

LIFESTYLES

Introducing Caribbean sauces and seasonings product line

By Audrey J. Bernard

The Bazodee™ (pronounced Bah-zo-dee) brand launch media reception and recipe sampling took place on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, 6pm-9pm, at the iconic landmark **Minton's Playhouse** in Harlem, NYC. The lavish launch was organized and produced by **Raymond P. Lewis** in collaboration with the multigenerational "Trini-zuelan" female family -- consisting of **Debra Sandler, Mavis Davis and Kiah Sandler** -- who turned the usually sophisticated jazz club into an enchanted Caribbean village replete with colorful decorations, tropical trees, specialty libations and saucy food treats. The invitational only event was a celebration of family legacy and a rich cultural heritage from the Caribbean and South America. Former New Jersey television reporter **Lyndsay Christian** served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

Guests dined on delicious morsels of delight created by celebrated **Chef Martin Little** from the exclusive Bazodee™ line of sauces and recipes that included: *Marvelous Marinade* (A deliciously versatile green Caribbean seasoning sauce); *Soca Sauce* (A mild and complex Caribbean Pepper sauce); and *Hot Hot Soca Sauce*. Guests sampled family recipes created especially for the evening that included: Mavis' Acra (Codfish cakes); Bazodee™ Stewed chicken; Bazodee™ Tomato Salad; Froila's Puerco Mechado (Shredded Pork); Bazodee™ Chicken with Angel Hair Pasta; Bazodee™ Orzo with Mango; and Debra's Shrimp Ceviche.

No Caribbean celebration



Mavis Davis, Debra Sandler, CEO, Mavis Foods, LLC, Lyndsay Christian, Media Maven/Emcee Bazodee Soca Sauce Product Launch and Grand Tasting



Debra Sandler, CEO, Mavis Foods, LLC, Lyndsay Christian, Media Maven, Emcee



Lyndsay Christian, Media Maven, Tanya Christian, Essence Magazine, Debra Sandler, CEO, Mavis Foods

is complete without pulsating music coupled with great specialty rum drinks and this event had it all starting with Cannes Brulees Rums (CBR) for pairing with the Bazodee™ recipes. The music played was from the playlist of top Caribbean artists. Guests enjoyed Cannes Brulees Royale (vintage 15-year-old rum) -- *The Bazodee™ Old fashioned*; Cannes Brulees Classic (Dark) Rum -- *The Bazodee™ Classic Planters Punch*; Cannes Brulees Classic (White) Rum -- *The Bazodee™ Amaretto White Rum Shaker*; *The Bazodee™ Strawberry Mint Punch-line* and Cannes Brulees Grenada Spice (Dark) Rum -- *The Bazodee™ Ginger Dark and Stormy*.

Bazodee™ which in Trinidad and Tobago means head over heels in love, is the brainchild of Debra Sandler in collaboration with her aunt **Mavis Davis** -- the family favorite chef -- and in partnership with her daughter **Kiah Sandler**.

For years Debra enjoyed the seasonal dishes from her aunt who often bottled and sold her green seasoning and pepper sauces to family and friends. In 2015 she decided to partner with her aunt to commercialize the sauces for a Direct to Consumer product launch. After three years of development to honor the original recipes with all natural, preservative free, non GMO ingredients, Mavis Foods, LLC was formed to bring the flavor from "Aunty" Mavis's kitchen directly to your table. Use our Bazodee™ sauces and everyone will be Bazodee for your food!

Bazodee™ is a family affair and highlights the cooking and love of food from a family that hails from Venezuela and Trinidad & Tobago -- dubbed Trinizuelan by members of the millennial generation in the family. Many other family members have different roles in the business -- watch for their best recipes highlighted online at www.bazodee.com, at Bazodee_Foods on Insta-

gram, @BazodeeFoods on Twitter or on the Facebook Bazodee Foods home page.

Sandler brings lots of experience to this new undertaking. She has toiled for over 30 years for American businesses -- Mars, Johnson & Johnson and PepsiCo -- and is no stranger to marketing and building businesses. From the launch of Splenda and Pretzel M&Ms to successful marketing campaigns such as Snickers with Betty White or the introduction of the Ms. Brown M&M, this consummate business woman has her finger on the pulse of today's consumers. She has utilized the breadth of her corporate experiences to bring these new products to market which will be sold exclusively online at www.bazodee.com and will also soon be available on Amazon.com. As CEO and Sauce Boss, Sandler will oversee all business aspects of the company.

Mavis Davis is that favorite aunt that exists in every

family who cooks up our favorite dishes. The middle daughter of a family of 12 children (6 boys and 6 girls) she has been cooking for her family since the age of 13. Today she is focused on ensuring that the next generation of the Davis family can carry on the legacy of great Caribbean and Venezuelan dishes. Her role as chief inspiration officer also means that she oversees all product development and approves all new recipes utilizing the sauces. Beyond this launch, additional exciting sauces are already in development to be introduced in time for holiday gift giving.

Twenty-year-old Kiah Sandler brings the infusion of the new generation and new media to the venture. This amazing millennial oversees the social media platforms and blends in a youthful outlook that is needed for today's brands. Her marketing magic will drive awareness and trial for the brand.



Nikka McClain, Lyndsay Christian



Raymond P. Lewis, RPL Consulting, Bazodee event staff member



Lyndsay Christian, Tanisha Laverne Grant, Red Carpet Diva & Reporter



Raymond P. Lewis, Ashley Simone Lewis, RPL Consulting