the city can be a bit of a chore," Smith says. The veteran of gastronomic urban landmarks such as Faces, Raes, Circa and Il Centro says: "We're heading back to the era of Two Small Rooms."

It's something of a family dynasty at Coorparoo. Tony's brother Neil runs The Fish Kitchen nearby. Tony also happens to be Paul McGivern's brother-in-law (they married sisters).

QLD

Cream Patisserie

3/380 Cavendish Road,
Coorparoo. (07) 3324 2713.

In the heart of Coorparoo in Brisbane's south, Cream has a lovely European-style courtyard, shielded from the busy road by filigreed metal screens, and a lush cafe and patisserie. Handmade truffles, intricate petit fours, cakes and all manner of patissiere are prepared at the huge marble workbench just inside the kitchen, but in full view of diners. Highlights include Italian-style hot chocolates (the chocolate thickens at a certain temperature, giving a velvety custard consistency), a vast array of teas and delicious Segafredo extra-strong-blend coffee.

Open: Tue-Sat 9am-late;
Sun 9am-4pm.