



WHAT'S ON

AWARDS 2015

ABU DHABI



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28, 2015
YAS VICEROY, ABU DHABI

POST EVENT REPORT

DODGE

voucherskout

STOCKYARD
COUNTRY HILL

Nikon
At the heart of the image

CAREEM

VICEROY

Gray
Mackenzie

bliss

EMIRATES PRINTING PRESS (L.L.C.)

JACOBSONS

MOTIVATE



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 hope you thoroughly enjoyed your evening and we look forward to working with you again in the future.

Thanks again,
Motivate Events Team

YOU ARE INVITED....

Over 400 guests attended the gala dinner and awards ceremony. The guest list included leaders in the hospitality & leisure industry from outlets across Abu Dhabi.

PRINTED INVITATION



DIGITAL ARTWORK

- E-invite
- Save the date
- See you tonight





THE VENUE



YAS VICEROY, ABU DHABI

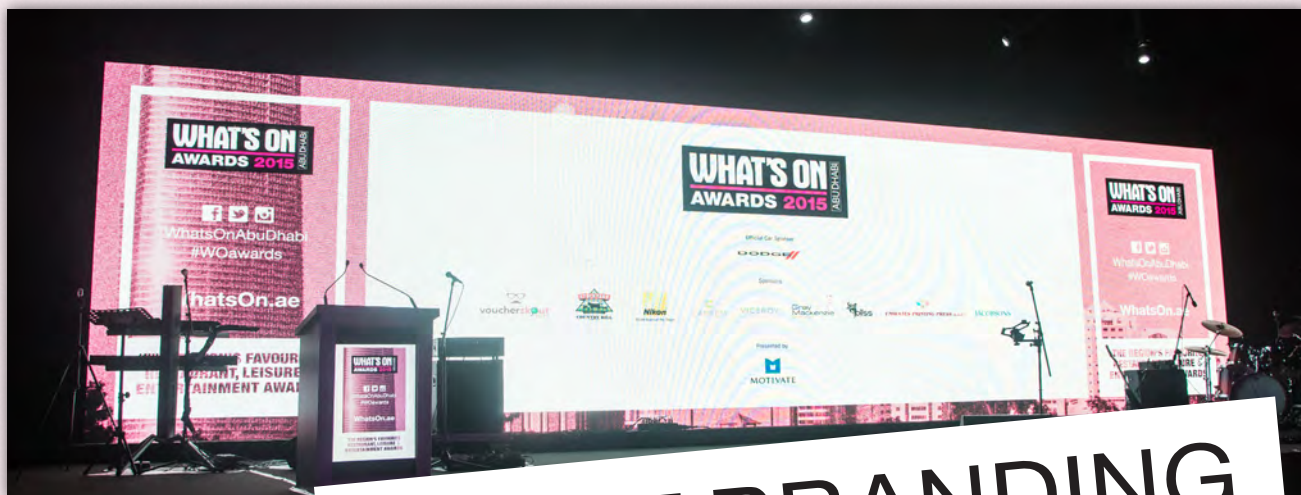
As Yas Island Abu Dhabi's premier hotel, Yas Viceroy Abu Dhabi sets the standard for exceptional service throughout its 499 impeccable rooms and suites, 11 innovative dining and lounge venues, and the luxurious ESPA spa facility. The interiors of this Abu Dhabi resort embody a contemporary fusion of elegance and momentum, created with sensuous curves and sleek lines.

PINK CARPET GLAMOUR



PINK CARPET GLAMOUR





EVENT BRANDING



ACTIVATION

DAMAN

Official Healthy Eating Sponsor



The Healthy Eating Restaurant award, Favourite Café, Favourite Sporting Event, Favourite Concert, and Favourite Business Lunch was presented on the evening by Daman. The award was presented by Sumit Kapur, Vice President-Corporate Sales, Abu Dhabi Region at National Health Insurance Company-Daman.



ACTIVATION

DODGE

Official Car Sponsor



Dodge displayed a Dodge Challenger and a Dodge Charger at the event. Onsite Dodge representatives snapped pictures of attendees interacting with the cars. The photos were then emailed to the guests.



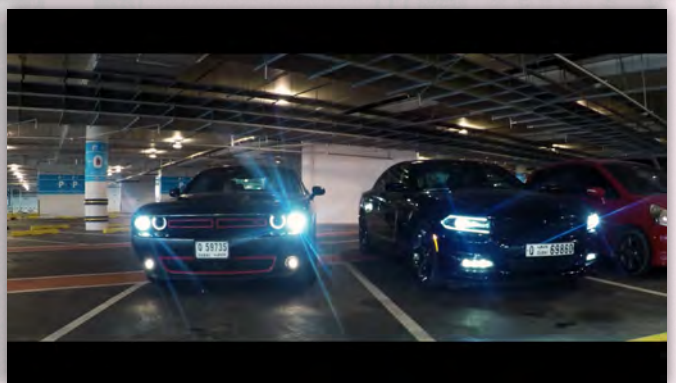
ACTIVATION

DODGE

Official Car Sponsor



The pre-awarding of the below 400Dhs restaurant categories took place 2 weeks before the event. The teams travelled around the city in Dodge cars.

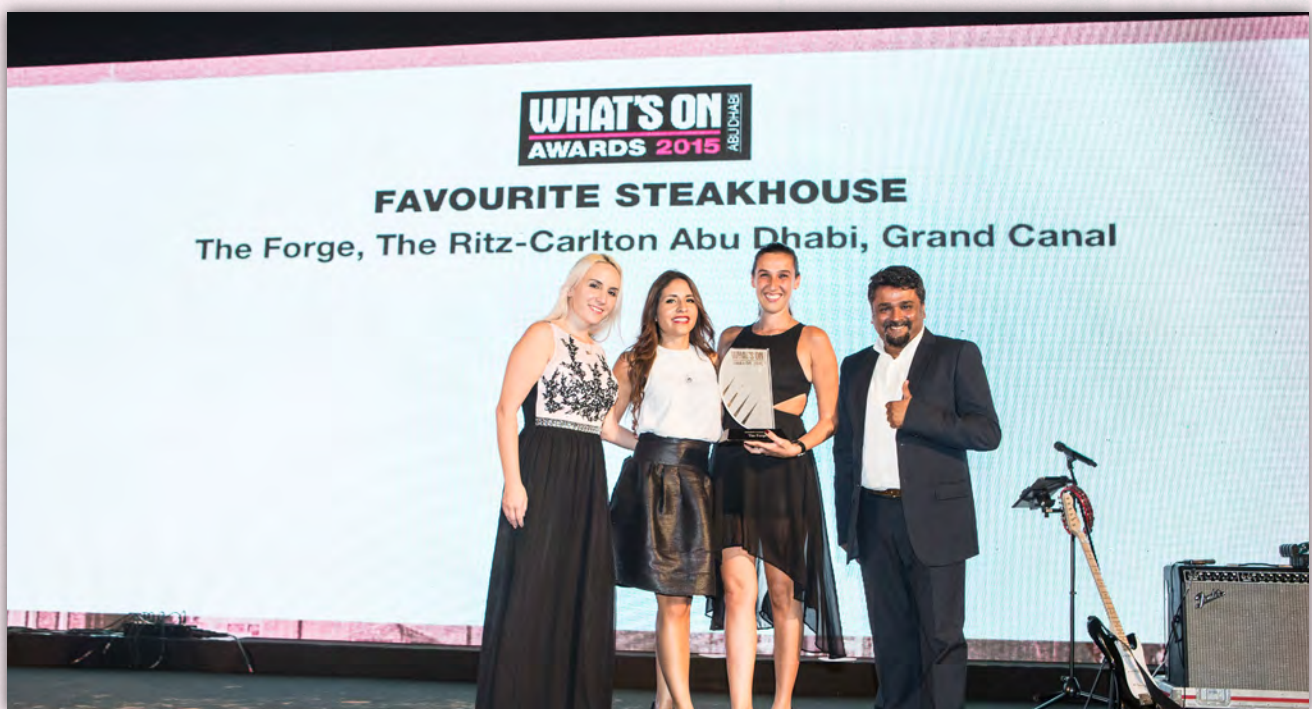


ACTIVATION

STOCKYARD COUNTRY HILL



Stockyard Country Hill sponsored the Favourite Steakhouse Category.



ACTIVATION

JACOBSONS DIRECT

JACOBSONS

Our official vote processing partner for the awards. Ashley Jacob, Director at Jacobsons Direct presented both the Favourite Pan-Asian and Favourite Seafood Restaurant awards.



ACTIVATION

GRAY MACKENZIE & PARTNERS



Gray Mackenzie & Partners sponsored Favourite Bar and Favourite Nightclub awards which were presented by Ananth Raman, General Manager of GMP & Partners. They also sponsored Favourite Pub Grub and Favourite Brunch awards which were presented by Adham Amer, On Trade Sales Manager at GMP & Partners.



ACTIVATION

BLISS



Bliss sponsored the beautiful flowers on each table.



ACTIVATION

CAREEM

Official Transport Partner



Careem were the official transport partner for the awards. Christian Eid, CEO at Careem presented both Favourite Festival & Favourite Ladies' Night. The Careem stand was placed outside at the valet entrance of the hotel.



ACTIVATION

VOUCHERSKOUT



VoucherSkout sponsored Favourite International Restaurant, which was presented by Founding Partner Alia Al Nabooda. Favourite Thai and Favourite The Americas Restaurant were presented by David Tobias, Managing Director. VoucherSkout had a fun photo booth onsite and one lucky guest won an iPhone 6.



ACTIVATION

NIKON



At the heart of the image

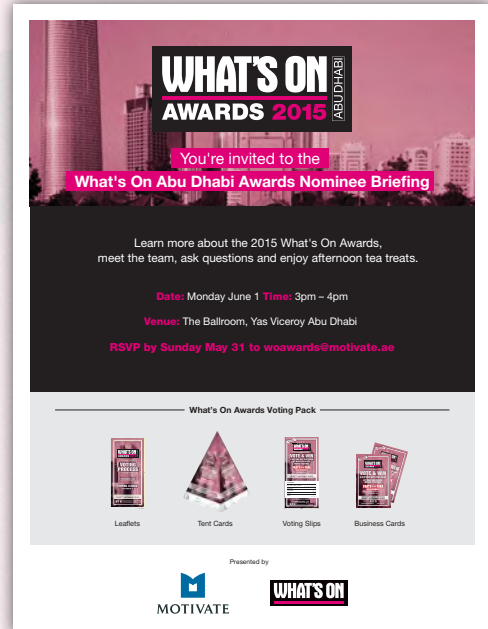
Nikon sponsored Favourite Day Out, the award was presented by Mustafa Keelath, Deputy Area Sales Manager, Abu Dhabi, Grand Stores.



NOMINEE BRIEFING

This was an opportunity to educate the nominees about the What's On Awards Abu Dhabi voting process. It was an informal briefing with approximately 60 outlets in attendance. The briefing included the below:

- Introduction to the team
- The 2015 awards process with deadlines
- How to use the collateral
- Question time



VOTING PROCESS

Nominees for the What's On Awards 2015 consisted of bars, restaurants, cafés, spas, nightclubs and events. Voting took place from August 1st to September 30th 2015. Nominees were able to promote voting to their customers both online and through physical voting slips, outlets were sent a nomination pack which included: table tent cards, business cards, and voting slips.

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



Table Tent Card



Voting Slips



Business Cards



Voting Process



Nomination Letter

All voting slips and online voting reports were sent to Jacobsons Direct, our auditing partner, they 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. The Leisure and Below 400Dhs Restaurant categories were pre-awarded two weeks before the event, this was a fantastic opportunity to congratulate these winners personally before the event.

PRE-EVENT COVERAGE

PRINT

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

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



RADIO AD



The radio ad aired on Dubai 92 from September 16th to September 30th 2015.

What's your favourite restaurant? Your favourite sports event?

What about your favourite ladies night?

Vote now in the What's On Awards and win four VIP tickets to Party in the Park.

Voting is easy. Go to whats on dot ae.

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

PRE-EVENT COVERAGE ONLINE

MPU

The Vote Now MPU ran across the following sites from August 5 - September 30:
 WhatsOn.ae
 emirateswoman.com
 gulfbusiness.com
 stuff.tv.me
 campaignme.com



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 2015.



EXAMPLES OF OUTLETS ENCOURAGING THEIR CUSTOMERS TO VOTE:



THE WINNERS



WHAT'S ON RESTAURANT
OF THE YEAR
**Zuma, The Galleria
Al Maryah Island**



WHAT'S ON CHEF OF THE YEAR
Justin Galea



WHAT'S ON NEWCOMER
OF THE YEAR
Asia de Cuba, Nation Riviera



WHAT'S ON INDIE RESTAURANT
OF THE YEAR
The Third Place

THE WINNERS



Favourite Bar
Iris, Yas Marina



Favourite Day Out
Kidz Factory



Favourite Concert
Robbie Williams



Favourite Ladies' Night
Jazz Bar And Dining, Hilton Abu Dhabi



Favourite Festival
Beats On The Beach



Favourite Nightclub
People by Crystal Abu Dhabi

THE WINNERS



Favourite Sporting Event
Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship



Favourite Brunch
Aqua, Rosewood Abu Dhabi



Favourite Business Lunch
Zuma, The Galleria
Al Maryah Island



Favourite Café
The Chocolate Gallery,
Fairmont Bab Al Bahr, Abu Dhabi



Favourite Healthy Restaurant
Zest, The Club



Favourite Pub Grub
Stills, Crowne Plaza Yas Island

THE WINNERS



Favourite Food Truck
BurgerFuel



Favourite Chinese Restaurant
Hakkasan, Emirates Palace



Favourite French Restaurant
Brasserie Angélique,
Jumeirah at Etihad Towers



Favourite Indian Restaurant
Ushna, Souk at
Qaryat Al Beri



Favourite International Restaurant
Asia de Cuba,
Nation Riviera



Favourite Italian Restaurant
Circo, InterContinental Abu Dhabi



Favourite Japanese Restaurant
Inakaya, Venetian Village

THE WINNERS



Favourite Middle Eastern Restaurant
Rozanah, Yas Marina



Favourite Modern European Restaurant
Bentley Bistro & Bar,
The Galleria, Al Maryah Island



Favourite Pan-Asian Restaurant
Hoi An, Shangri-La Hotel Qaryat Al Beri



Favourite Seafood Restaurant
Sayad, Emirates Palace



Favourite Steakhouse
The Forge, The Ritz-Carlton
Abu Dhabi, Grand Canal



Favourite Thai Restaurant
Silk & Spice,
Sofitel Abu Dhabi



Favourite The Americas Restaurant
Market Kitchen,
Le Royal Méridien
Abu Dhabi

THE WINNERS

(PRE-AWARDED)
(BELOW 400DHS)



Favourite Middle Eastern Restaurant
Zaytinya



Favourite Chinese Restaurant
Royal Orchid Restaurant



Favourite French Restaurant
Le Beaujolais, Mercure
Abu Dhabi Centre Hotel



Favourite Indian Restaurant
Biryani Pot



Favourite International Restaurant
Choices, Yas Island Rotana



Favourite Italian Restaurant
Mamma Rossella, Ferrari World
Abu Dhabi

THE WINNERS

(PRE-AWARDED)
(BELOW 400DHS)



Favourite Japanese Restaurant
Sushi Central



Favourite Modern European Restaurant
Leopold's Of London



Favourite Pan-Asian Restaurant
The Noodle House



Favourite Seafood Restaurant
Turquoiz, St Regis Saadiyat Island Resort



Favourite The Americas Restaurant
Fatburger



Favourite Thai Restaurant
Talay, Le Méridien Abu Dhabi

THE WINNERS

(PRE-AWARDED)
(LEISURE CATEGORY)



Favourite Fitness Club
Bodylines Fitness & Wellness Club,
Beach Rotana



Favourite Spa
Thalgo Spa, Abu Dhabi
Country Club



Favourite Nail Bar
Tips & Toes



Favourite Hair Salon
Marquee

POST-EVENT COVERAGE -THE WINNERS AD

Published in
What's On Abu Dhabi
(November 2015)
and *What's On Dubai*
(November 2015)

WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2015
ABU DHABI

ABU DHABI WINNERS

WHAT'S ON RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
Zuma, The Galleria on Al Maryah Island

WHAT'S ON CHEF OF THE YEAR
Jamil Gharib

WHAT'S ON REVENOMER OF THE YEAR
Julia de Cuba, Nation Roma

WHAT'S ON INDIE RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
The Third Place

FAVOURITE BAR
Iris, Yas Viceroy

FAVOURITE DAY OUT
Kala Factory

FAVOURITE CONCERT
Rihanna

FAVOURITE LADIES' NIGHT
Jazz Bar And Dining, Hilton Abu Dhabi

FAVOURITE FESTIVAL
Beats On The Beach

FAVOURITE NIGHTCLUB
People by Crystal Abu Dhabi

FAVOURITE SPORTING EVENT
Abu Dhabi 1000 Golf Championship

FAVOURITE BRUNCH
Alana, Rosewood Abu Dhabi

FAVOURITE BUSINESS LUNCH
Zuma, The Galleria on Al Maryah Island

FAVOURITE CAFE
The Greenhouse, Fakhriyah, Abu Dhabi

FAVOURITE HEALTHY RESTAURANT
Zest, The Club

FAVOURITE PUB GRUB
Bibi, Corniche Plaza Yas Island

FAVOURITE FOOD TRUCK
Burger Fuel

FAVOURITE CHINESE RESTAURANT
Makans, Yas Viceroy

FAVOURITE FRENCH RESTAURANT
Boulevard Anglaise, Jumeirah at Etihad Towers

FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT
Udhna, South of Qaryat Al Bait

FAVOURITE INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANT
Asia de Cuba, Nation Roma

FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Cibo, Yas Viceroy

FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT
Sakura, Yas Viceroy

FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT
Fazlani, Yas Viceroy

FAVOURITE MODERN EUROPEAN RESTAURANT
Bentley's & Bar, The Galleria on Al Maryah Island

FAVOURITE PAKISTANI RESTAURANT
Ho An, Jumeirah at Etihad Towers

FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
Sakura, Yas Viceroy

FAVOURITE STEAKHOUSE
The Fabled, The Ritz-Carlton Abu Dhabi, Grand Canal

FAVOURITE THAI RESTAURANT
Sakura, Yas Viceroy

FAVOURITE THE AMERICAS RESTAURANT
Market Kitchen, Le Royal Meridien Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI PRE-AWARDED WINNERS

LEISURE

FAVOURITE FITNESS CLUB
Bodyline Fitness & Wellness Club, Sheikh Zayed

FAVOURITE SPA
Thalys Spa, Abu Dhabi Country Club

FAVOURITE NAIL BAR
Tina & Rose, Yas Viceroy

FAVOURITE HAIR SALON
Mane, Yas Viceroy

RESTAURANTS (BELOW DHS400)

FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT
Zest, The Club

FAVOURITE CHINESE RESTAURANT
Rosa, Corniche Restaurant

FAVOURITE FRENCH RESTAURANT
Le Restaurant, Yas Viceroy

FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT
Sakura, Yas Viceroy

FAVOURITE INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANT
Chakra, Yas Viceroy

FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Makans, Yas Viceroy

FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT
Sakura, Yas Viceroy

FAVOURITE MODERN EUROPEAN RESTAURANT
Bentley's & Bar, The Galleria on Al Maryah Island

FAVOURITE PAKISTANI RESTAURANT
The Noodle House

FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
Tangara, St Regis

FAVOURITE THE AMERICAS RESTAURANT
Fazlani, Yas Viceroy

FAVOURITE THAI RESTAURANT
Sakura, Yas Viceroy

THE REGION'S FAVOURITE RESTAURANT, LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS

Facebook Twitter Instagram WhatsApp
#WhatsOnAbuDhabi #WOawards WhatsOn.ae

Official Car Sponsor: DODGE
Sponsors: vouchers4out, COUNTRY HILL, Nikon, CAREEM, VICEROY, Gray Mackenzie, bliss, EMIRATES PRINTING PRESS (L.L.C.), JACOBSONS, MOTIVATE

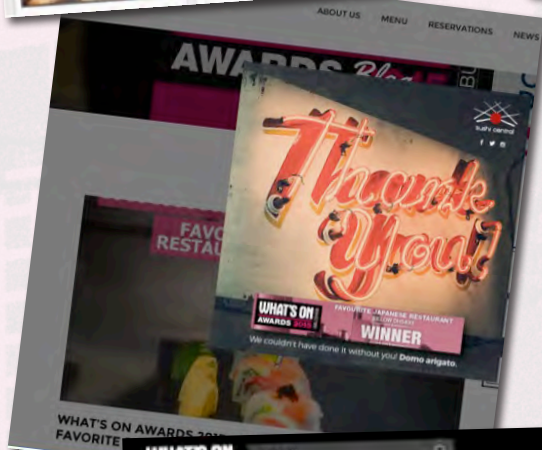
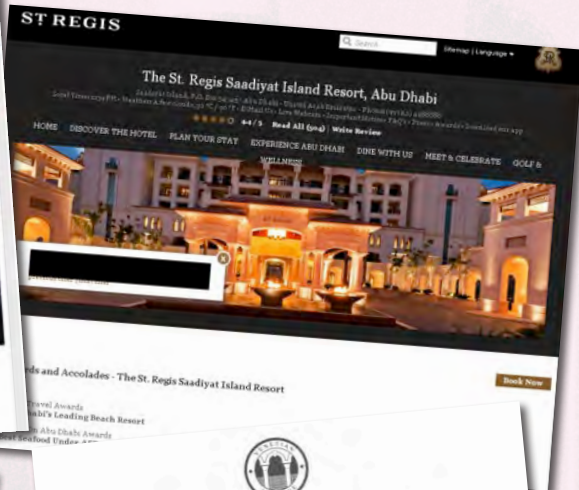
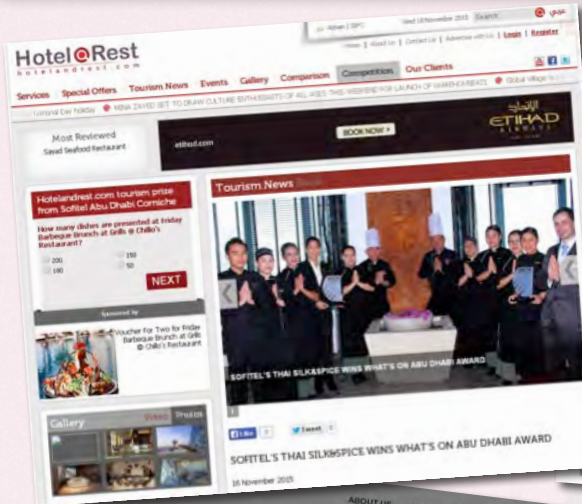


Winners logo sent to all winners.

POST-EVENT COVERAGE -SOCIAL MEDIA



POST-EVENT COVERAGE ONLINE



Inakaya Abu Dhabi - the Favourite Japanese Restaurant by What's On Awards 2015

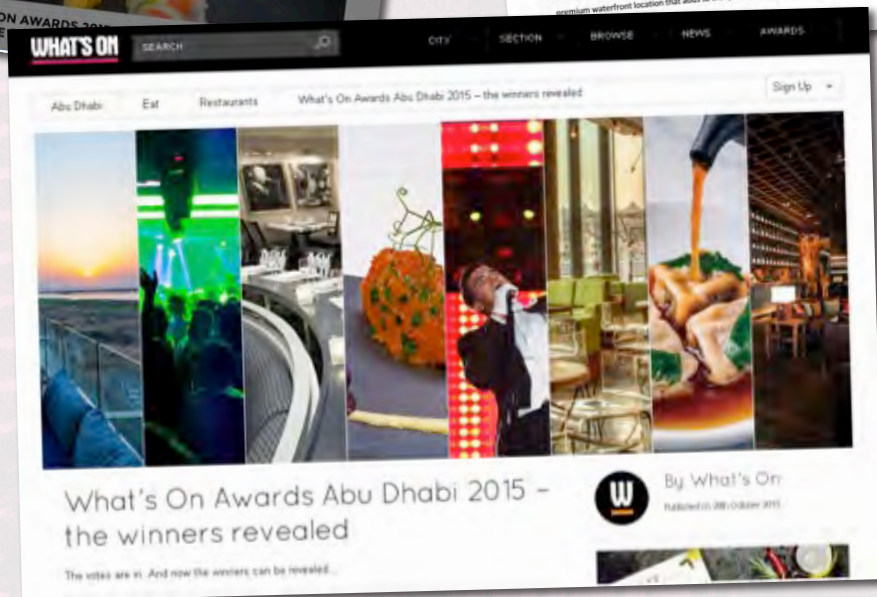
1 November 2015, Abu Dhabi: Inakaya Abu Dhabi - robata grill and sushi Japanese restaurant - has been recognized as the Favourite Japanese Restaurant in the upscale category in the prestigious What's On Awards 2015, recently held in Abu Dhabi.

With What's On Awards considered to be one of the most prestigious accolades for UAE's hospitality, entertainment and food and beverage industry, the recognition holds a special significance for Inakaya; the award is based on popular choice whereby the winners are voted and selected by the general public.

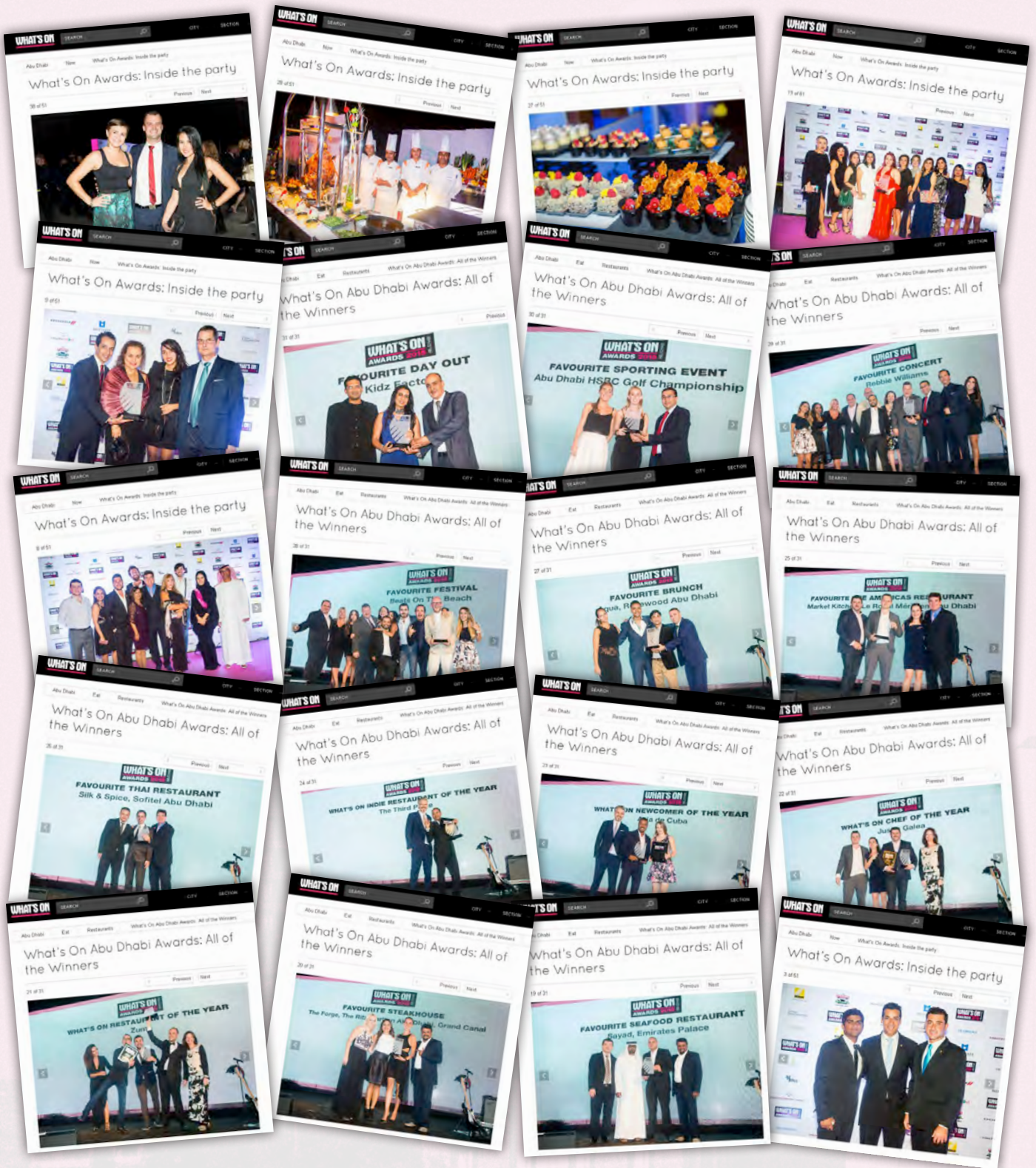
Opened one year ago at the Venetian Village, Inakaya has earned its reputation and popularity by offering a traditional robata-yaki Japanese cuisine in a contemporary yet authentic Inakaya setting enhanced with theatrical elements.

Earlier this year, Inakaya's interior design has been recognised in the Best of Restaurant category at the Middle East Interior Design & Architecture Award 2015 (MEDAA).

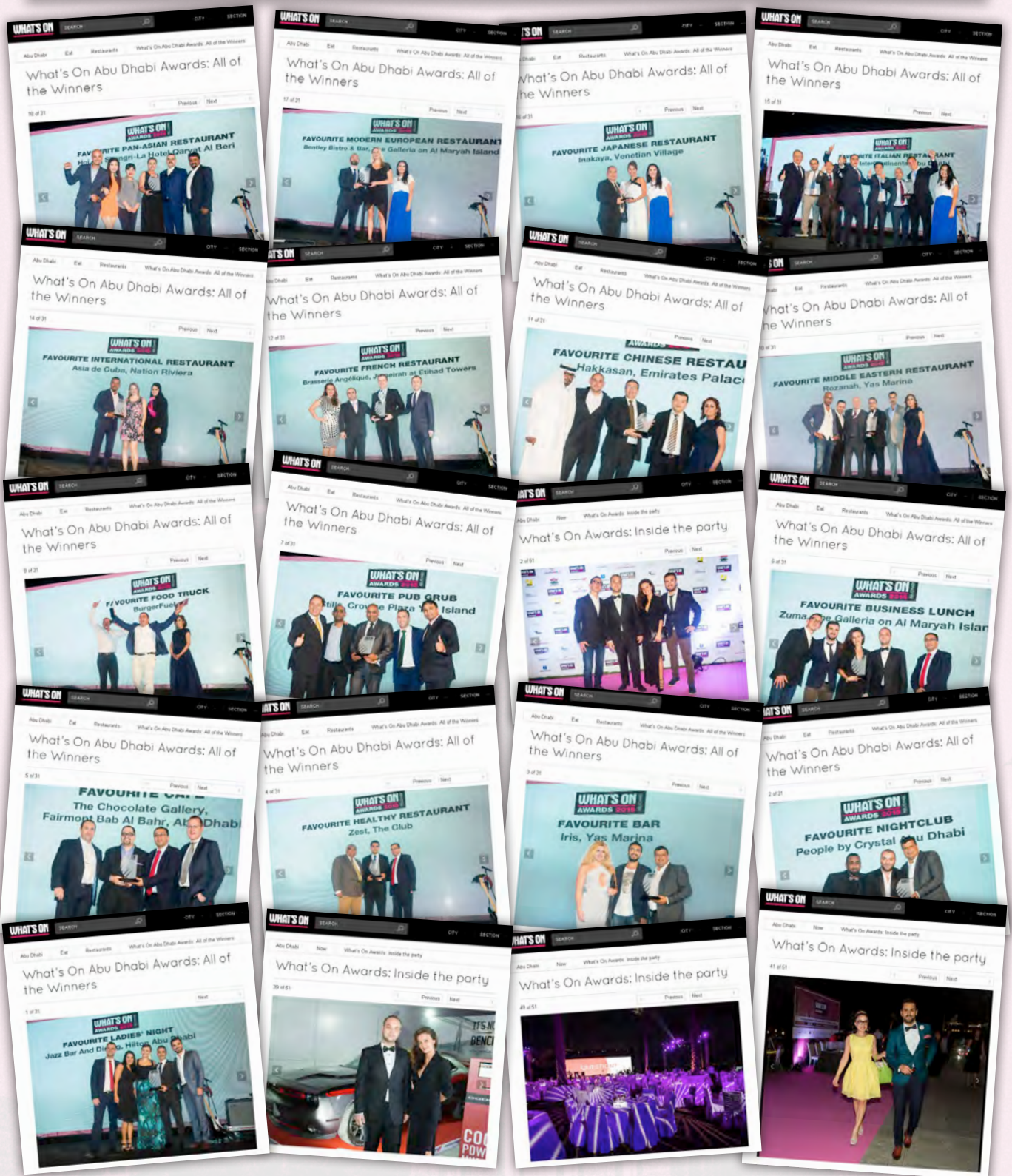
Inakaya is an internationally acclaimed Japanese restaurant that first opened in Roppongi, Tokyo in 1970 and has since expanded into New York, Hong Kong and now Abu Dhabi. Located at the Venetian in Ritz-Carlton Abu Dhabi, Grand Canal, Inakaya Abu Dhabi enjoys a premium waterfront location that adds to the quality of food and overall distinctive restaurant ambience.



POST-EVENT COVERAGE ONLINE



POST-EVENT COVERAGE ONLINE



EDITORIAL COVERAGE

WHAT'S ON ABUDHABI

What's On Abu Dhabi (November 2015)



WHAT'S ON **AWARDS 2015** ABUDHABI

THE VOTES ARE IN. AND NOW
THE WINNERS CAN BE
REVEALED. HERE'S THE CITY'S
BEST SPAS, RESTAURANTS,
BARS AND CONCERTS, AS
CHOSEN BY YOU

24_What's On_11.2015

What's On Abu Dhabi (November 2015)

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Zuma, The Galleria on Al Maryah Island



Last year's Newcomer Of The Year award winner, it should come as no surprise that Zuma is once again racking up the accolades. This time, it takes the top prize at this year's awards (one of four trophies on this page given by the *What's On* team). The Japanese fine-dining outlet has become a major player in the capital's foodie scene and has consistently served top-notch fare since it opened in March 2014.



CHEF OF THE YEAR

**Justin Galea, Le Royal
Mérédien Abu Dhabi**



What's On has the honour of meeting many chefs in Abu Dhabi, but none are as passionate about food as Aussie Justin. He's the man behind Le Royal Méridien's reboot at the back end of 2014 - Stratos, Wheat, Market Kitchen and Amalfi are all strong outlets, and all down to his hard work and creativity in the kitchen. He's always saying hello to customers, but we have one word of warning - the man loves to talk food, so clear your diary if you're heading down to his hotel for some grub, as he'll be nattering away for ages.



INDIE RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

The Third Place

If you're spending the weekend at the Corniche, there's only one place you should be heading afterwards for a refuel. The Third Place is a very special kind of café - not only does it serve great coffee and breakfast, it's making the effort to engage with the community. The converted villa has plenty of room upstairs for weekly yoga classes, local art exhibitions and bookworms can even borrow titles from their communal library for free.



NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Asia de Cuba, Nation Riviera

Asia de Cuba. It's the reply we hear the most when we ask friends, "Where are you eating tonight?" This fusion restaurant has it all - an amazing alfresco area, stunning décor, a phenomenal menu and brilliant staff who know their dishes inside out. Asia de Cuba really shook up the dining scene in Abu Dhabi in 2015 and was the obvious choice for the Newcomer award.

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EDITORIAL COVERAGE

WHAT'S ON

ABU DHABI

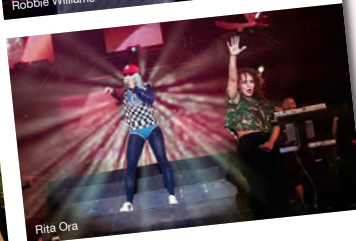
What's On Abu Dhabi (November 2015)



Iris



Robbie Williams



Rita Ora

FAVOURITE BAR

Iris, Yas Marina

If you're meeting friends on Yas, where's the place you'll always choose first? For us it's Iris, and Abu Dhabians agree, judging by how many votes this alfresco bar got. Friendly, knowledgeable staff, a comprehensive beverages menu, tons of cocktails and great tunes mean this place is busy not only on F1 weekend, but all year round.

FAVOURITE DAY OUT

Kidz Factory

Opened earlier this year, the massive play centre (the venue tops out at 4,500 square feet, spread over two floors) for little ones is a firm favourite with families. Part playground and part arts and craft centre, this supervised space is an ideal place to leave the kids while parents run errands (or sneak some much deserved me-time into their day).

FAVOURITE CONCERT

Robbie Williams

Let me entertain you, he said – and he certainly did, when he played at the du Arena in April of 2015. The former Take That star's solo gig was well received in the capital, as he belted out his classic hits and a few surprise cover songs as well.

FAVOURITE LADIES' NIGHT

Jazz Bar And Dining, Hilton Abu Dhabi

Snazzy black and white décor, great deals on drinks and people dancing on the tables – there's very few bars as lively as Jazz Bar And Dining, down by the Corniche and another worthy winner (it was crowned Favourite Bar at the 2014 awards too).

FAVOURITE FESTIVAL

Beats On The Beach

No tickets, no problem. The Formula One's free music festival on the beach is always heaving with people (no matter how humid it is), so it came as no surprise that the Yasalam festival ran away with the prize



People By Crystal

this year. Of highlight was Jason Derulo's epic dance moves and performances by Rita Ora, Tinashe and rapper Juicy J.

FAVOURITE NIGHTCLUB

People By Crystal Abu Dhabi

This boutique nightclub is as trendy as it gets. Rotating theme nights, special guests (Kid Ink and Xzibit played last year) and a swanky location in The Collection on Saadiyat Island ensure this nightspot is packed with people. The club is surprisingly intimate, even though there's enough room for 350 guests, and an obvious favourite with revellers here in the capital.

FAVOURITE SPORTING EVENT

Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship

The F1 gets all the attention, but the golf is a simply brilliant event in its own right – there's very few other events where you can get so up-close-and-personal to the players, but the main reason it won is surely due to all the extra fun it offers all the family in its Championship Village. The golf was pretty nail-biting as well, with Frenchman Gary Stal winning after a dramatic collapse from Martin Kaymer, who surrendered a 10-shot lead.

WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2015

26_What's On_11.2015

What's On Abu Dhabi (November 2015)

**ABOVE
DHS400**

FAVOURITE CHINESE RESTAURANT

Hakkasan, Emirates Palace

Hakkasan is one of the city's older outlets now, but what they do, they still do very well. They've recently introduced a new menu, so the pressure will be on to repeat in 2016.

FAVOURITE FRENCH RESTAURANT

Brasserie Angélique, Jumeirah At Etihad Towers



Angélique finally knocks Bord Eau off its perch and is your choice as the best French restaurant in the city.

FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT

Ushna, Souk At Qaryat Al Beri

Ushna used to be one of very few high-end Indian outlets in the city, meaning its reception area was cluttered with trophies. But a slew of new rivals hasn't stopped it winning again.

FAVOURITE INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANT

Asia de Cuba, Nation Riviera



It sounds like an experiment conjured up by a mad scientist

in a lab – can you really combine Asian and South American dishes? It turns out you can. Asia de Cuba's food is of a high quality, especially the crispy octopus al ajillo.

FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Circo, InterContinental Abu Dhabi

The décor here is fun (think circus-themed, colourful monkey heads all over the walls) but the real reason to visit is the food. Circo Abu Dhabi has sister outlets in New York and Las Vegas and the dishes are beautifully presented and extremely tasty.



and quality food makes this Lebanese outlet a good choice if you're after a special night out.

FAVOURITE PAN-ASIAN RESTAURANT

Hoi An, Shangri-La

Serving Vietnamese food in an elegant setting, you'll feel as if you've transported yourself to Southeast Asia when dining here. The French-influenced décor harkens back to colonial times while the menu offers traditional and modern dishes.

FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT



Inakaya, Venetian Village

A dinner and a show – eating out doesn't get much more lively than at this Japanese spot. The greeting from the chefs, who chant and smack long wooden panels in a rather noisy fashion, is worth a visit alone, but make no mistake, the fish on offer also delivers.

FAVOURITE MODERN EUROPEAN RESTAURANT

Bentley Bistro & Bar, The Galleria

The staff are classy, the balcony on Al Maryah offers breathtaking views, the vibe is loud and buzzing, and the food is good, especially the beef bourguignon.

FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT

Rozanah, Yas Marina

The sophisticated décor

FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Sayad, Emirates Palace



There was a lot at stake for Sayad this year, an outlet that walked away with two awards last year. Its chef, Sinju Varghese (who *What's On* crowned Chef Of The Year in 2014), left for pastures new, but that didn't affect the quality of the dishes one bit. Fantastic seafood in plush surroundings.

FAVOURITE STEAKHOUSE

The Forge, The Ritz-Carlton Abu Dhabi, Grand Canal

What's On readers voted for

this classy venue in droves and with good reason – the cuts of meat, be it Charolais, Wagyu or Kobe, are mighty fine and melt in the mouth every time.

FAVOURITE THAI RESTAURANT

Silk & Spice, Sofitel Abu Dhabi



Another restaurant to walk away with an award two years running, the Sofitel's Silk & Spice kept big hitters like Sontaya on Saadiyat Island from victory once again, thanks to its extremely authentic menu and friendly staff.

FAVOURITE THE AMERICAS RESTAURANT

Market Kitchen, Le Royal Méridien

It should come as no surprise that Justin Galea, the man behind this modern American kitchen, has taken the top honour of Chef Of The Year. The venue is elegant, understated and, most importantly, consistently provides some of the best dishes in town. When you go, be sure to try the soy glazed beef short ribs with apple-jalapeño purée.

11.2015_What's On_27

What's On Abu Dhabi (November 2015)

RESTAURANT EVENTS



Zuma



Stills

FAVOURITE BRUNCH

Aqua, Rosewood Abu Dhabi

The Rosewood has a bit of an ace up its sleeve in the form of award-winning Spice Mela chef Siddharth Krishna, who can be regularly seen hovering around the kitchen during the hotel's Friday brunch. The views of the water around Al Zaiyah are spectacular from the curved windows of Aqua, and the buffet adopts a quality not quantity approach with good effect. It wins bonus points for its popular kids' area.

FAVOURITE BUSINESS LUNCH

Zuma, The Galleria

The three-course ebisu lunch menu is only Dh\$140 (their two-course ebisu express option costs a surprisingly affordable Dh\$75 and is served in under one-hour) and guests are served quickly and efficiently. The menu includes miso soup with tofu, pan fried prawn and black cod gyoza and miso marinated black cod.

FAVOURITE CAFÉ

The Chocolate Gallery, Fairmont Bab Al Bahr

Sweets reign supreme at this cocoa-inspired café. While the decadent desserts are a no-brainer, there are also a handful of tasty savoury options (think fresh salads, grilled panini's and savoury crêpes) that are also rather good. Chocoholics should not miss the chocolate making classes on offer.



The Chocolate Gallery

FAVOURITE HEALTHY RESTAURANT

Zest, The Club

Even though this restaurant is for members only, that didn't stop diners from casting their votes in droves. The menu offers freshly squeezed juices, nutritional shakes and energy drinks as well as organic dishes and healthy sandwiches.



Aqua

FAVOURITE PUB GRUB

Stills, Crowne Plaza Yas Island

It's all about the fish and chips for us at Stills, which is quite possibly the most popular venue on Yas Island. But the rest of the menu is of just as high a standard, and sitting outside in the cooler months is a must. It's *What's On's* spot for dinner before we go to gigs at the du Arena.

FAVOURITE FOOD TRUCK

BurgerFuel

This Kiwi chain has several mall outlets and their high-quality fare can also be scooped in food trucks. The standard doesn't drop as a result, though – our favourite car-punned dish on the menu has to be the Hot Rod burger with jalapeños. Another outlet that smashed the opposition when it came to votes.

BELOW
DHS400

FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT

Zaytinya

This family-friendly Lebanese restaurant in the recently opened Al Seef Village Mall has quickly made a name for itself (there's also a branch in Al Ain), thanks to its friendly staff and good quality dishes.

FAVOURITE CHINESE RESTAURANT

Royal Orchid Restaurant

There's an eclectic range of food on the menu that will keep even the regulars coming back for more. We recommend you sample the chicken clay pot with mushrooms – delicious.

FAVOURITE FRENCH RESTAURANT

Le Beaujolais, Mercure Centre Hotel Abu Dhabi



An Abu Dhabi institution, serving high-quality French food at wallet friendly prices, Le Beaujolais does a mean foie gras and a moreish fondue in a tasteful Gallic setting.

FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT

Biryani Pot

For the second year in a row this excellent Indian restaurant, nestled inside Al Maryah Island's shopping mall The Galleria, romped home with the most votes. The menu's not changed since they won the gong last year (the grills and the quinoa biryani are still highlights) but such

WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2015

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What's On Abu Dhabi (November 2015)

consistency is probably why you, the public, once again decided they're one of the best Indian restaurants in the city.

FAVOURITE INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANT

Choices, Yas Island Rotana



Another outlet to walk away with the award two years in a row, Choices has actually gone a step further than Biryani Pot – this is the third year in a row it's won this gong. Can anyone take their crown in 2016?

FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Mamma Rossella, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi



A theme park isn't where you'd expect to find good pizza, but Mamma Rossella offers that and a whole lot more – it's worth visiting on its own, let alone flying along on the world's fastest rollercoaster afterwards.

FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT

Sushi Central

It's been a big year for Sushi Central – they opened new branches and now have had approval from the public. Think exceptionally fresh sashimi, rolls and so much more.

FAVOURITE MODERN EUROPEAN RESTAURANT

Leopold's Of London

The rise of LOL in the UAE



Thalgo Spa

continues. These swanky cafés have become the go-to place for friends to natter over a coffee, and for families to meet up over a weekend. The tea and coffee laboratories get all the attention but the food is of a high quality, and even veggies are well looked after.

FAVOURITE PAN-ASIAN RESTAURANT

The Noodle House



With a diverse menu ranging from Thai, Japanese, Chinese and Malay inspired cuisine, you can be certain to find something delicious to eat here. The restaurant is an easy favourite with capital goers and the recently revamped menu means there's even more reason to visit.

FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Turquoiz, St Regis Saadiyat Island Resort



The location, right on the beach at Saadiyat Island, is a bit of an unfair advantage, but Turquoiz

also serves cracking food, such as the salt and pepper squid. A surprise, yet worthy winner.

FAVOURITE THE AMERICAS RESTAURANT

Fatburger

Fatburger finally knocked Burger Bureau from its perch (a winner the previous two years) and the varied menu probably had something to do with it – forget the beef, we like the Hawaiian pineapple sweet teriyaki chicken sandwich.

FAVOURITE THAI RESTAURANT

Talay, Le Méridien

Considered an institution when it comes to serving up high-quality and flavourful Thai food, this restaurant has added another What's On Award to their resume after taking home two consecutive trophies in 2012 and 2013.

FAVOURITE FITNESS CLUB

Bodylines Fitness & Wellness Club, Beach Rotana

The facility is airy and offers dozens of machines to get your heart pumping. Plus the unique group classes on offer (for both kids and adults) including aqua aerobics, ballet, pilates and taekwondo certainly make working out more tolerable, and our readers agree, considering how many of you voted for it.

FAVOURITE SPA

Thalgo Spa, Abu Dhabi Country Club



Bigger really is better when it comes to this award winner. Named after the French brand of spa products on offer, Thalgo Spa is Abu Dhabi's largest spa, with a whopping 23 treatment rooms to boot.

FAVOURITE NAIL BAR

Tips & Toes

This professional ladies' salon has taken the gong three years in a row. Their salons are packed with clients getting a range of services that go well beyond perfectly groomed digits including eyelash extensions, a range of massages and traditional Moroccan hammams.

FAVOURITE HAIR SALON

Marquee



Tucked away in Eastern Mangroves Promenade, this hair salon knows how to pump up the volume (literally) when it comes to taming your tresses. A favourite with ladies throughout the city, the 1950s inspired salon is all about old-school Hollywood glamour and finesse. Think polished blow-outs, movie star worthy treatment (you'll be given a macaroon and mocktail during your service) and an impressive knowledge of the latest trends when it comes to hair. No wonder they've managed to snag the title a year after opening their first outlet in the capital.

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