



WHAT'S ON

AWARDS 2014



MONDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2014
THE ST. REGIS SAADIYAT ISLAND RESORT,
ABU DHABI

POST EVENT REPORT

Presented by



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THANK YOU

Motivate would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to our sponsors for what was a hugely successful evening celebrating the very best in the hospitality industry.

We look forward to working with you again in the future.

Thanks again,
Motivate Events Team

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YOU ARE INVITED....

Over 400 guests joined us to celebrate as 30 awards were presented on the evening. 19 awards had been pre-awarded to the winners in their outlets before the event.

PRINTED INVITATION



DIGITAL INVITATION



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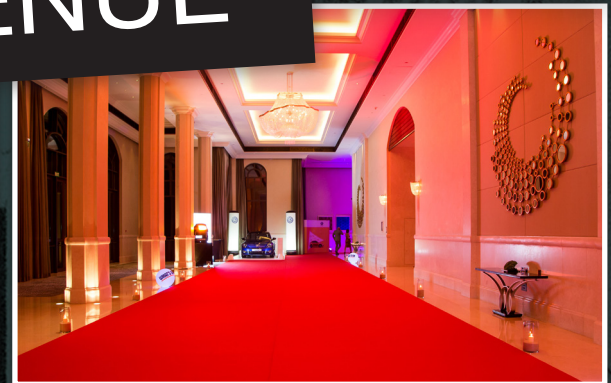


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THE VENUE



THE ST. REGIS SAADIYAT ISLAND RESORT, ABU DHABI

The iconic St. Regis brand extends its legacy to Abu Dhabi, with The St. Regis Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi created by thoughtful Mediterranean architecture and a contemporary interior design. The award winning St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort is the city's true beachfront leisure address located just 20 minutes from Abu Dhabi International Airport and 10 minutes from the city's bustling downtown.

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RED CARPET GLAMOUR



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EVENT BRANDING



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JACOBSONS

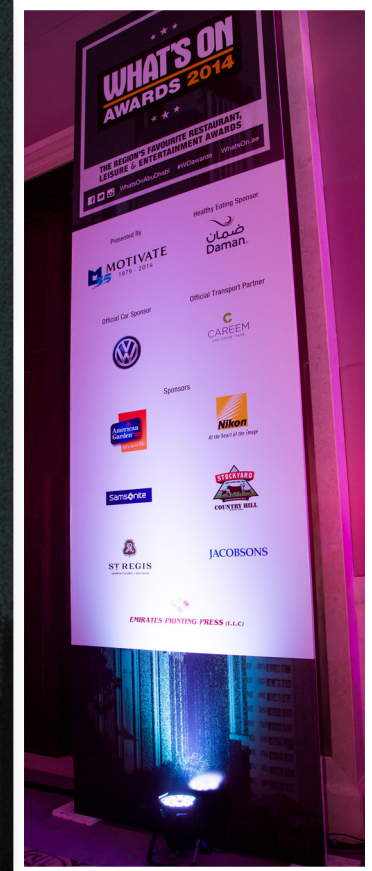
ACTIVATIONS

DAMAN

Official Healthy Eating Sponsor



New for 2014 was the Daman Healthy Eating Restaurant category, also presented on the evening by Daman was the What's On Indie Restaurant of the Year.



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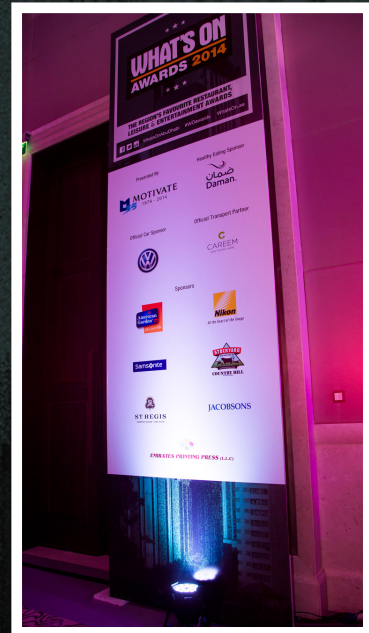
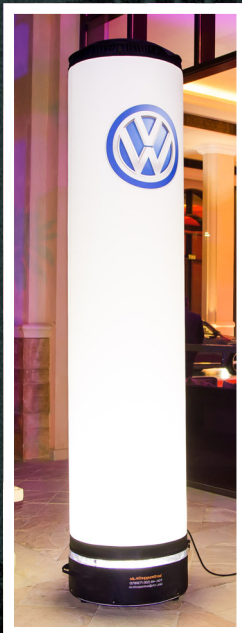


ACTIVATIONS

VOLKSWAGEN MIDDLE EAST Official Car Sponsor



Volkswagen displayed two of their Beetle cars, one outside at the ballroom entrance and the other in the foyer area. The awards presented on the evening included Favourite Music Event and Favourite Modern European Restaurant.



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ACTIVATIONS

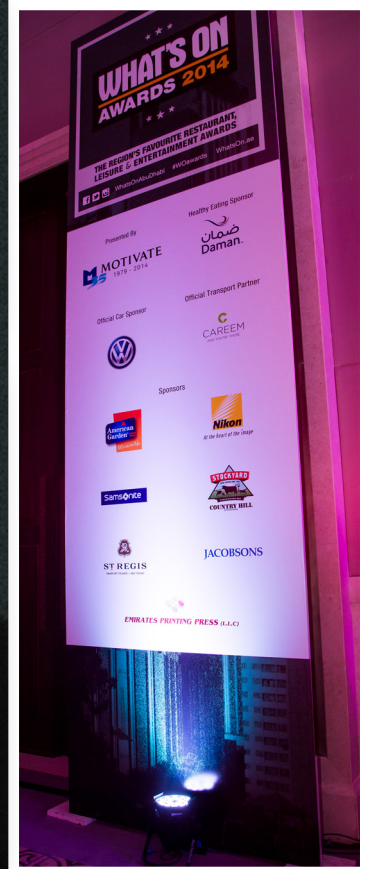
AMERICAN GARDEN



Sponsors of the The Americas award, guests were treated to a selection of American Garden products in the event goody bag.



FAVOURITE THE AMERICAS RESTAURANT
Chamas, InterContinental Abu Dhabi



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ACTIVATIONS

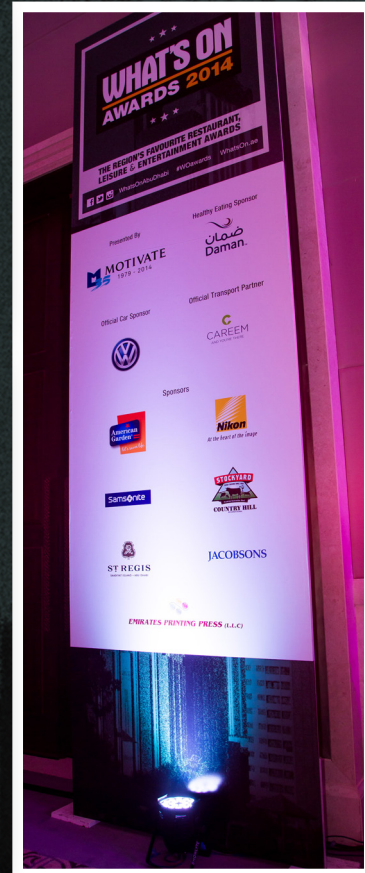
**NIKON /
SAMSONITE**

Samsnite



At the heart of the image

Both brands were represented on the night by Grandstores Area Sales Manager, Mr. Marwan Awad. Nikon sponsored Favourite Sporting Event and Samonsite, the Favourite Business Lunch Award.



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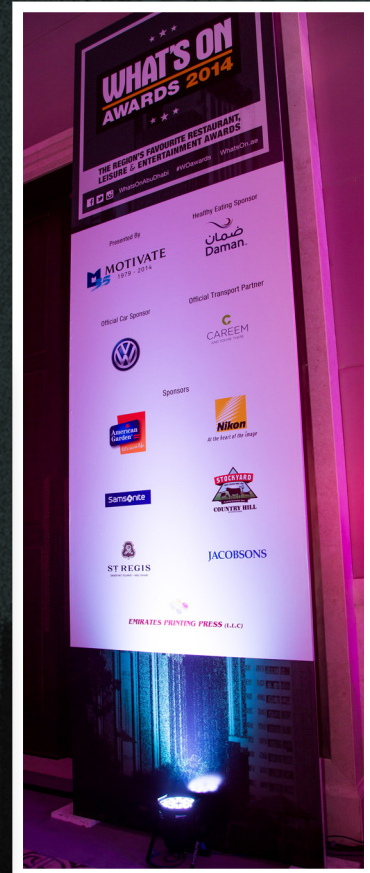


ACTIVATIONS

STOCKYARD COUNTRY HILL



Sponsors of the Favourite Steakhouse category, the award was presented by Serg Bassier, Country Sales Manager.



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ACTIVATIONS

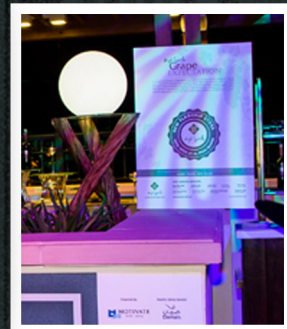
HIGH SPIRITS



High Spirits

LET THE GOOD TIMES FLOW

High Spirits provided the flowing alcohol for the evening. Mr Abdullah Alindari, Sales and Marketing Manager presented the Favourite Bar and Favourite Brunch awards.



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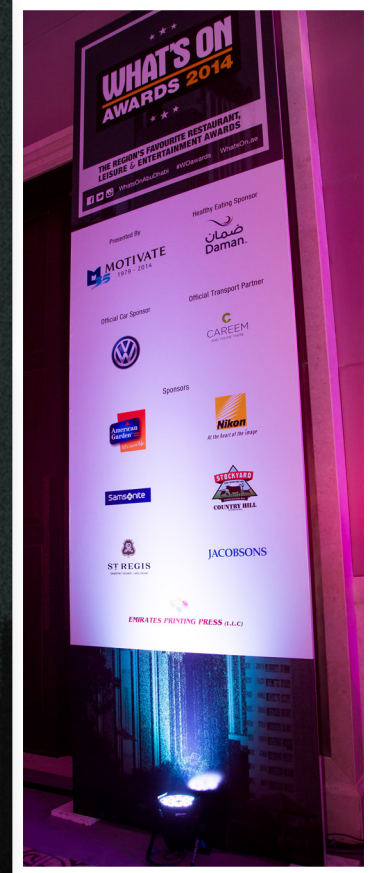


ACTIVATIONS

JACOBSONS

JACOBSONS

Our official voting audit partners for the awards. Jacobsons Direct Marketing presented both the Favourite International and Favourite Indian Awards.



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JACOBSONS

ACTIVATIONS

CAREEM

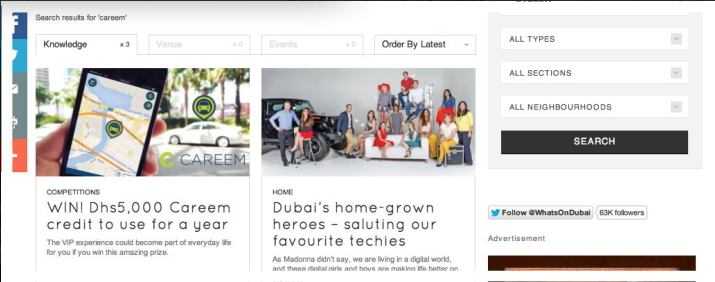
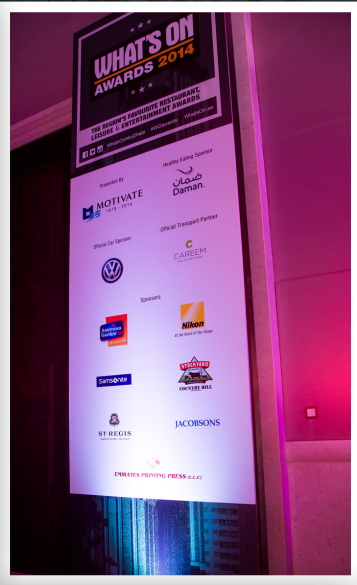
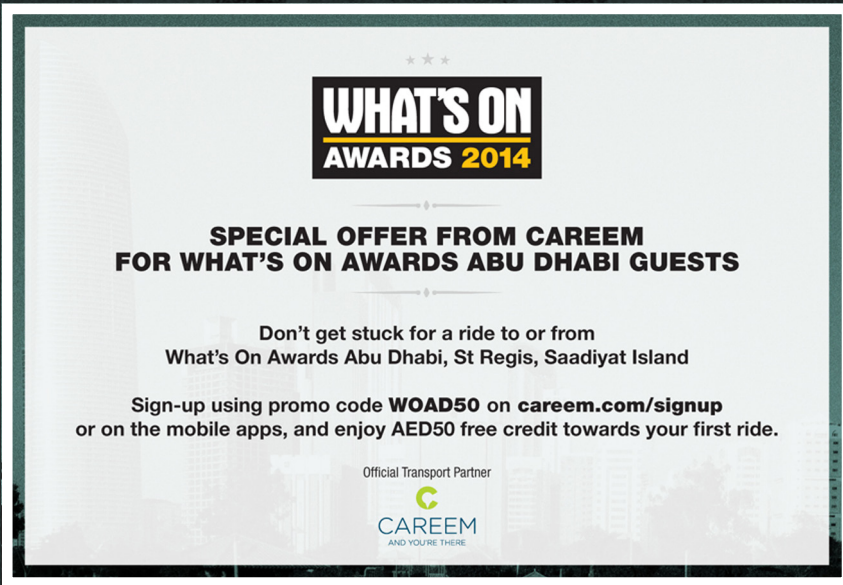
Official Transport Partner

CAREEM

AND YOU'RE THERE



Guests were treated to AED50 credit upon registering as a new user and the Careem bus stop was placed at the event, at the outside entrance of the ballroom.



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NOMINEE BRIEFING

New for 2014 was the Nominee Briefing. This was an opportunity to educate guests about the What's On Awards Abu Dhabi. It was an informal briefing with approx 60 outlets in attendance. The briefing included the below:

- Introduction to the Team
- The 2014 Awards Process with Deadlines
- How to use the collateral
- Question Time



WHAT'S ON Awards 2014 In association with **ضمان Daman**

You're invited to
What's On Abu Dhabi Awards Nominee Briefing

Learn more about the 2014 What's On Awards, meet the new team, ask questions and enjoy afternoon tea treats.

Date: Wednesday 11th June, 2:00pm – 4:00 pm

Venue: Dusit Thani Abu Dhabi, Sultan Bin Zayed The First Street, Al Muroor Road

RSVP by Tuesday 10th June to woawards@motivate.ae

What's On Awards Voting Pack



Leaflets Mirror/Window Decals Tent Cards Voting Slips Coasters Business Cards

Presented by **MOTIVATE** Headline sponsor **ضمان Daman**



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VOTING PROCESS

Nominees for the What's On Awards 2014 consisted of bars, restaurants, spa's, dj's, night clubs, and events. The competition is open to all outlets, old and new (must be open before 1st of August 2014). Voting took place from August 1st to September 25th 2014. Nominees were able to promote voting to their customers both online and through physical voting slips, outlets were sent a nomination pack which included; voting slips, table tent cards, stickers, coasters, and business cards.

The collateral included sponsors' logos, increasing their brand awareness across the city.



Voting Slips



Table Tent Card



Nominated Sticker



Coasters



Business Cards

All voting slips and online voting reports were sent to Jacobsons Direct Marketing LLC, our auditing partner, who checked and verified all votes. The top 3 outlets in each category were invited to the awards and the winners were announced at the event. Pre-awarding the Leisure and Below 400Dhs categories was a fantastic opportunity to congratulate these winners personally before the event.

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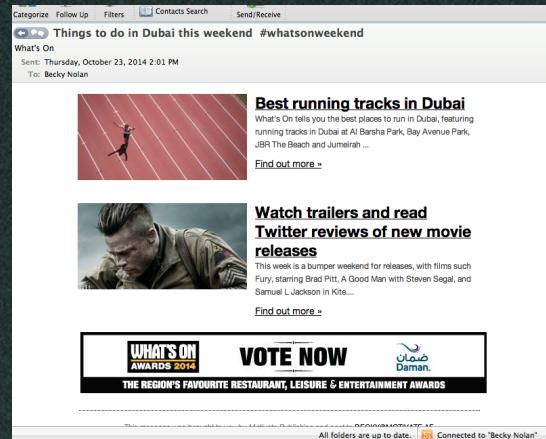


PRE-EVENT COVERAGE

MPU



E-NEWSLETTER



JUMBOTRON



Vote now ad was placed on the jumbotron in Dubai Media City, on a rotation throughout October & November.

E-MAIL BLAST



Vote Now email blasts were sent to the What's On database of over 60,000, emails were sent out in August & September 2014.

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PRE-EVENT COVERAGE

PRINT

The 'Vote Now' advertisement was placed across twelve Motivate titles, including:

Gulf Business
Stuff
Campaign
Emirates Woman
What's On
- Abu Dhabi and Dubai
HELLO!
Hype
Golf Digest
Good
identity
The Week



The advertisement was also placed in 7days and The National.



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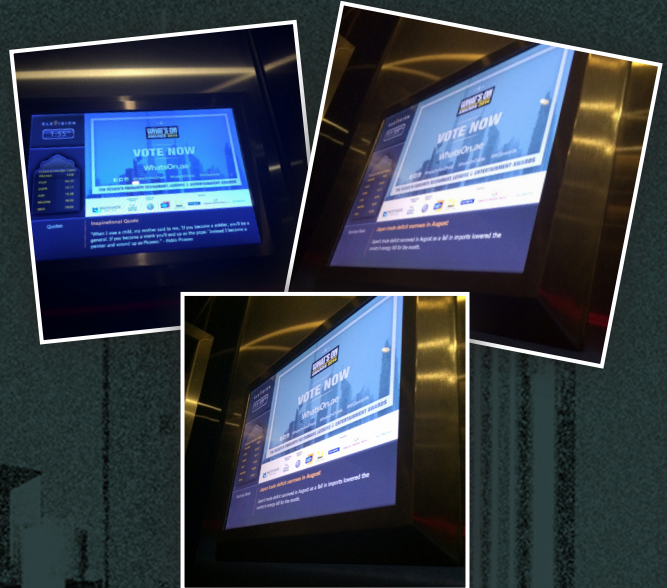


VOTING PROMOTION

Editorial coverage to promote voting in Hype magazine published on 17th August 2014.



Elevision - digital advertisement platform with "Vote Now" ad on the television screens across their DMC network.



RADIO AD
The ad aired on Dubai 92 from August 28th to October 1st 2014.

What's your favourite restaurant in Dubai? Your favourite café? Your favourite sports event? Your favourite concert? What about your favourite day out?

Tell us by voting in the What's On Awards 2014.

Vote in more than 30 categories

-including the new Healthy Eating Restaurant award sponsored by Daman.

Voting is easy. Log on to whatson.ae or like the What's On facebook page and vote today.

What's On, the UAE's best-selling entertainment magazine. On sale now.

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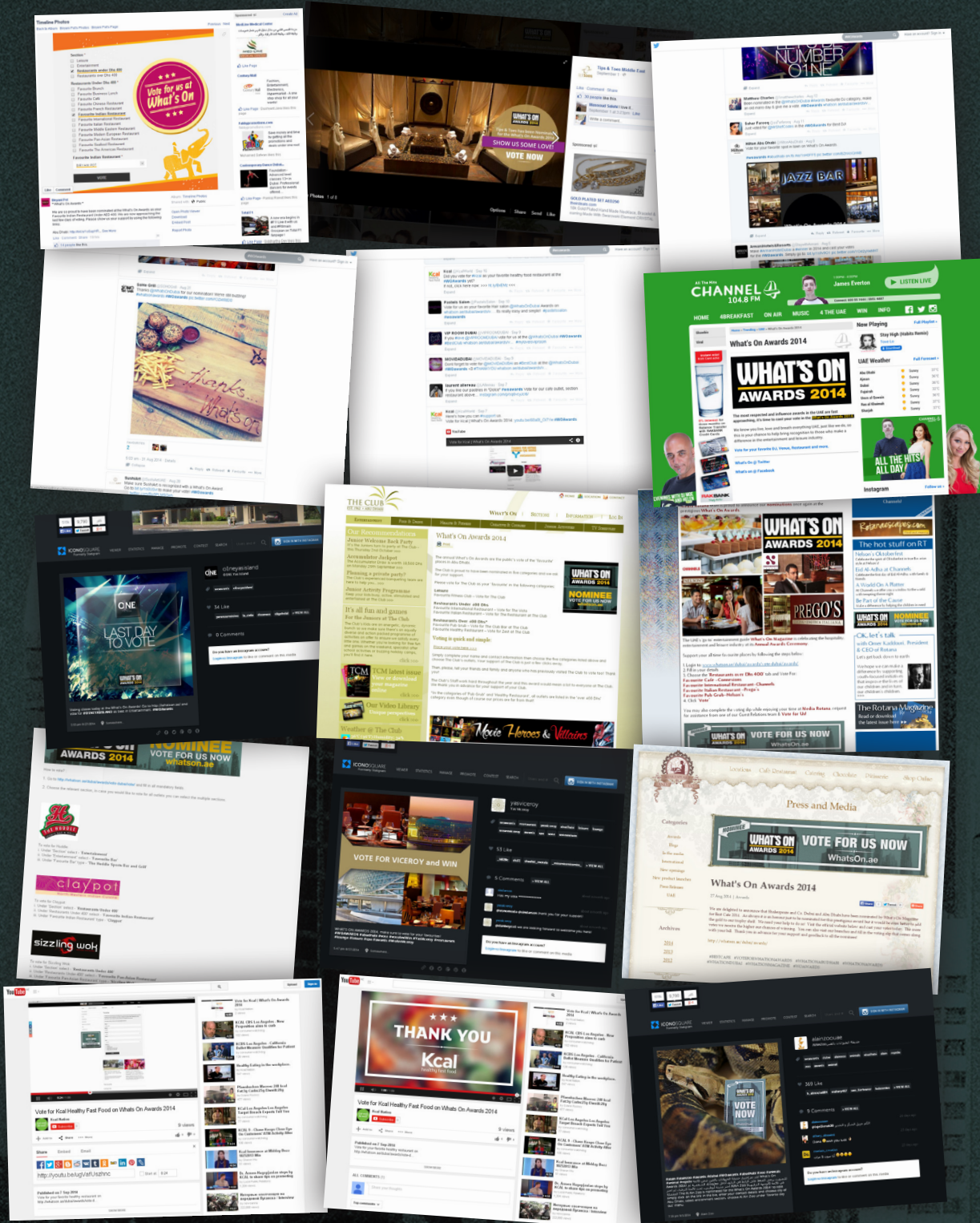


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VOTING PROMOTION

EXAMPLES OF OUTLETS ENCOURAGING THEIR CUSTOMERS TO VOTE:



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THE WINNERS



What's On Restaurant of the year
Bord Eau



What's On Indie Restaurant of the year
Cafe Arabia



What's On Chef of the year
Sinju Varghese



What's On Newcomer of the year
Zuma

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THE WINNERS



Favourite Healthy Eating Restaurant
BiteRite Restro Café



Favourite Day Out
Yas Waterworld



Favourite Bar
Jazz Bar & Dining



Favourite DJ
Natalie Brogan



Favourite Ladies' Night
The Yacht Club



Favourite Music Event
The Rolling Stones



Favourite Nightclub
Liquid Rain by Mai Café



Favourite Sporting Event
Formula 1 Etihad Airways
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

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THE WINNERS



Favourite Café
The One



Favourite Brunch
Giornotte



Favourite Business Lunch
Frankie's Italian Restaurant



Favourite Middle Eastern Restaurant
Li Beirut Jumeirah



Favourite British Restaurant
Marco Pierre White
Steakhouse & Grill



Favourite Chinese Restaurant
Shangri-La Palace



Favourite French Restaurant
Bord Eau

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THE WINNERS

FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT

Spice Mela, Rosewood Abu Dhabi



Favourite Indian Restaurant
Spice Mela

Fairways, Westin Abu Dhabi Golf Resort & Spa



Favourite International Restaurant
Fairways

FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Porto Bello, Grand Millennium Al Wahda



Favourite Italian Restaurant
Porto Bello

Koi, The Collection



Favourite Japanese Restaurant
Koi

Catalan, Rosewood Abu Dhabi



Favourite Modern European Restaurant
Catalan

Toshi, Grand Millennium Al Wahda



Favourite Pan-Asian Restaurant
Toshi

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THE WINNERS



Favourite Pub Grub
Hemingway's



Favourite Seafood Restaurant
Sayad



Favourite Steakhouse & Grill
The Foundry



Favourite Thai Restaurant
Silk Spice



Favourite The Americas Restaurant
Chamas



Favourite Sport & Outdoor
Al Forsan International Sports Resort

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THE WINNERS

(PRE-AWARDED)
(BELOW 400)



Favourite French Restaurant
Trader's Vic



Favourite European Restaurant
Bravo



Favourite Business Lunch
Market Kitchen



Favourite Italian Restaurant
Carluccio's



Favourite Pan-Asian Restaurant
Royal Orchard



Favourite hair Salon
Bedashing

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THE WINNERS

(PRE-AWARDED)
(BELOW 400)



Favourite Middle Eastern Restaurant
Marakesh



Favourite Chinese Restaurant
Shanghai Surprise



Favourite International Restaurant
Choices



Favourite Indian Restaurant
Biryani Pot



Favourite Seafood Restaurant
Red Lobster



Favourite The Americas Restaurant
Burger Bureau

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AND YOU'RE THERE



Samsøite

Sponsors



JACOBSONS

THE WINNERS (PRE-AWARDED) (BELOW 400)



Favourite Brunch Choices



**Favourite Spa
Chi, The Spa**



**Favourite Café
Le Café**



**Favourite Japanese Restaurant
Sushi Central**



**Favourite Fitness Club
Al Wahda Health**



**Favourite Nail Bar
Tips & Toes**

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THE WINNERS AD

Published in What's On Abu Dhabi (November 2014) and Dubai (November 2014)

WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2014

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ABU DHABI WINNERS

<p>WHAT'S ON RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR Bord Eau</p> <p>WHAT'S ON INDIE RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR Café Arabia</p> <p>WHAT'S ON CHEF OF THE YEAR Sinju Varghese</p> <p>WHAT'S ON NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR Zuma</p> <p>FAVOURITE HEALTHY EATING RESTAURANT BiteRite Restro Café</p> <p>FAVOURITE DAY OUT Yas Waterworld</p> <p>FAVOURITE BAR Jazz Bar & Dining, Hilton Abu Dhabi</p> <p>FAVOURITE DJ Natalie Brogan</p> <p>FAVOURITE LADIES' NIGHT The Yacht Club, InterContinental Abu Dhabi</p> <p>FAVOURITE MUSIC EVENT The Rolling Stones, du Arena, Yas Island</p> <p>FAVOURITE NIGHTCLUB Liquid Rain by Mai Café, Aloft Abu Dhabi</p> <p>FAVOURITE SPORTING EVENT Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix</p> <p>FAVOURITE CAFE The One</p> <p>FAVOURITE CAFE (BELOW DHS400) Corniche</p> <p>FAVOURITE BRUNCH Giannetto, The Ritz-Carlton Abu Dhabi, Grand Canal</p> <p>FAVOURITE BRUNCH (BELOW DHS400) Jing Asia, Crowne Plaza Yas Island</p> <p>FAVOURITE BUSINESS LUNCH Frankie's Italian Restaurant & Bar, Fairmont Bab Al Bahr</p>	<p>FAVOURITE BUSINESS LUNCH (BELOW DHS400) Market Kitchen, Le Royal Méridien</p> <p>FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT Li Beirut, Jumeirah at Etihad Towers</p> <p>FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT (BELOW DHS400) Marakesh, Millennium Corniche Hotel</p> <p>FAVOURITE BRITISH RESTAURANT Marco Pierre White Steakhouse & Grill, Fairmont Bab Al Bahr</p> <p>FAVOURITE CHINESE RESTAURANT Shang Palace, Shangri-La Hotel</p> <p>FAVOURITE CHINESE RESTAURANT (BELOW DHS400) Shanghai Surprise, Al Diar Capital Hotel</p> <p>FAVOURITE FRENCH RESTAURANT Bord Eau, Shangri-La Hotel</p> <p>FAVOURITE FRENCH RESTAURANT (BELOW DHS400) Trader Vic's, Al Ain Rotana</p> <p>FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT Spice Mela, Rosewood Abu Dhabi</p> <p>FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT (BELOW DHS400) Biryani Pot</p> <p>FAVOURITE INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANT Fairways, Westin Abu Dhabi Golf Resort & Spa</p> <p>FAVOURITE INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANT (BELOW DHS400) Choices, Yas Island Rotana</p> <p>FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT Porto Bello, Grand Millennium Al Wahda</p> <p>FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT (BELOW DHS400) Carluccio's, Eastern Mangroves Promenade</p> <p>FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT Koi, The Collection</p>	<p>FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT (BELOW DHS400) Sushi Central</p> <p>FAVOURITE MODERN EUROPEAN RESTAURANT Catalan, Rosewood Abu Dhabi</p> <p>FAVOURITE MODERN EUROPEAN RESTAURANT (BELOW DHS400) Bravo, Sheraton Abu Dhabi Hotel & Resort</p> <p>FAVOURITE PAN-ASIAN RESTAURANT Toshi, Grand Millennium Al Wahda</p> <p>FAVOURITE PAN-ASIAN RESTAURANT (BELOW DHS400) Royal Orchid, Hilton Abu Dhabi</p> <p>FAVOURITE PUB GRUB Hemingway's, Hilton Abu Dhabi</p> <p>FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT Sayad, Emirates Palace</p> <p>FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT (BELOW DHS400) Red Lobster</p> <p>FAVOURITE STEAKHOUSE & GRILL The Foundry, Southern Sun Abu Dhabi</p> <p>FAVOURITE THAI RESTAURANT Silk & Spice, Soffitel Abu Dhabi Corniche</p> <p>FAVOURITE THE AMERICAS RESTAURANT Chamas, InterContinental Abu Dhabi</p> <p>FAVOURITE THE AMERICAS RESTAURANT (BELOW DHS400) Burger Bureau</p> <p>FAVOURITE FITNESS CLUB Al Wahda Health Club</p> <p>FAVOURITE SPA Chi, The Spa</p> <p>FAVOURITE SPORT & OUTDOOR Al Fayan International Sports Resort</p> <p>FAVOURITE NAIL BAR Tips & Toes</p> <p>FAVOURITE HAIR SALON BeDashing</p>
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Winners logo sent to all winners to use to promote their win.

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POST-EVENT COVERAGE- SOCIAL MEDIA



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POST-EVENT COVERAGE ONLINE



U MEIRAH AT ETIHAD TOWERS LI BEIRUT VOTED 'FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT' AT WHAT'S ON ABU DHABI AWARDS 2014



U MEIRAH AT ETIHAD TOWERS LI BEIRUT VOTED 'FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT' AT WHAT'S ON ABU DHABI AWARDS 2014

Abu Dhabi, 28 October 2014 - U MEIRAH, the prime Lebanese restaurant at Etihad Towers, has been voted 'FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT' at the What's On Abu Dhabi Awards 2014. The award was presented to U MEIRAH by the judges of the awards ceremony, which took place on 27 October 2014 at the Shangri-La Hotel, Qaryat Al Beri, Abu Dhabi.

TheNational UAE

UAE World Business Sport Arts & Lifestyle Opinion Blogs

6 awards for Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi, 27 October 2014 - Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi has won six regional and international awards in its second year of operation. The awards were presented at the What's On Abu Dhabi Awards 2014 ceremony, which took place on 27 October 2014 at the Shangri-La Hotel, Qaryat Al Beri, Abu Dhabi.



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DIARY OF THE WEEK

HELLO!

ISSUE HE490, PAGE NO.51.



James Norman, Ian Fairservice, Antonio Del Ojo and Naresh Seeruttun



Akshay and Shalini Dosaj



Omar Al Raisi and Ons Mebarek

DIARY OF THE WEEK

BATTLE OF THE GONGS

The best in leisure, entertainment and dining in Abu Dhabi – as voted for by the public – was celebrated at a glamorous party at The St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort.

Hosted by *What's On*, the event was an auspicious affair attended by leading figures from across the UAE. The award for Best Restaurant went to Bord Eau at Shangri-La Abu Dhabi, while Zuma won Best Newcomer.

The awards, which will also run in Dubai in November, are celebrating 13 years as the most respected and only publicly voted – aside from four specially chosen – gongs of their kind. Other winners on the night included BiteRite Restro Café for Favourite Healthy Eating Restaurant, sponsored by Daman.



Sara Al Tamimi, Evelyn Maffi and Michelle Du Plessis



Mehdi Hanayem, Elena Polischuk and Maya Hoteit



What's On Group Editor Mark Evans with the Zuma team

HELLO! MIDDLE EAST 51

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EDITORIAL COVERAGE

WHAT'S ON

What's On Abu Dhabi (November 2014)

WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2014

THOUSANDS OF YOU VOTED
IN THE CITY'S OUTLETS AND
ONLINE, AND NOW THE WINNERS
HAVE BEEN REVEALED.
DISCOVER ABU DHABI'S BEST
SPAS, RESTAURANTS, BARS,
CONCERTS AND MORE OVER
THE NEXT FEW PAGES

26_What's On_11.2014

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What's On Abu Dhabi (November 2014)

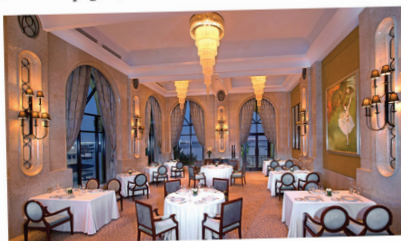
RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR



Rajesh Nair from EPP (centre) awards Ahmed Issa, and Didier Quennouelle from Bord Eau

Bord Eau, Shangri-La Hotel

This multi award-winning French restaurant has it all: a sophisticated menu, impeccable service and some of the most elegant and romantic décor in the city with stunning views of the creek. It remains the place to go to for food lovers in the capital. And its famous chocolate extravaganza dessert is as good as ever. Check out our review on page 87.



Inside the elegant Bord Eau, our Restaurant Of The Year

CHEF OF THE YEAR

Sinju Varghese, Chef de Cuisine, Sayad, Emirates Palace

Our chef of the year once told *What's On*, "A kitchen is a tough place to work." But the Chef de Cuisine at Emirates Palace's seafood restaurant manages to make it look very easy, and was a worthy winner at our awards ceremony. His dishes draw on many influences: try the Arabic spiced grilled salmon (with dates marmalade) and the pumpkin risotto with harissa.



Motivate Managing Partner and Group Editor Ian Fairservice (second from left) congratulates James Norman, Antonio Del Ojo and Naresh Seeruttan

11.2014_What's On_27

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EDITORIAL COVERAGE

WHAT'S ON

What's On Abu Dhabi (November 2014)

INDIE RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Café Arabia

When the panel of judges were asked to give an award to an outlet in the capital that isn't in a hotel or mall and doesn't serve alcohol, only one name sprung to mind. Café Arabia is as much a community as it is a restaurant and holds exhibitions, book readings and even concerts. The brunch here is dirt-cheap as well and the chic yet slightly rough around the edges décor, set over two floors of a house, give it a homely feel. Every Abu Dhabian should visit here at least once.



Inside the chic
Café Arabia

Zuma is one of Abu
Dhabi's big hitters



NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Zuma

A creative and spellbinding menu of Japanese dishes served in a modern, classy setting: Zuma is the kind of restaurant that is making Abu Dhabi a major player on the global foodie scene and it was no surprise when the panel of judges named it Newcomer Of The Year.

28_What's On_11.2014



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EDITORIAL COVERAGE

WHAT'S ON

What's On Abu Dhabi (November 2014)

FAVOURITE HEALTHY EATING RESTAURANT **BiteRite Restro Café**

The newly-created Healthy Eating category for the 2014 awards was sponsored by Daman and the winner, BiteRite was the perfect choice, as they list how many calories are in every single item on the menu. There can be no greater satisfaction than ordering items such as their spinach and mushroom soup, which has only 28 calories.



FAVOURITE CAFÉ **The One**

A café in a furniture store might not be the most obvious of settings, but it does mean that you get to enjoy some brekkie or a spot of lunch with friends while sitting on some pretty decent décor. Our army of readers clearly like it, as The One was crowned Favourite Café for the second year in a row.



FAVOURITE BRUNCH **Giornotte, The Ritz-Carlton Abu Dhabi, Grand Canal**

How big is the brunch at Giornotte? So big you're given a map on arrival. The 27 cooking stations cover all of Giornotte and there's so much on offer that desserts are served in the hotel's café Dolce next door. The classy surroundings, variety, family-friendly vibe and unique entertainment (a chap playing Metallica covers on the piano) must have impressed plenty of the city's residents, as the votes flooded in to crown it your Favourite Brunch of 2014.



You'll find a creative menu and classic surroundings at Shang Palace

FAVOURITE CHINESE RESTAURANT **Shang Palace, Shangri-La Hotel**

The elegant surroundings of the Shangri-La are home to many top restaurants, and the menu does classic dishes well, such as crispy duck with pancakes, but also features many special signature dishes worth scoffing, including crispy octopus with plum garlic sauce. But it's the various special events it holds that really show off its creativity, such as its Hong Kong street food festival earlier this year.



11.2014_What's On_29

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EDITORIAL COVERAGE

WHAT'S ON

What's On Abu Dhabi (November 2014)

airways, Westin Abu Dhabi Golf Reso

Akram Raffoul (left) and Ashley Jacob from Jacobsen's (right) present the award

Fairways at the Westin Abu Dhabi Golf Resort & Spa

FAVOURITE INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANT

Fairways, Westin Abu Dhabi Golf Resort & Spa

The huge spread on offer at Fairways is popular not only with visitors to the hotel, but also the weekend crowds from Khalifa City and beyond (when it's often booked up weeks in advance). You'll find a massive spread of dishes, with seafood, curries and local dishes and more.

FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT

Spice Mela, Rosewood Abu Dhabi

You might call Indian food many things: spicy, colourful, hearty, but very few restaurants produce genuine fine dining, gourmet Indian dishes. Thankfully, one that does just happens to be in the Rosewood Abu Dhabi. Chef Siddharth's dishes are clever. They're sophisticated yet there are influences of street food in there as well. It's the most creative menu in what was a hotly-contested category.

FAVOURITE FRENCH RESTAURANT

Bord Eau, Shangri-La Hotel

If you're going to eat frogs' legs in one place in Abu Dhabi, we recommend you do it at Bord Eau. The outlet walked away with two awards this year, including the biggie - Restaurant Of The Year - and now it's up to new chef Didier to prove he can retain the title next year.

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FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Sayad, Emirates Palace

While the *What's On* panel was so impressed with Sayad chef's Sinju that we crowned him Chef Of The Year, it seems the voting public were also pretty impressed with the dishes served here, in perhaps Abu Dhabi's most opulent of hotels.



James Norman, Antonio Del Ojo and Sreejith Kumar



Catalan serves some of the most elegant dishes in the capital

FAVOURITE MODERN EUROPEAN RESTAURANT

Catalan, Rosewood Abu Dhabi

It's one of those places you take that special person in your life to and the European cuisine served here is some of the best in the emirate. This is fine dining with a capital F, with everything from steamed cockles to monkfish suquet and grain-fed chicken paella on the menu. Fancy some grape? Catalan does menu pairing better than most places in Abu Dhabi.



FAVOURITE STEAKHOUSE AND GRILL RESTAURANT

The Foundry, Southern Sun Abu Dhabi

Considering the Southern Sun has only been open since the summer, the impression it's made on our readers has been spectacular. None of the *What's On* team would have predicted such a new restaurant would secure the most votes, but one visit will explain why it's been crowned the winner. The quality of the meat is second to none, as are the personal touches - you get to choose your steak knife from a box, containing six knives with different handles.



The team from The Foundry with Serg Bassier from Stockyard Beef (second from right)

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FAVOURITE THE AMERICAS RESTAURANT

Chamas, InterContinental Abu Dhabi

It's all about the big cuts of meat at Chamas, Abu Dhabi's churrascaria restaurant, but the atmosphere here is what makes it so much fun as well, thanks to samba dancers and TropiMambo, the restaurant's Colombian band. Without a doubt one of the more lively places to eat in the city.



The delighted Chamas team with Majid Ali from American Garden (right)



FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT

Li Beirut, Jumeirah At Etihad Towers

The hotel's vision with this restaurant was to revolutionise Lebanese cuisine – and it's safe to say they've succeeded. This is yet another gong for the multi-award winning restaurant, and we imagine the zaatar-crusted rack of lamb probably secured them a few votes alone.

The Silk & Spice raise their trophy aloft, with Majid Ali from American Garden (right)

FAVOURITE THAI RESTAURANT

Silk & Spice, Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche

An elegant venue serving fantastic Thai dishes created by head chef Jatuphol Puyprom, Silk & Spice fought off some tough competition to walk away with the gong. Thai food is a growing scene in the city, and with rumours about another opening for 2015, this will become an even more hotly contested category next year.



Silk & Spice fought off some tough competition to be voted the city's best Thai restaurant

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Koi, The Collection



The winners from Koi with Jeremy Weeks from Chaine Des Rotisseurs (second from right)

FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT Koi, The Collection

The Collection on Saadiyat is becoming one of *What's On's* favourite places to visit and Koi's contemporary menu is bold, fresh, colourful and beautifully presented. It's also very tasty. A tip from us – try the grilled lobster tail.

FAVOURITE PUB GRUB Hemingway's, Hilton Abu Dhabi

With so many glitzy venues in the capital, it might seem surprising that one of the oldest hotels in the city got the most votes for pub grub. But then again Hemingway's, huge, excellent value for money Tex-Mex dishes and jovial staff have been drawing regulars in for years, especially at the weekend when the football is on the bar's TV screens.



FAVOURITE PAN-ASIAN RESTAURANT Toshi, Grand Millennium Al Wahda

This Grand Millennium eatery gets it right on so many levels – from its teppanyaki station to popular theme nights such as sushi, Thai and seafood. Sleek reds and blacks line the walls, giving it a modern and hipster feel. This is a restaurant that is a jack of all trades – but it's also a master of them all as well, and the public, it seems, agrees, as it easily secured the most votes in this category.

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FAVOURITE BUSINESS LUNCH

Frankie's Italian Restaurant & Bar, Fairmont Bab Al Bahr

Frankie's is the sort of place to have a relaxed, casual business lunch with a client and at Dhs125 for three courses it is also great value. The friendly, jovial yet professional staff add to the vibe and the pappardelle with chicken and button mushrooms and veal shank ravioli are stand-out dishes on a menu you're guaranteed to have served to you in under an hour.



The business lunch at Frankie's is great value and a worthy winner



FAVOURITE BRITISH RESTAURANT

Marco Pierre White Steakhouse & Grill, Fairmont Bab Al Bahr

Let's face it: Marco knows a thing or two about cooking beef. His Abu Dhabi steakhouse has been open for five years and has cooked some 50,000 steaks in that time - plenty of those to *What's On* readers, judging by the number of votes it secured.



Peter Hellyer from the National Media Council (right) with the team from Marco Pierre White Steakhouse & Grill

FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Porto Bello, Grand Millennium Al Wahda

Fine Italian fare that is also fantastic value for money, Porto Bello's wall of high, airy windows make it a perfect location for lunch, let alone dinner. Considering it's location in busy Al Wahda, it's even managed to create some tranquility in its awesome al fresco area. As for the food? Strong flavours and simple dishes make this a place that now has its fair share of regulars, including *What's On*'s readers, who made this one a runaway winner in its category. If you've not tried the hotel's brunch here on a Friday, you're missing out. It features unique dishes and great tunes from mariachi group The Trio Band.



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FAVOURITE CHINESE RESTAURANT Shanghai Surprise, Al Diar Capital Hotel

One thing is guaranteed: you will get a warm welcome by the smiling staff at Shanghai Surprise. Pretty much everyone *What's On* knows in the capital has eaten here, and it's the go-to place for good quality, yet wallet-friendly, grub.



FAVOURITE PAN-ASIAN RESTAURANT Royal Orchid, Hilton Abu Dhabi

The décor makes you feel like you've popped over to Hong Kong – it's classic and authentic. As for the food, the menu is great value, offering traditional Chinese and Thai dishes such as wonton noodle soup. This is the place you go to when you want to embrace a food coma for the rest of the evening.



FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT Biryani Pot

It's confession time: Biryani Pot has quickly become the *What's On* team's favourite cheap Indian restaurant. So we were delighted to see our readers agree. The food puts many posh hotels' restaurants to shame. Make sure you try the quinoa biryani, served in a huge clay pot with a bread lid.

FAVOURITE INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANT Choices, Yas Island

You see patterns in voting and we reckon that more than a few Yas and Khalifa City residents put in there nominations for Choices, but with good reason. It's not the biggest buffet spread here, but the emphasis is more on quality as opposed to quantity. The weekend barbeque brunch is also great value. Choices has now walked away with the award two years in a row.



FAVOURITE THE AMERICAS RESTAURANT Burger Bureau

You'll find lots of fun décor and friendly staff at Burger Bureau in Al Wahda Mall. You'll also find some mighty fine burgers with cool names like Lethal Weapon, Italian Job and Bombay Bliss. Another restaurant that seems to have pleased our readers so much, it's a winner two years in a row.



FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT Carluccio's

This place is more than just pizza and pasta. It's a café and shop as well, selling everything from oils and vinegars to biscuits and chocolates. You can even order a picnic hamper to take with you to the beach. And the best thing? The surroundings. Sit alfresco here and unwind with the awesome views at Eastern Mangroves Promenade.



FAVOURITE MODERN EUROPEAN RESTAURANT Bravo, Sheraton Abu Dhabi Hotel & Resort

Who wants tapas? *What's On* readers, it seems, and with good reason, when it comes to Bravo. The Sheraton has been in Abu Dhabi as long as *What's On* (35 years) and has a loyal following, and the food and live music here still make for a fantastic night out.



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BELOW
DHS400



FAVOURITE BUSINESS LUNCH Market Kitchen, Le Royal Méridien

This American-influenced outlet in the refurbished Le Royal Méridien has made quite an impression since opening in the summer, thanks to the hard work of Aussie chef Justin Galea, and its business lunch is fantastic value for money.



FAVOURITE FRENCH RESTAURANT Trader Vic's, Al Ain Rotana

Trader Vic's? Yep, you read that right, the French part of this French-Polynesian restaurant was a big hit with our readers, especially in the garden city of Al Ain. Why? It's another restaurant that is more than just about eating food: it's an experience, with unique décor and live entertainment and a varied, huge menu.



FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT Red Lobster

In a city of opulence and posh restaurants, it's nice to see that the cheaper options make an impression on our readers as well – and the amount of votes the Lobster grabbed nearly sent our computers into meltdown. And if you're after good quality lobster, you're guaranteed to go home with a full belly and some dirhams left over at this Al Wahda mall outlet.



FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT Marakesh, Millennium Corniche Hotel

One of the few Moroccan restaurants in the city, you won't find décor like this anywhere else. The Arabic mezze and the tagines are fantastic. But yet again, it's not just about the food. The band, singer and belly dancer make this venue just as much about the entertainment.



FAVOURITE BRUNCH Jing Asia, Crowne Plaza Yas Island

It's fair to say you're guaranteed a warm, friendly, buzzing welcome at all the Crowne Plaza's outlets, but Jing Asia is particularly lively on a Friday for brunch, which will only set you back Dh200. The surf and turf night here is also worth checking out.



FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT Sushi Central

Good prices, an efficient delivery service and fresh, tasty sushi. We've ordered in to our Al Zahiyah office many times before, and so it was no surprise to us that this little indie outfit in Al Khalidiyah romped home with the votes and the prize.

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FAVOURITE LADIES' NIGHT

The Yacht Club, InterContinental Abu Dhabi

Another outlet that must be doing something right, because our readers have voted it the city's best place for ladies to go two years running. We reckon the glamorous marina views and the unlimited bubbly probably has something to do with it, but the sushi is pretty decent as well.



FAVOURITE DJ

Natalie Brogan

A regular on the club circuit in the capital, Natalie used to DJ in Manchester in the UK. She quit her job to move to the clubber's capital of the world, Ibiza, in Spain before arriving in the UAE. The rest, as they say, is history. Since then she's performed at Creamfields, Saadiyat Beach Club, Hyatt Capital Gate, Aloft Abu Dhabi and many more.

FAVOURITE NIGHTCLUB

Liquid Rain by Mai Café, Aloft Abu Dhabi

A winner at last year's awards, the Liquid Rain parties (word of advice: take swimwear with you) are a carnival of carnage, featuring an 8ft tall LED robot, stilt-walkers, fire breathers, UV body paint and lots of splashing around in Aloft Abu Dhabi's swimming pool as revellers bust moves to a stellar line-up of DJs.



Mick Jagger and the Stones delivered a stunning set at the du Arena



ones, du Arena,



The winners with Thomas Milz from Volkswagen Middle East (right)

FAVOURITE MUSIC EVENT

The Rolling Stones, du Arena, Yas Island

What makes a good gig? The Rolling Stones have got more hits than most bands on the planet, so it didn't surprise the *What's On* team that they secured more votes than pop heavyweights such as Rihanna and Justin Timberlake. The Stones' show on Yas was slick and one of those 'you had to be there' moments. They even came on stage early and played for more than two hours. Not bad for a group of gents in their early seventies.

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FAVOURITE SPA Chi, The Spa

A beautiful and tranquil setting by Souk Qaryat Al Beri, the Shangri-La's spa has a vast menu of treatments on offer inspired by several Asian cultures. The staff are extremely friendly and there's some unique and fun treatments on the menu, such as the Arabic coffee scrub and an Arabian date body wrap. If eternal bliss is what you're after, head to this award winner.



Chi, The Spa: blissful treatments in tranquil surroundings

FAVOURITE SPORT & OUTDOOR Al Forsan International Sports Resort

Rashed Al Qubaisi with Marwan Awad from Nikon

Paint balling in the old Wild West, quad biking, wake boarding, go-karting, shooting, horse riding and more. You're guaranteed a good time at Al Forsan. There are so many different sports on offer here, it was no surprise to the judges that it garnered the most votes from *What's On* readers.

FAVOURITE HAIR SALON BeDashing

The décor is kitch and classy, the staff treat you like an old friend and the massages are good but affordable. And we haven't mentioned the excellent haircuts yet, or the pedis and manis. The votes simply poured in for this chain.



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FAVOURITE FITNESS CLUB

Al Wahda Health Club

The Abu Dhabi stone. All those brunches and fine restaurants means a wobbly belly is a problem most of us have to tackle at some point. The facilities here are second to none, and the rooftop swimming pool in particular is always popular. The yoga and Pilates classes are always busy and it seems our readers are pretty keen on it as well, judging by the huge swell of votes it secured.



A warm welcome and great live music can be found at Jazz Bar & Dining

FAVOURITE BAR

Jazz Bar & Dining, Hilton Abu Dhabi

One of the city's most loved bars in one of its oldest hotels has only gone and won the award for Favourite Bar two years in a row! Any venue that promotes live music to this level certainly gets our vote, so it's no surprise that casual, cool ambience, good food and intimate decors has seen it walk away with yet another gong.

FAVOURITE SPORTING EVENT

Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

Last year's F1 was the fifth in Abu Dhabi and was won by Sebastian Vettel driving a Red Bull car. The three-day event, which includes entry to the after-race concerts at the du Arena as part of the entry fee, is always a special event, but last year's was for even more reasons, including a partial solar eclipse, which could be seen for 17 minutes during the race.



FAVOURITE NAIL BAR

Tips & Toes

Professional and discreet, the ladies at Tips & Toes have now secured enough votes to win two years in a row. It probably has something to do with its handy location in Marina Mall, not to mention the variety of services they offer in their pristine clinic, including hammam and even LPG slimming to go along with the usual TLC for your hair and nails.

FAVOURITE DAY OUT

Yas Waterworld

Abu Dhabi's waterpark is more than just a, well, waterpark. Granted, its rides such as Dawwama truly get the adrenaline pumping, but it's also home to the world's largest surfable sheet wave

(and they hold Flowboarding events as well). Throw in regular events such as its ladies' nights and its recent Festival Of Lights, and you can see why it's become one of the most popular leisure destinations in the capital.



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Georgy Daniloff and Angelina Gencheva

Muhammed Saleeth and Mohammudh Hisham

Ashley and Jocelyn Jacob with Lauren and Akram Raffoul

Ralick Jhan and Adriana Adil

Kamal Chaoui, Rami Flefel and Christos Kyriakides

The Maplejacks

What's On team Matthew Fortune, Stacey Siebritz, Laura Coughlin and Kerry McDermott

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