

# SPOTTED@PICOTIN



**James Forrester** is a father, ex-England International rugby player and is currently training to become a consultant at The Henley Group.

## **Tell us something interesting about yourself.**

Two weeks ago I had the honor of being accepted into the Gloucester Rugby 'Hall of Fame'. I am only the fourth player in the club's 130 year history to have been given this award. It means a lot to me as my career with Gloucester spanned over 10 years and it was the only club I ever played for. It remains a very special place to me.

## **What's the most daring thing you have done?**

Due to rugby injuries I was forced into early retirement when the opportunity arose to work for The Henley Group, an independent financial advisers specialising in advising expatriates. The only issue was that the job was based in Singapore. My partner and I were hesitant about the move as we were expecting our first child and I think most of my family and friends thought I was mad to consider a move abroad. It certainly was not the easiest option and it was very difficult to take our new daughter away from her grandparents. But we are very happy with how it has gone so far. I am thoroughly enjoying my new career and everybody in Singapore has been so hospitable and welcoming - we have settled in really quickly.

## **What are you passionate about and why?**

I am first and foremost passionate about my daughter Scarlett and fiancée Jenni. I truly value family and friends, these people are the most important part of my life. I really learnt to value and appreciate family and friendship while going through my rugby injury.

Of course rugby is my second passion as it has given me so many great opportunities and experiences. As I can't play anymore I am doing a fair bit of coaching in Singapore, at the Wanderers and at Centaurs on Saturday mornings as well as advising the National team.

I have really enjoyed working with all the players, and watching them apply my pointers and coaching tips into a game is very rewarding. I think it is very important to give back, especially when I look back to all the great coaches I had growing up who gave up so much of their time. The other reason I am passionate about rugby is the social side, it builds such a special bond, I am still friends with guys I played with when I was 8, and hopefully always will be.

The last few years has taught me that life often takes unexpected turns and I am now determined to ensure my family is as prepared as possible. I am currently in training at The Henley Group to become a consultant and then I look forward to helping other people plan for their future and will take great satisfaction in being able to reduce the anxiety and stress people feel about their finances.

## **What do your friends NOT know about you?**

Not a great deal, I am sometimes too honest for my own good which sometimes gets me in trouble. When I was about 9 years old I played Joseph in a school musical. How I got this role I will never know as I can't dance, sing or act. The director should have been shot!

**What do you like about Picotin?** I have only been in Singapore a couple of months, but I have already become a bit of a regular at Picotin. I fell for the place the first time I visited. Jenni and I were invited by some friends, it goes without saying the food and wines were fantastic, but what I really love is the relaxed atmosphere. After we had eaten we had a boules tournament with all the couples taking part. We then stayed until about 4 a.m., sitting at our table long after all the staff had left. The staff topped up our drinks, locked up, turned off all the lights and just left us there in the pitch black. We were also introduced to lots of people throughout the night sitting on other tables; Picotin has a very 'local', friendly feel to it. Just what you want when you have just moved to a new country!

**Your favorite dish at Picotin and why.** The pizzas are fantastic, and I also had a great leg of lamb!

**If you had the chance to date xxx (Angelina Jolie or Brad Pitt or your favourite Hollywood star), what would you want to say to them and what would you do. Or if the woman / man of your dream stood before you, what would you do?**

I am very lucky to be marrying the girl of my dreams this Christmas. We have been together since we were 17, we met at school so I guess you could call us 'child hood sweethearts'. If, however, Jenni decides to jolt me at the altar; I would consider replying to some of those text messages Jessica Alba keeps sending me....It's really getting quite annoying!

