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Press Release

Asian Curry Awards 2017 winners Asian Hospitality Federation Europe announced

Over 1,000 VIP guests attended a glittering gala dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London on Sunday 12th November, to honour the winners of the 7th Asian Curry Awards, organised by the Asian Catering Federation.

The awards were co presented by BBC Master Chef's **Greg Wallace** and BBC and former Sky TV news anchor **Samantha Simmons**.

Michelin-starred **Benares'** **Atul Kochhar** was named Chef of the Year. Another Michelin-starred establishment, **Quilon** scooped the Asian Fine Dining award. **Kricket** was feted as Best Newcomer.

There was a Special Recognition Award for **Asma Khan**, whose new all-female brigade at **Darjeeling Express** has received widespread critical acclaim.

Outside London, **The Chilli Pickle** in Brighton was named Best Casual Dining Restaurant, **Lemon Grass** Best Chain and **Greenleaf**



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the Best Outsider Caterer and **The Rajdani** near Sevenoaks the Best Asian Restaurant in the South East.

A full list of regional winners can be viewed at www.asiancurryawards.com.

The Asian Curry Awards recognise the best in the industry, encouraging ever higher standards and to inspire the next generation of chefs and restaurateurs to join the dynamic sector.

In his keynote speech ACF chairman Yawar Khan acknowledged the problems facing Asian restaurant owners, but highlighted the success of those willing to embrace change, raise standards, update menus, invest in marketing and stop competing on price.

“We are in a growing market. More people are eating out and ordering takeaways than ever before. Yes, curry restaurants are closing every week. But the best will survive and thrive. There will be those that complain and do nothing. Then there will also be those that continue to innovate and raise standards,” said Khan.



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Guest speaker David Caro of the European Small Business Alliance (ESBA) travelled from Brussels to announce the formation of the Asian Hospitality Federation Europe (AHFE) – a joint initiative with the ACF. AHFE will work to serve as a platform for business to business relationships, bringing together Asian-European entrepreneurs and major opportunities to members.

Caro reported that the European hospitality sector directly employs more than 10 million – a around 16.6m jobs – a 7.8% of the European workforce or one in every 13 jobs in Europe. The overall turnover is more than 1 trillion Euros (gross value added of more than 460 billion euros), over 8% of total European economic output and 3.7% of GDP.

The next ACF event is the Asian Restaurant Awards, being held in Manchester on 12th February. Nominations can be made at www.acfederation.org/asian-restaurant-awards-2017-nomination-form.

The awards are supported by Just East and Booker-Makro.



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Editors' Notes:

The Asian Curry Awards shortlist was determined by over 100,000 votes from spice-loving members of the public. A team of judges, led by Pat Chapman, editor of the Cobra Good Curry Guide, toured the country to determine the winners. Chapman was pleased to witness ever higher standards in the UK's Asian restaurants, with a trend towards healthy, authentic regional dishes with modern gastro influences.

The Asian Curry Awards are design to recognise the best in the industry, encouraging ever higher standards and to inspire the next generation of chefs and restaurateurs to join this dynamic sector.

The Awards are organised by the Asian Catering Federation (ACF) and the Federation of Bangladeshi Caterers UK, representing 35,000 UK restaurants and takeaways.

The ACF strives to deliver real returns for its members within the Asian catering industry, helping them to find financial success, achieve excellence, and build customer loyalty. It aims to unite Asian caterers on one platform; campaign for greater recognition; achieve members' common goals through partnerships with government and other organisations; provide help with training, and create rewarding careers in Asian catering.

The "voice of the curry industry" it is a nationwide non-profit making and non-political organisation, which lobbies on MPs, Government and Whitehall, promoting and protecting the interests of the curry industry in Britain.

Media Contact: George Shaw, Avocado Media

T: 01892 750851 M: 07860 695555 E: geo@avocadomedia.co.uk Tw: @AvocadoPR

Asian Catering Federation 100 Pall Mall, St James's, London SW1Y 5NQ

E: info@acfederation.org W: www.acfederation.org T: 020 8395 6830

Tw: @AsianCatFed @AsianCurryAward