



# WHAT'S ON

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## AWARDS 2017

DUBAI



WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2017  
DUBAI MEDIA CITY AMPHITHEATRE

## POST-EVENT REPORT

**THE REGION'S FAVOURITE RESTAURANT, LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS**



@WhatsOnDubai #WOawards WhatsOn.ae



# THANK YOU



Motivate would like to extend a huge thank you to all the guests and sponsors for their contribution in making What's On Awards Dubai a big success. We hope you enjoyed yourself thoroughly and we look forward to working with you again in the near future.

Motivate Events Team



# YOU ARE INVITED....

More than 1,000 guests attended the What's On Awards ceremony in Dubai Media City Amphitheatre.

They included the city's leading professionals in the leisure and entertainment industry.

## DIGITAL ARTWORK

- E-invite
- See you tomorrow
- See you tonight





# THE VENUE



## DUBAI MEDIA CITY AMPHITHEATRE

In the heart of Dubai Media City lies a spacious, green amphitheatre. This area is transformed into a glamorous event space for What's On Awards Dubai, and also some of Dubai's biggest concerts at different times.





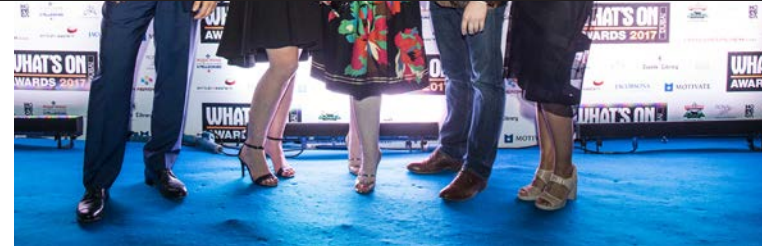


# BLUE CARPET GLAMOUR



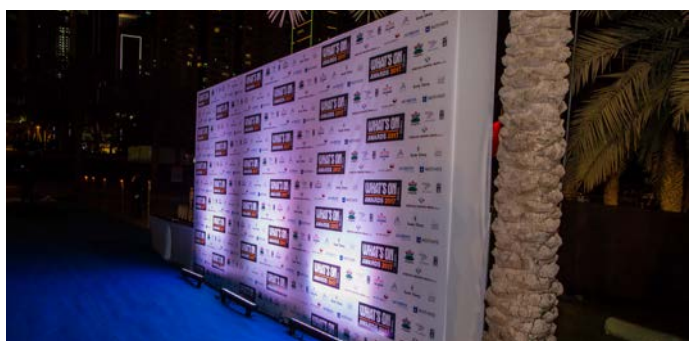


# BLUE CARPET GLAMOUR





# EVENT BRANDING





# SPONSOR



Category sponsors **Country Hill & Stockyard** had a display of their two giant cows along with branded flags at the event venue.

David Clark, General Manager of Stockyard, presented the award for **Favourite Seafood** to the **MAINE Oyster Bar & Grill**, and the award for **Favourite Steakhouse** to **Hunter's Room & Grill**.





# SPONSOR



Gavin Dodd, Managing Director at **Ronai**, presented the award for **Favourite Middle Eastern Restaurant** to **Ruya**, and the award for **Favourite British Restaurant** to **The Scene by Simon Rimmer**.



SPONSOR

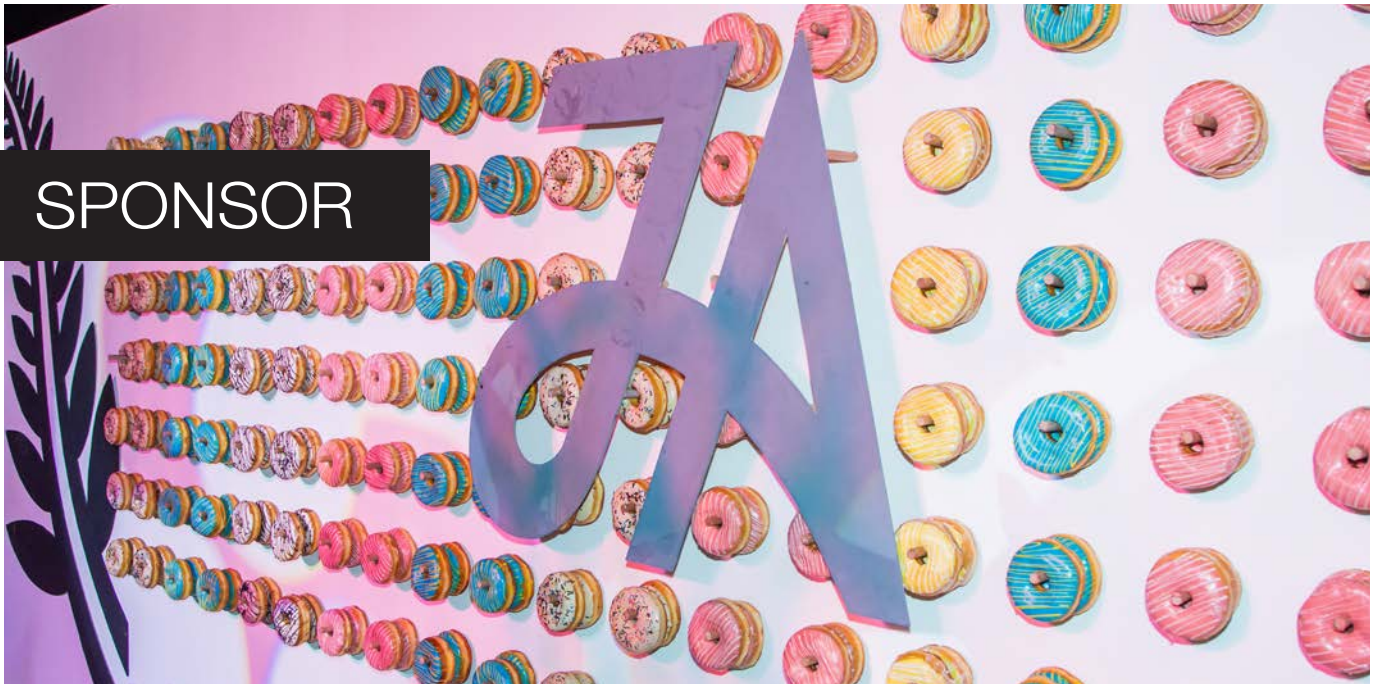


**Acqua Panna and St Perregrino** was served throughout the event to the guests, thanks to our water sponsor, ***Horeca.***





# SPONSOR



Our **culinary partner** for the **What's On Awards Dubai** was **JA Resorts & Hotels**. Guests were treated to a vast range of menu options, inspired by the four elements; Earth, Wind, Fire and Water.

Food stations were spread throughout offering international cuisine, tastefully and creatively decorated, with the donut wall being centre of attention all night.

Presenting the two sponsored categories on behalf of JA Resorts & Hotels was David Thomson, Chief Operating Officer. The award for **Favourite Indian Restaurant** was presented to **Rang Mahal by Atul Kocchar**, and the award for **Favourite International Restaurant** was presented to **The Beach House, Anantara The Palm Dubai Resort**.





# SPONSOR



Our flower partners **Events Library** provided the unique flower centerpieces, eucalyptus wreaths.





# SPONSOR



Our beverage partner **African & Eastern** provided the refreshments for the event along with the following brands that interacted with the guests through the night:

- **Stella Artois Cidre cart**
- **Hop House 13**
- **Jagermeister**
- **The Stoli lemonade lounge**

**Jason Dixon**, General Manager, On-Trade & Hospitality at African & Eastern, presented the award for **Favourite Nightclub** to **Zero Gravity** and **Favourite Bar** to **Barasti**.





# SPONSOR



**Emirates Printing Press** sponsored two categories on the night. Mohamed Al Shirawi, Deputy Managing Director of Al Shirawi Group of Companies and CEO of Emirates Printing Press LLC., presented the award for **Favourite Healthy Eating** to **The Farm Restaurant** and **Favourite Café** to **1762**.



# SPONSOR



Our official voting partner for the awards, **Jacobsons Direct**, sponsored two categories.

**Akram Raffoul**, Partner & Executive Director at Jacobsons presented the award for **Favourite Modern European** to **Boca**, and the **Favourite Pan-Asian Restaurant** to **Mr Miyagi's**.



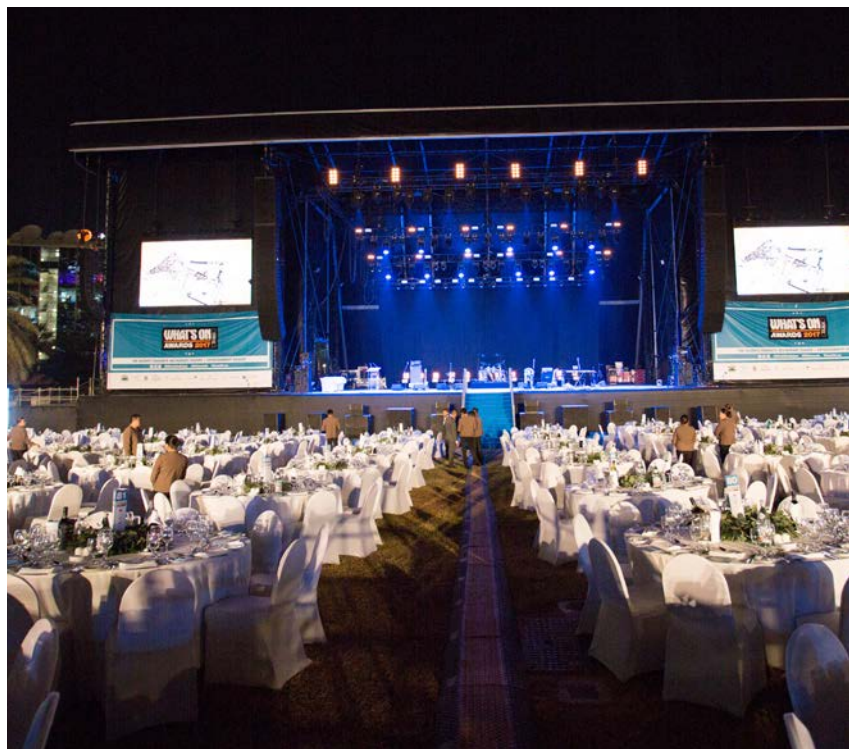


# SPONSOR



**All Events Services** did a fantastic job with the set up and management of the staging at the *What's On Awards Dubai*.

**JJ Trichardt**, Managing Director of All Events Service, presented the award for **Favourite Food Truck** to **Burger Pit**.





# NOMINEE BRIEFING



The registration briefing took place on **May 22 at Media One Hotel in Dubai Media City.**

The outlets were invited to be informed about the process for participating and registering for the What's On Awards.

The briefing consisted of introduction to the *What's On team*, the 2017 awards process, deadlines and how to use the collateral. The material was shared with them at the briefing and was made available throughout the voting process on the website.





# VOTING PROCESS

**NOMINEE**

**WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2017**

THE REGION'S FAVOURITE RESTAURANT, LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE OUTLET

NAME OF OUTLET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: ☐ ABU DHABI ☐ DUBAI

CATEGORY: (ONE CATEGORY PER SLIP) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF HOTEL (IF APPLICABLE): \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF DINERS/CUSTOMERS: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, contact  
What's On team on:  
Abu Dhabi: [waawards@dnv.ae](mailto:waawards@dnv.ae)  
Dubai: [waawards@dnv.ae](mailto:waawards@dnv.ae)  
For voting terms and conditions, visit  
**WhatsOn.ae**

**NOMINEE**

**WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2017**

**VOTE NOW**

THE REGION'S FAVOURITE RESTAURANT, LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS

Complete the voting slip and return it to the outlet management. Only one vote per slip.

YOUR DETAILS

MR ☐ MRS ☐ MISS ☐ OTHER ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

OR VOTE ONLINE  
**WhatsOn.ae**

WhatsOnDubai WhatsOnAbuDhabi #WOnAwards

## VOTING SLIPS

What's On Awards Dubai registrants consisted of bars, restaurants, cafés, spas, nightclubs and events. Voting took place from **July 16 to September 28, 2017**.

Registered outlets were able to promote their participation to their customers online and through printed voting slips. The voting packs were provided to those outlets that requested them, and consisted of tent cards, voting slips and business cards.

Once voting was closed on September 28, 2017, all online and printed slips were sent to Jacobsons Direct, our auditing partner who checked and verified all votes. Top three outlets in each category were then invited to the What's On Awards Dubai on November 8, 2017, where the final winner was announced.

The 'Leisure and Below 400 Restaurants' categories were pre-awarded two weeks prior to the event.

**THE AWARDS**

**ALL OUTLETS**

If your outlet is shortlisted for a What's On Award you will be contacted by a member of the What's On team. The top three outlets with the most votes in each category will be shortlisted and will receive two complimentary tickets to the 2017 award ceremony in their city.

**FOR RESTAURANTS**

Please note that only restaurants in the Above 200/400 category will be presented with an award on the night. Below 200/400 restaurants will be presented with their award before the event.

**WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2017**

**VOTING PROCESS**

WhatsOn.ae

**VOTING CLOSING**  
SEPTEMBER 15

THE REGION'S FAVOURITE RESTAURANT, LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS

WhatsOnDubai WhatsOnAbuDhabi #WOnAwards

**THE VOTING PROCESS**

**AT THE OUTLET**

Customers can complete the voting slip presented with their bill if they believe your outlet is their favourite in its selected category.

**VOTING BREAKDOWN**

- Each bill contains one voting slip. Before voting slips are given, a staff member must complete the slip and mark it to be completed by the outlet including the date and number of customers.
- The customer is the only one who can complete the voting slip and return it to the staff member. One vote per customer per category will be counted.
- Voting slips should be sent each week directly to the below delivery address:  
Mubashir Jadhav, Jacobsons Direct  
M-Block, Block B, Al Waslani Building, Karama, Dubai  
United Arab Emirates (P.O. Box 123456)  
Telephone: +971 4 3377777
- All voting slips must be submitted to Jacobsons no later than: **Saturday 10:00 AM**. Any voting slips received after this time and date will not be counted.
- Please ensure the physical voting slip per outlet and per category without plastic wraps in rubber bands/paper clips to be used.
- Please ensure no receipts/bills are attached to the voting slips.
- For restaurants with more than one category, 1 voting slip must be completed per category.
- Blank, incorrect and photocopied voting slips will not be counted.

**ONLINE VOTING**

Visitors who are unable to complete a voting slip at the outlet can log onto [WhatsOn.ae](http://WhatsOn.ae) and vote.

- Votes can only be cast by users with a valid e-mail address.
- Online votes are downloaded directly from the website by the official votes processing partner.

**THE VOTING PROCESS DETAILS**

All votes will be cross-verified by our official votes processing partner, Jacobsons Direct. Customers can vote using any category whether this is done via the voting slip or online.

The first vote, verified by date and time, will be the vote counted.

**THE VOTING PACK**

We have created your voting pack to ensure you can maximize the number of votes for your outlet. However, if you are unable to display these materials, please contact us at:  
Abu Dhabi: [waawards@dnv.ae](mailto:waawards@dnv.ae)  
Dubai: [waawards@dnv.ae](mailto:waawards@dnv.ae)

**YOUR PACK CONTAINS**

- Voting Slips
- Table Tent Cards
- Business Cards

**ADDITIONAL COLLATERAL**

Additional collateral can be purchased, costs are outlined below:

	Quantity	Price (AED)
Voting Slips	100	100.00
Table Tent Cards	10	100.00
Business Cards	100	100.00
	200	200.00
	300	300.00
	400	400.00
	500	500.00
	600	600.00
	700	700.00
	800	800.00
	900	900.00
	1000	1000.00

**FOR THE FULL LIST OF THE WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2017 TERMS AND CONDITIONS, PLEASE VISIT WHATSON.AE**

**HOW TO USE YOUR VOTING PACK**

**VOTING SLIPS**

To be handed to the customer with the bill. All voters must complete their contact details for counting purposes.

**TABLE TENT CARDS**

To be placed on table or bar tops, one unit per table.

**BUSINESS CARDS**

To be handed to the customer with the bill.

## VOTING PROCESS



## TABLE TENT CARD



## BUSINESS CARDS





# PRE-EVENT COVERAGE

## NOMINATION CAMPAIGN



The 'Enter Now' advert was placed in:

**What's On Dubai**  
July 2017

**Golf Digest Middle East**  
July 2017

**What's On Abu Dhabi**  
July 2017

**good**  
July 2017

**Gulf Business**  
July 2017

**identity**  
July 2017

**Stuff Middle East**  
July 2017

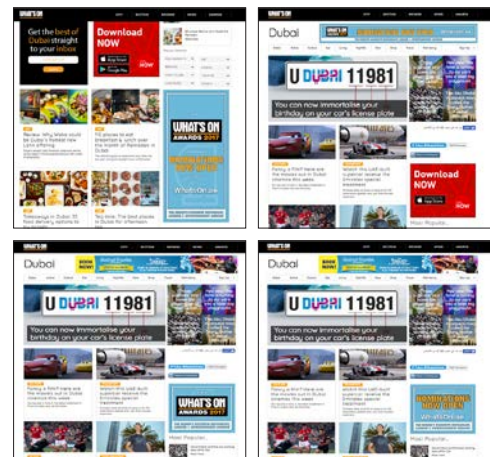
**The Week**  
July 1, 2017 Issue  
July 8, 2017 Issue  
July 15, 2017 Issue  
July 22, 2017 Issue  
July 29, 2017 Issue

**Campaign Middle East**  
July 9, 2017 Issue  
July 16, 2017 Issue

## PRINT

The registration digital banners ran across the following sites from **June 2 to June 30, 2017.**

- **WhatsOn.ae**
- **EmiratesWoman.com**
- **GulfBusiness.com**
- **StuffMidEast.com**
- **CampaignMe.com**



## DIGITAL BANNERS

## E-MAILER





# PRE-EVENT COVERAGE

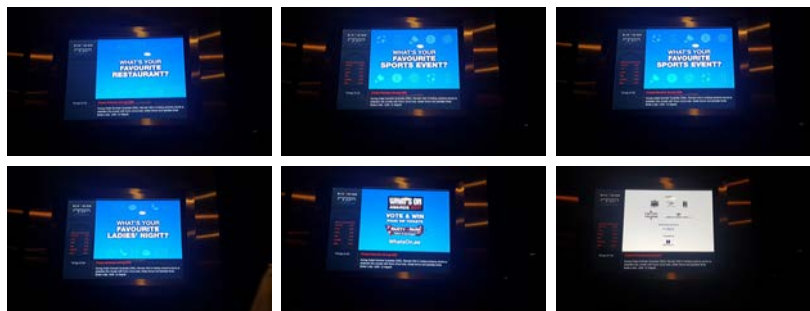
## VOTING CAMPAIGN

### CINEMA AD

Ads were shown across VOX cinemas from July to November.



### ELEVATION



The campaign ran across the Elevation lift advertisement platform across their DMC and Business Bay network from June 1 until August 31.

### RADIO AD

The radio ad was aired on Dubai 92 from July 15 to August 12.



***What's your favourite restaurant in Dubai?  
Your favourite brunch? 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

## VOTING CAMPAIGN

### PRINT



The 'Vote Now' advert was placed in:

**What's On Dubai**  
August 2017

**Golf Digest Middle East**  
August 2017

**What's On Abu Dhabi**  
August 2017

**good**  
August 2017

**Gulf Business**  
August 2017

**identity**  
August 2017

**Stuff Middle East**  
August 2017

**The Week**  
August 5, 2017 Issue  
August 12, 2017 Issue  
August 19, 2017 Issue  
August 26, 2017 Issue

**Campaign Middle East**  
August 6, 2017 Issue  
August 20, 2017 Issue

## NEWSPAPER

The 'Vote Now' advertisement was placed in:

**Gulf News - July 19**

**Khaleej Times - July 18**



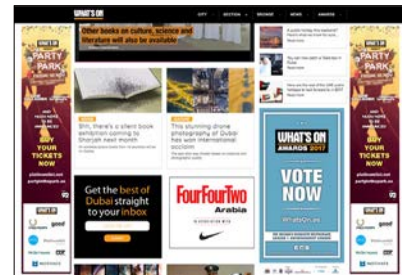


# PRE-EVENT COVERAGE

## VOTING CAMPAIGN

The 'Vote Now' digital banners ran across the following sites from **July 1 to August 31, 2017**

- **WhatsOn.ae**
- **EmiratesWoman.com**
- **GulfBusiness.com**
- **StuffMidEast.com**
- **CampaignME.com**



**HALF PAGE**  
**488,123 IMPRESSIONS**



**MPU**  
**20,000 IMPRESSIONS**



**LEADERBOARD**  
**522,394 IMPRESSIONS**



**FITNESS FIRST**  
**SCREENS**



## E-MAILER

E-mail blasts were sent to the *What's On* database of over 95,000 in June, July, August, September, October & November.

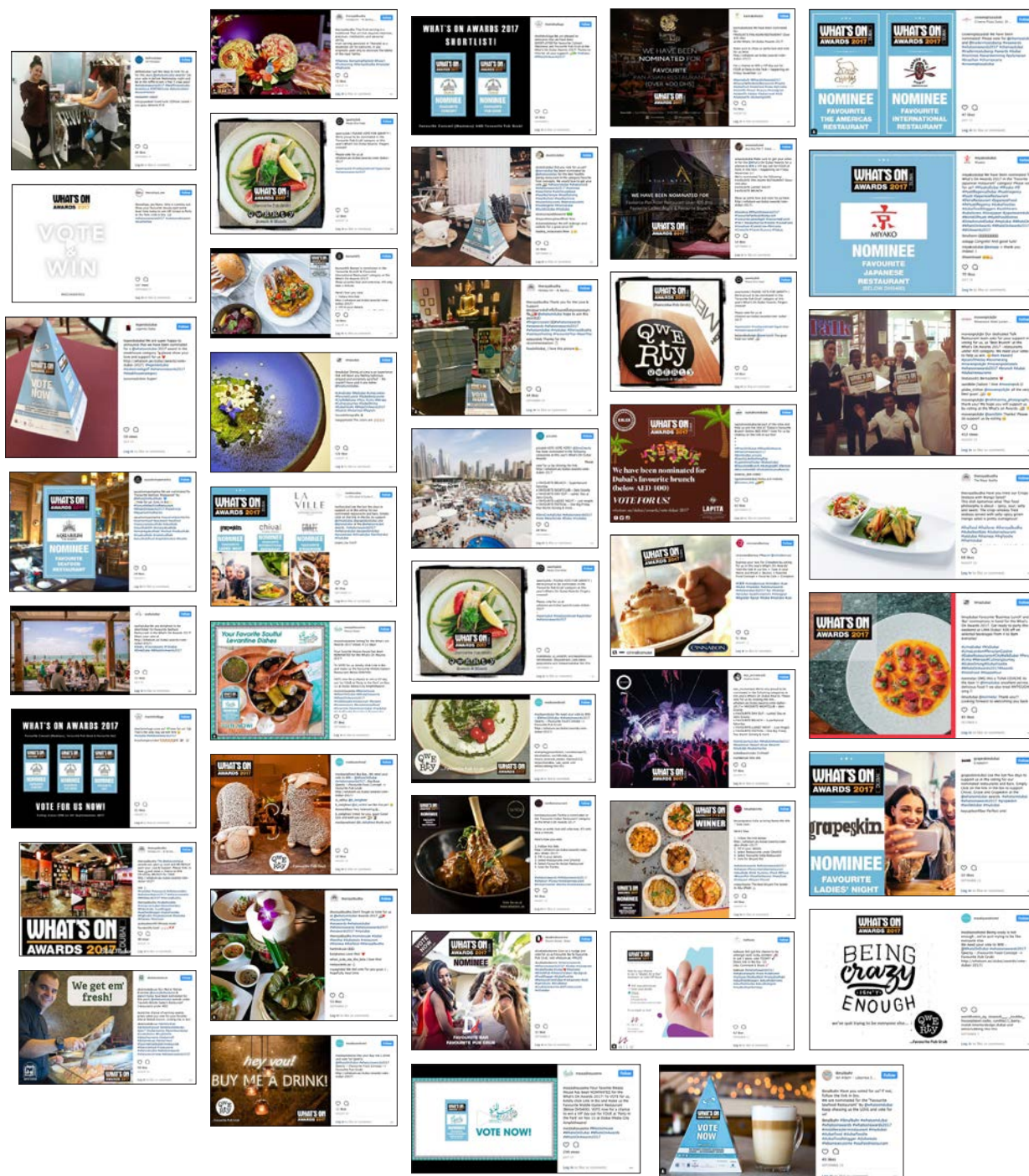


**MOBILE BANNER**



# VOTING PROMOTION

Examples of outlets encouraging their customers to vote:





# THE WINNERS



What's On Restaurant of the Year  
**Il Boro Tuscan Bistro**



What's On Chef of the Year  
**Nick Alvis and Scott Price  
at Folly by Nick & Scott**



What's On Indie Restaurant of the Year  
**3 Fils**



What's On Newcomer of the Year  
**Sean Connolly at Dubai Opera**



# THE WINNERS



**Favourite Day Out**  
**Ladies' Day at Zero Gravity**



**Favourite Sporting Event**  
**Emirates Airline Dubai Rugby Sevens**



**Favourite Concert**  
**Justin Beiber Purpose World Tour Dubai**



**Favourite Festival**  
**Emirates Airline Festival of Literature**



**Favourite Show**  
**Les Misérables**



**Favourite Ladies' Night**  
**Lucky Voice**



# THE WINNERS



Favourite Nightclub  
**Zero Gravity**



Favourite Bar  
**Barasti**



Favourite Healthy Eating Restaurant  
**The Farm Restaurant**



Favourite Café  
**1762**



Favourite Business Lunch  
**Mr Miyagi's**



Favourite Pub Grub  
**The Tap House**



# THE WINNERS



**Favourite Brunch**  
**Lucky Voice**



**Favourite Food Truck**  
**Burger Pit**



**Favourite Middle Eastern Restaurant**  
**Ruya**



**Favourite British Restaurant**  
**The Scene by Simon Rimmer**



**Favourite Chinese Restaurant**  
**Hakkasan Dubai**



**Favourite French Restaurant**  
**Bagatelle Dubai**



# THE WINNERS



Favourite Indian Restaurant  
**Rang Mahal by Atul Kochhar,  
JW Marriott Marquis Hotel Dubai**



Favourite International Restaurant  
**The Beach House,  
Anantara Resort & Spa, The Palm Dubai**



Favourite Italian Restaurant  
**Il Borro Tuscan Bistro**



Favourite Japanese Restaurant  
**Okku, The H Hotel Dubai**



Favourite Modern European Restaurant  
**Boca**



# THE WINNERS



Favourite Pan-Asian Restaurant  
**Mr Miyagi's**



Favourite Seafood Restaurant  
**The Maine Oyster Bar & Grill**



Favourite Steakhouse  
**Hunters Room & Grill,  
The Westin Dubai Mina Seyahi**



Favourite Thai Restaurant  
**Pai Thai, Jumeirah Al Qasr,  
Madinat Jumeirah**



Favourite The Americas Restaurant  
**Waka, The Oberoi Hotel Dubai**



# THE WINNERS

## PRE-AWARDED (BELOW DHS400)



Favourite Italian Restaurant  
**Da Vinci**



Favourite Indian Restaurant  
**Govinda's**



Favourite The Americas Restaurant  
**La Tablita**



Favourite Modern European Restaurant  
**Boardwalk**



Favourite Chinese Restaurant  
**Soy Restaurant**



Favourite Pan-Asian Restaurant  
**Max's Restaurant**



# THE WINNERS

## PRE-AWARDED (BELOW DHS400)



Favourite Thai Restaurant  
**Royal Budha**



Favourite Pakistani Restaurant  
**Barbecue Delights**



Favourite Middle Eastern Restaurant  
**Seven Sands Restaurant**



Favourite Fitness Club  
**Define Body and Mind**



Favourite Spa  
**Heart and Soul Spa and Wellness**



# THE WINNERS

## PRE-AWARDED (BELOW DHS400)



Favourite French Restaurant  
**Couqley**



Favourite British Restaurant  
**Copper Dog**



Favourite Steakhouse  
**The Butchershop and Grill**



Favourite Seafood Restaurant  
**Ibn Al Bahr**



Favourite Brunch  
**Wanderlust Brunch at Garden,  
JW Marriott Marquis**





# THE WINNERS

## PRE-AWARDED (BELOW DHS400)



Favourite International Restaurant  
**Kitchen 6, JW Marriott  
Marquis Hotel Dubai**



Favourite Japanese Restaurant  
**Izakaya, JW Marriott Marquis Hotel Dubai**



Favourite Hair Salon  
**Pastels Salon**



Favourite Nail Bar  
**Tips and Toes**



Favourite Seafood Restaurant  
**Aprons and Hammers**



# WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT



## BADGES

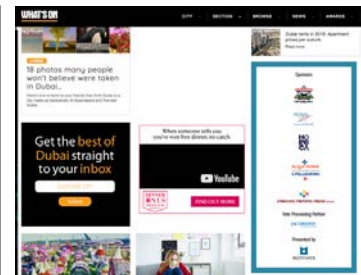
Category	Winner
Favourite Fitness Club	WINNER
Favourite Spa	WINNER
Favourite Nail Bar	WINNER
Favourite Hair Salon	WINNER
Favourite Hair Salon	WINNER
Favourite Middle Eastern Restaurant	WINNER
Favourite Chinese Restaurant	WINNER
Favourite French Restaurant	WINNER
Favourite Indian Restaurant	WINNER
Favourite International Restaurant	WINNER
Favourite Italian Restaurant	WINNER
Favourite Japanese Restaurant	WINNER
Favourite Concert	WINNER
Favourite Pan-Asian Restaurant	WINNER
Favourite The Americas Restaurant	WINNER
Favourite Steakhouse	WINNER
Favourite Seafood Restaurant	WINNER



# POST-EVENT COVERAGE

## WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

Digital banners were uploaded on *What's On* website with over 317,000 impressions. E-mailer's sent to our *What's On Dubai* database announcing the winners for 2017.



**HALF PAGE**  
**84,758 IMPRESSIONS**



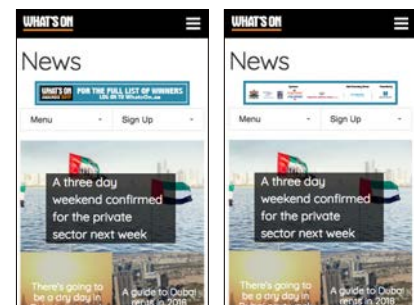
**MPU**  
**38,453 IMPRESSIONS**



**LEADERBOARD**  
**192,210 IMPRESSIONS**



**E-MAILER**

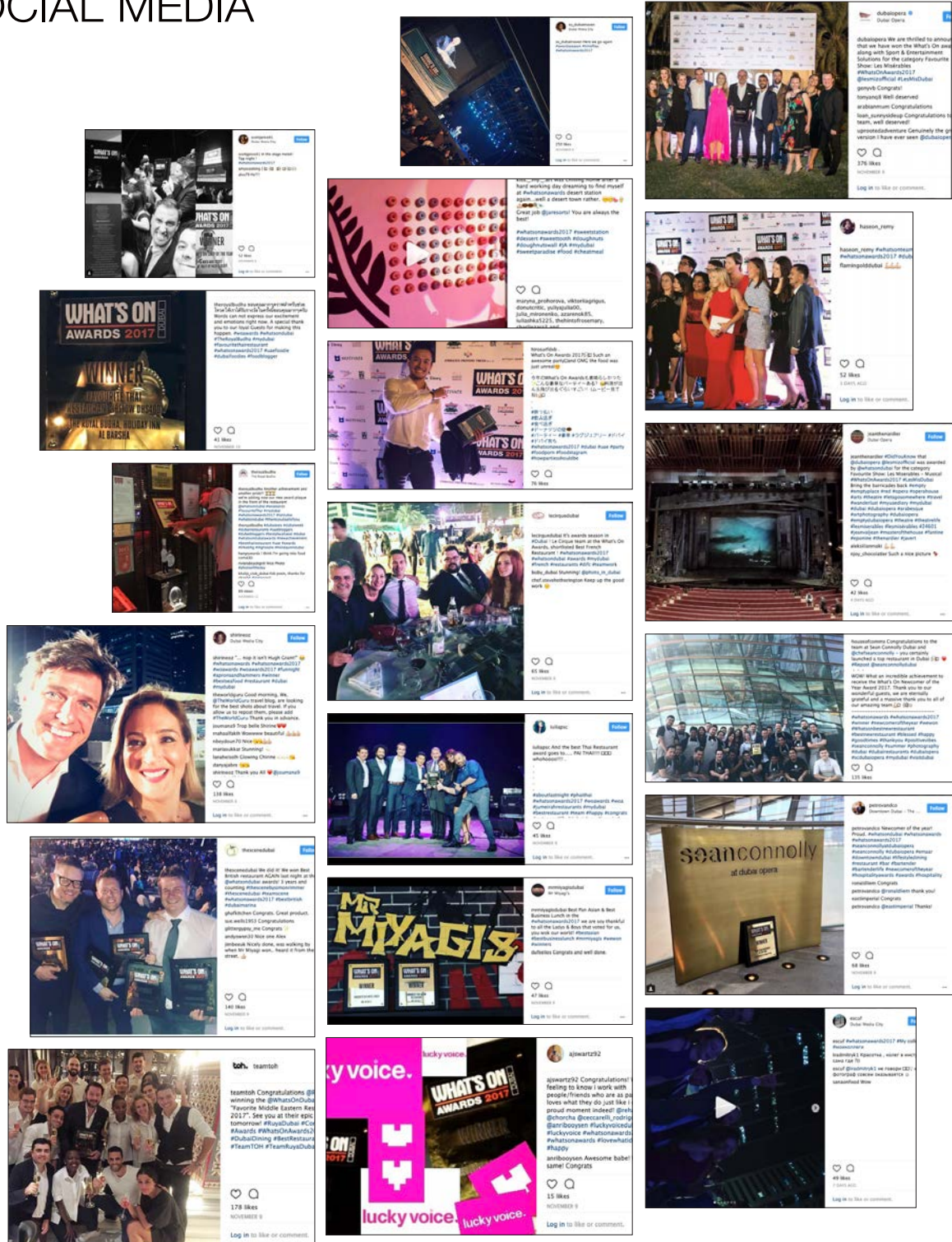


**MOBILE BANNER**



# POST-EVENT COVERAGE

## SOCIAL MEDIA





# POST-EVENT COVERAGE

EDITORIAL  
COVERAGE

**WHAT'S ON  
DUBAI**

**DEC 2017**

2017  
**AND  
THE  
WINNER  
IS...**

THE VOTES ARE IN FOR THE 2017 WHAT'S ON  
**AWARDS. THESE ARE THE CITY'S 53 BEST  
EVENTS, RESTAURANTS, BARS AND SPAS,  
AS CHOSEN BY YOU!**





# POST-EVENT COVERAGE

## EDITORIAL COVERAGE

**WHAT'S ON DUBAI**

**DEC 2017**



### THE BIG WINNERS



#### What's On Restaurant Of The Year

##### **IL BORRO TUSCAN BISTRO**

Il Borro grows all of its own produce, in Tuscany, and delivers it to its new epicentre for excellent food, Jumeirah Al Naseem. The results speak for themselves—simple dishes that sing with flavour. After all, everyone knows that the key to Italian

cookery lies in the ingredients – and when those are being flown in from a famous Tuscan estate run by the Ferragamo family, you're bound to get nothing less than excellence. Enough words, now we're hungry.

[ilborrotuscanbistro.ae](http://ilborrotuscanbistro.ae)



#### What's On Chefs Of The Year

##### **NICK ALVIS AND SCOTT PRICE**

As always, when it comes to Chef Of The Year, we love to champion those who have helped shape the dining scene here in Dubai. This duo has been integral to propelling the UAE's status as a foodie destination. Our winners are two of the most active chefs in the city. They've been the brains behind Table 9 and Taste Kitchen, and, with the help of Viktorija Paplauskienė, in charge of the front of house; and their latest venture Folly at Souk Madinat Jumeirah has quickly become one of the best restaurants in the city, with outstanding views to match a spectacular Modern European menu.

[folly.ae](http://folly.ae)



12.2017\_What's On\_77

WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2017 // THE BIG WINNERS

# POST-EVENT COVERAGE

## EDITORIAL COVERAGE

### WHAT'S ON DUBAI

DEC 2017

#### What's On Newcomer Of The Year SEAN CONNOLLY AT DUBAI OPERA



Our favourite newcomer this year is run by British-born chef Sean Connolly, who has more than 25 years of experience in the kitchen. His trademark down-to-earth cooking style and infectious enthusiasm for food has earned him an array of awards and industry accolades throughout the Southern Hemisphere. Since opening this year, his stylish brasserie in Dubai has become the spot for fresh oysters, hearty grub and the perfect pre-theatre meal. It is, after all, located in what has become one of the city's most iconic buildings – a building that is no stranger to a few standing ovations. Now, there's reason for one more...

[dubaiopera.com/dining/sean-connolly](http://dubaiopera.com/dining/sean-connolly)



#### What's On Indie Restaurant Of The Year FAVOURITE INDIE RESTAURANT: 3 FILS

When it comes to hidden gems in the city, our favourite indie hotspot tops the list. 3 Fills is tucked away in Jumeirah's fishing village, and only has a handful of tables inside. It has some of the best tuna and foie gras in town, but it also serves instant noodles and elevates them to superstar status. It's still fine dining, just without the tablecloths, china and silver cutlery. Come and visit, and the Singaporean owner/chef will feed you well and you'll have a wonderful experience – and you won't have to spend a fortune.

[3fills.com](http://3fills.com)



12:2017\_What's On\_79

WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2017 // THE BIG WINNERS



# POST-EVENT COVERAGE

## EDITORIAL COVERAGE

**WHAT'S ON DUBAI**

**DEC 2017**

WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2017 // BEST RESTAURANTS



## BEST RESTAURANTS

### Favourite British Restaurant **THE SCENE BY SIMON RIMMER**

For a real taste of home for the city's Brits, it doesn't come much truer than The Scene By Simon Rimmer. Having won the favourite British restaurant three times now, it's the one to beat when it comes to a proper British feed (and the Marina views are a nice Dubai touch too).

[thescenedubai.com](http://thescenedubai.com)



### Favourite Chinese Restaurant **HAKKASAN DUBAI**

With a worldwide clientele including Will Smith and Selena Gomez, it's no wonder that Dubai dwellers continue to return to Hakkasan's famed Cantonese cuisine. There are delicate fish courses, dainty dumpling platters, great duck options and satisfying noodle dishes. Hakkasan has it all.

[hakkasan.com](http://hakkasan.com)



### Favourite Middle Eastern Restaurant **RÜYA**

Chef Colin Clague has managed to nail it once again with this wonderful newcomer to the Dubai restaurant scene. Rüya wowed everyone who ate there in 2017, serving Anatolian food – that's Turkish to you and me – with a contemporary twist. The three cheese pide will make you want to cry (in a good way).

[rüyadubai.com](http://rüyadubai.com)



80\_What's On\_12.2017

# POST-EVENT COVERAGE

## EDITORIAL COVERAGE

### WHAT'S ON DUBAI

DEC 2017

WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2017 // BEST RESTAURANTS



#### Favourite Indian Restaurant

**RANG MAHAL BY ATUL KOCHHAR, JW MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOTEL**

Atul Kochhar is a master of Indian cuisine, and his high-end Dubai restaurant serves some of the city's most tender grills and aromatic curries. The space itself is majestic, and the service exemplary: if you're going to plump for Indian fine dining, this is the place to do it.

[jwmarriottmarquisdubailife.com](http://jwmarriottmarquisdubailife.com)



#### Favourite Italian Restaurant

**IL BORRO TUSCAN BISTRO**

Say the name of this restaurant to any foodie in Dubai and they'll smile, utter a little 'ooh' in appreciation and then tell you how much they love it. It's a beautiful dining room with proper service from staff who make you feel special. The food is created with ingredients flown in from Tuscany. This is Italian at its very best.

[ilborrotuscanbistro.ae](http://ilborrotuscanbistro.ae)



#### Favourite International Restaurant

**THE BEACH HOUSE, ANANTARA RESORT & SPA, THE PALM DUBAI**

For a tranquil lunch that will make you feel like you're on holiday, look no further than Palm Jumeirah spot The Beach House.

Choose a table on the terrace, soak up the sunshine and tuck into pizza, tapas and seafood while you pretend you're in the Maldives.

[dubai-palm.anantara.com](http://dubai-palm.anantara.com)

82\_What's On\_12.2017



# POST-EVENT COVERAGE

## EDITORIAL COVERAGE

### WHAT'S ON DUBAI

DEC 2017



#### Favourite Modern European Restaurant

**BOCA**

Book a table on the terrace at this cool restaurant in DIFC and pretend you're on holiday for an evening. The paella is excellent, as are the sharing plates of classic dishes such as lobster roll, burrata and tiger prawns.

[boca.ae](http://boca.ae)

#### Favourite Japanese Restaurant

**OKKU**

From its famed Sunday night dinner party, to a foodie-focused ladies' night that serves up food as good as its drinks deals, Okku has cemented itself as a staple on the lively dining scene in Dubai. It was one of the first fine-dining Japanese restaurants in the city.

[okkudubai.com](http://okkudubai.com)



#### Favourite French Restaurant

**BAGATELLE DUBAI**

A decadent serving of sleek interiors and fine dining French food, Bagatelle merges a party atmosphere with carefully executed cuisine. A night there often leaves us torn between whether we should really focus our attention on their famed escargot or dance on the tables with the waiters.

[bagatelledubai.com](http://bagatelledubai.com)



#### Favourite Pan-Asian Restaurant

**MR MIYAGI'S**

The authentic street food menu at Mr Miyagi's offers some of the best Vietnamese soups and Thai curries in the city. It's a relative newcomer and yet already a firm favourite, especially among the Media City crowd.

[mrmiyagisdubai.com](http://mrmiyagisdubai.com)

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#### Favourite Seafood Restaurant THE MAINE OYSTER BAR & GRILL

Not only is the food excellent at The Maine, but the vibe is too: this Marina restaurant is always buzzing, whether you're seated on the gorgeous terrace, in the dining room or at the long communal bar. Menu-wise, there's a North American seafood focus, and you'll find a crudo bar, as well as seafood towers and oysters aplenty (personally, we can't visit without ordering the chargrilled octopus, which is always perfectly cooked).

[themaine.ae](http://themaine.ae)



#### Favourite Steakhouse HUNTERS ROOM & GRILL, THE WESTIN DUBAI MINA SEYAH BEACH RESORT & SPA

Sleek and modern in design, Hunters means business. The steaks are organised by the cut of meat and, once chosen, are cooked to perfection – in fact, even just picking your meat from the cabinet might take you some time as there's so much choice.

[huntersdubai.com](http://huntersdubai.com)



#### Favourite Thai Restaurant PAI THAI, JUMEIRAH AL QASR

Pai Thai is arguably one of the most picturesque restaurants in the city – book a table on the jetty-like terrace at Pai Thai and get there at sunset and you've got a guaranteed romantic dinner experience. Thankfully, the food and service is excellent too – we've never had a bad meal at this Dubai classic.

[jumeirah.com](http://jumeirah.com)



#### Favourite The Americas Restaurant WAKA

In a sea full of Peruvian restaurants, Waka stands out: it has a Latin American flair and beautifully presented cuisine. The modern décor coupled with a night brunch that's worth staying in all Friday for makes this a lively new addition to the Dubai dining scene.

[waka.ae](http://waka.ae)

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### HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



#### **Favourite Spa** **HEART & SOUL SPA** **AND WELLNESS**

Set in the tranquil gardens of Al Barari, Heart & Soul feels a world away from the buzz of the city, which is really what you want from a spa. There's a dedicated nail and hair care area, a sauna, hammam and steam room and a children's area. They also put on lots of wellness-focused events, talks and workshops every month – from meditation to life coaching, there's something for everyone.

[heartandsoul.ae](http://heartandsoul.ae)



#### **Favourite Fitness Club** **DEFINE BODY & MIND**

Newcomer Define has already gained a loyal following thanks to their knowledgeable instructors and the blend of cycle, barre and yoga classes. One thing's for sure: go to one of the intense barre sessions and your hamstrings will feel it the next day.

[dubai.definebody.com](http://dubai.definebody.com)



#### **Favourite Hair Salon** **PASTELS SALON**

The styling and colouring services at this stalwart salon are consistent, professional and friendly (which is all you really want from your hairdresser). We know many people who have turned to Pastels after experiencing hair disasters at other salons: if you want a safe pair of hands, you'll find them here.

[pastels-salon.com](http://pastels-salon.com)



#### **Favourite Nail Bar** **TIPS & TOES**

While many of the city's nail bars are almost clinical in appearance, Tips & Toes feels like a Balinese spa. There are 30 Tips & Toes branches across the city (the first salon opened in 2004), and so you're sure to find a branch convenient to you, no matter where you live.

[tipsandtoes.com](http://tipsandtoes.com)

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WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2017 // BEST SPAS AND SALONS

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#### FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT

**Seven Sands**  
Sevens Sands has become the go-to for haute Emirati cuisine in a refined yet relaxed environment. Order the Emirati vegetable pie.

[sevensandsrestaurant.com](http://sevensandsrestaurant.com)

#### FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT

**GOVINDA'S RESTAURANT, KARAMA**  
An excellent Indian restaurant that focuses on Sattvic cuisine (a diet based on vegetarian foods in Ayurveda).

[mygovindas.com](http://mygovindas.com)



#### FAVOURITE INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANT

**KITCHEN6**  
Kitchen6 may be huge, but it doesn't forsake quality for quantity. The restaurant features multiple cooking stations, serving everything from fresh baked goods to East Asian cuisine.

[jwmarriottmarquis-dubailife.com](http://jwmarriottmarquis-dubailife.com)

#### FAVOURITE CHINESE RESTAURANT

**SOY RESTAURANT**  
There's a reason this Chinese spot is always busy: it serves delicious Asian fare, including lip-smacking noodles and Peking duck.

[soy.ae](http://soy.ae)



Aprons & Hammers

#### FAVOURITE FRENCH RESTAURANT

**COUQLEY**  
No fuss, no frills, just first-rate French cuisine at this relative newcomer to the Dubai dining scene. The steak frites at Couqley has a legion of fans – the meat is cooked to perfection, the fries are crispy, and the gravy will force you to lick your plate clean.

[facebook.com/CouqleyUAE](https://facebook.com/CouqleyUAE)

#### FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT

**DA VINCI'S**  
Little has changed at the old-school Italian spot over 20 years, and we love it for that fact. The food is as authentic now as it's always been.

[millenniumhotels.com](http://millenniumhotels.com)

#### FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT

**IZAKAYA, JW MARRIOTT MARQUIS**  
The chorus of "irasshaimase" from the staff as you walk into Izakaya will ring bells with anyone who has visited Tokyo: the cool vibe makes this spot good for girls' nights out or for laidback dinner dates.

[jwmarriottmarquis-dubailife.com](http://jwmarriottmarquis-dubailife.com)



## BEST RESTAURANTS



Da Vinci's

#### FAVOURITE PAN- ASIAN RESTAURANT

**MAX'S RESTAURANT**  
A firm favourite among the Filipino community in Dubai, Max's restaurant should be your go-to location for fried chicken with all the sides – no wonder it's known as "the house that fried chicken built". The service is warm and friendly no matter how busy they are, and trust us, it gets overwhelmingly busy – and for good reason.

[marschicken.com](http://marschicken.com)

#### FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

**APRONS & HAMMERS**  
In a city of opulence, this restaurant aboard an old wooden ship isn't just novel, it's fabulous. Grab buckets of clams, prawns and mussels, throw on your aprons, and get cracking.

[apronsandhammers.com](http://apronsandhammers.com)

#### FAVOURITE THE AMERICAS RESTAURANT

**LA TABLITA**  
If you ask any Mexican living in Dubai where to get the best tacos, tres leches cake or huaraches in the city, they'll

tell you to go to La Tablita. The lively restaurant often hosts regular fiestas complete with mariachi (expect dancing and plenty of people singing along to the tunes).

[dubaicreekregency.hyatt.com](http://dubaicreekregency.hyatt.com)

#### FAVOURITE STEAKHOUSE

**THE BUTCHER SHOP & GRILL**  
The Butcher Shop & Grill, which has branches all over Dubai, is all about the meat. With some of the juiciest halal-certified cuts of beefs in the Emirates, you may forget all the shopping going on around you while eating at their branch in Mall Of The Emirates or Mirdif City Centre... we did.

[butchershoparabia.com](http://butchershoparabia.com)

#### FAVOURITE PUB GRUB

**THE TAP HOUSE**  
The Tap House has something for everyone: the dark colours, draught taps and cosy booths inside are reminiscent of an old-fashioned British pub. The food is a real mix, with pub favourites alongside European salads and Southern comfort food.

[thetaphouse.ae](http://thetaphouse.ae)



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### UNDER DHS400



La Tablita

#### FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT IBN ALBAHR

Dubai revellers can't get enough of Ibn Albar's hearty – and tasty – Lebanese seafood grub. Why? The view of the beach and a table full of mezze and grilled fish. What's not to love?

📞 [ibnalbar.me](http://ibnalbar.me)

#### FAVOURITE HEALTHY EATING RESTAURANT THE FARM

You'll need to book if you want to get a breakfast or lunch table at The Farm – especially for one of the tables in the beautiful garden. Breakfast-wise, there are classics such as waffles and eggs Benedict, but there are also healthy twists like the paleo frittata and vegan tofu scramble.

📞 [thefarmdubai.ae](http://thefarmdubai.ae)

#### FAVOURITE BUSINESS LUNCH MR MIYAGI'S

The decor is quirky, the vibe is friendly and they offer a range of Japanese-style bento boxes catering to the business crowd on the go.

📞 [mrmiyagisdubai.com](http://mrmiyagisdubai.com)

#### FAVOURITE THAI RESTAURANT THE ROYAL BUDHA

With authentic Thai décor, including a whole load of gold Buddhas, The Royal Budha serves up an extensive menu of Thai food with a focus on dishes without meat, making it a great option for veggies.

📞 [theroyalbudha.com](http://theroyalbudha.com)



#### FAVOURITE CAFÉ 1762

1762's newest café looks like it was born to appear on lifestyle blogs. Its airy space, which sits as the only beacon of happiness on JLT's mind-boggling ring road, sports enormous floor-to-ceiling windows, a lounging loft space, and an l-shaped countertop displaying its pretty treats. People come for the food – the snow pea avocado on toast is brilliant – but stay all day for the vibe.

📞 [1762.ae](http://1762.ae)

#### FAVOURITE PAKISTANI RESTAURANT BARBECUE DELIGHTS

A consistent presence at the What's On Awards, Barbecue Delights serves excellent Pakistani cuisine – we love the grills, which are prepared by a knowledgeable team of Asian chefs.

📞 [barbecuedelights.com](http://barbecuedelights.com)



#### FAVOURITE MODERN EUROPEAN RESTAURANT BOARDWALK

Sitting on a wooden-stilted jetty overlooking the Creek, Boardwalk is a bit of a Dubai institution, having been around for more than 20 years. It's always one of the first places we think of when we have guests in town – the seafood selection and wood-fired pizzas combined with spectacular views of the city skyline never fail to impress.

📞 [dubaiatgolf.com](http://dubaiatgolf.com)

#### FAVOURITE BRUNCH WANDERLUST BRUNCH AT GARDEN, JW MARRIOTT MARQUIS

The sprawling mania of the Wanderlust brunch makes for a super fun day out. Kooky wooden signs guide you through seven themed zones of overwhelming and tasty food choices. In fact, 360 dishes are on offer: sometimes there's no such thing as too much choice.

📞 [jwmarriottmarquis-dubailife.com](http://jwmarriottmarquis-dubailife.com)



#### FAVOURITE BRITISH RESTAURANT COPPER DOG

Bar the heat outside, you really do feel like you're stepping into a little highland pub, with dark wooden floors, warm lighting and a cosy yet lively bar. The high-end but hearty pub grub matches with the décor too.

📞 [copperdog.ae](http://copperdog.ae)

#### FAVOURITE FOOD TRUCK BURGER PIT

This one's all about classic American fare and is inspired by the '50s. When we visited Last Exist, this was the only outlet with a long line of cars waiting for food – word is, a prominent royal visited it and started a bit of a craze: one we're happy to get behind.

📞 [facebook.com/burgerpitudubai](http://facebook.com/burgerpitudubai)



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### BEST ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS



#### FAVOURITE NIGHTCLUB

##### Zero Gravity

From bringing some of the world's best loved DJs and artists, to consistently re-inventing itself with weekly new nights and bumper brunches, Zero Gravity knows how to throw a great party.

[0-gravity.ae](http://0-gravity.ae)



#### FAVOURITE SPORTING EVENT

##### Emirates Airline Dubai Rugby Sevens

Any event that has fans from all over the world swarming to the city is worthy of this top gong. Top level sport is at the centre of the festival of fun renowned for fancy dress and fabulous after-parties.

[dubairugby7s.com](http://dubairugby7s.com)



#### FAVOURITE CONCERT

##### Justin Bieber

Justin Bieber rose to fame as a 13-year-old with a questionable bowl cut. Fast forward a decade and the heart throb is selling out arenas around the world. So, to no one's surprise, his stellar gig at Autism Rocks arena this May was a sellout show.

[117live.com](http://117live.com)



#### FAVOURITE SHOW

##### Les Misérables

When the greatest musical artists from Broadway and the West End combine to create an all-star cast, you know you're in for something special. That's exactly what happened when Les Mis was staged in Dubai. It marked a new era for theatre performances in the Middle East.

[dubaiopera.com](http://dubaiopera.com)

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WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2017 // BEST ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS



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#### FAVOURITE LADIES' NIGHT Lucky Voice Dubai

A bar that needs no introduction, Lucky Voice has it all when it comes to their bi-weekly ladies' night. On Tuesday, there's unlimited drinks until 1am for the ladies, 20 per cent off the dining menu and 30-minute karaoke pod taster sessions. On Saturday, a second serving offers all the girls four complimentary drinks, and 20 per cent off the dining menu, too.

[luckyvoice.ae](http://luckyvoice.ae)



#### FAVOURITE FESTIVAL Emirates Airline Festival Of Literature

The Middle East's biggest celebration of literature always manages to attract rockstars of the written word. This year saw a particularly diverse line-up, such as comic book creator Sana Amanat, social critic Jon Ronson and The Great British Bake Off winner Nadiya Hussain.

[emirateslifefest.com](http://emirateslifefest.com)



#### FAVOURITE DAY OUT Ladies' Day At Zero Gravity

It was one of the pioneers of the now famed Dubai Ladies' Day, and it's no wonder that ladies flock to the popular Marina beach club each and every Tuesday. It offers free entry to ladies on the guestlist. You'll find us snapping pics at their see-through poolside, or atop the ten-metre inflatable unicorn.

[0-gravity.ae](http://0-gravity.ae)



#### FAVOURITE BAR Barasti

Few can contest the legendary status of Barasti. The day-to-night beach bar has remained a stalwart for bringing live music and beach festivals, and most recently introducing a new swimming pool to its ever popular offering of beachside bar vibes. Their calorific food happens to be pretty great, too.

[barastibeach.com](http://barastibeach.com)



#### FAVOURITE BRUNCH Lucky Voice Dubai

Their hit Friday brunch books up three weeks in advance thanks to unlimited food and drinks, plus interactive entertainment that includes a party DJ and group sing-alongs. Even the karaoke shy will find themselves belting out a few tunes on the inflatable microphones.

[luckyvoice.ae](http://luckyvoice.ae)

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WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2017 // PARTY PICTURES



### THE BIG NIGHT



FULL  
HOUSE!



ALL THE  
WINNERS!

Check out  
more party  
pics at  
[whatson.ae](http://whatson.ae)

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WHAT'S  
ON TEAM  
SCRUB UP  
OKAY...

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