

★ ★ ★

# WHAT'S **40** years ON

---

# AWARDS **2019**

DUBAI

★ ★ ★

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2019  
DUBAI MEDIA CITY AMPHITHEATRE

## POST-EVENT REPORT



WhatsOnDubai #WOawards [WhatsOn.ae](http://WhatsOn.ae)



THANK YOU



Motivate Media Group 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 Media Group Events Team.

Sponsors



Culinary Partner



Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



Presented By





# 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 INVITATIONS:

- E-INVITE
- SEE YOU TOMORROW
- SEE YOU TONIGHT



### Sponsors



### Culinary Partner



### Structural Supplier



### Beverage Partner



### Photography Partner



### Flower Partner



### Vote Processing Partner



### Presented By



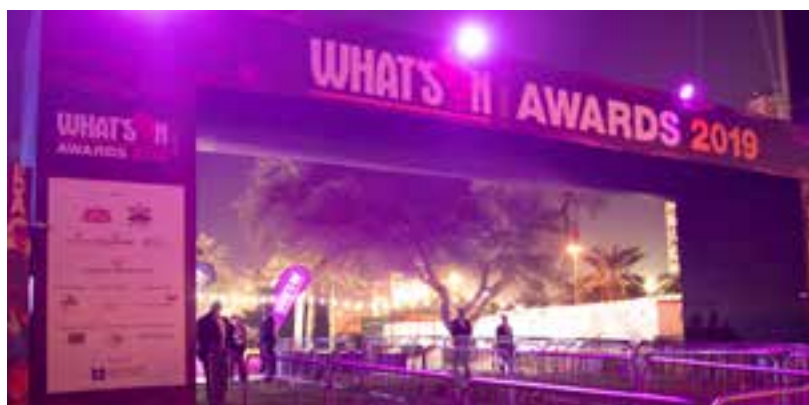


# THE VENUE



## DUBAI MEDIA CITY AMPHITHEATRE

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



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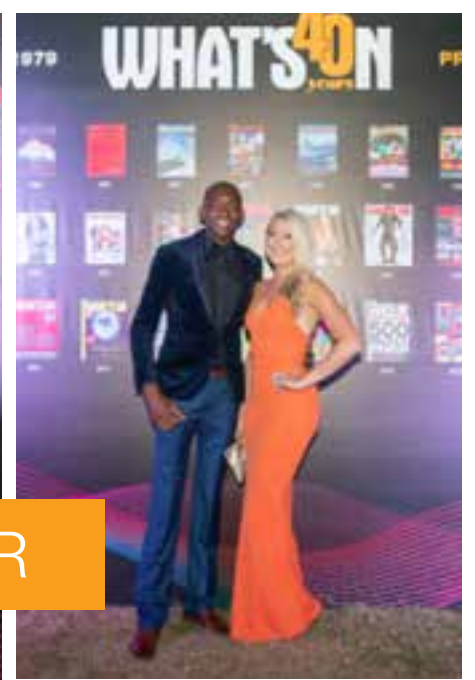
Vote Processing Partner



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## WHAT'S ON WALL GLAMOUR



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# WHAT'S ON WALL GLAMOUR

Sponsors



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# EVENT BRANDING

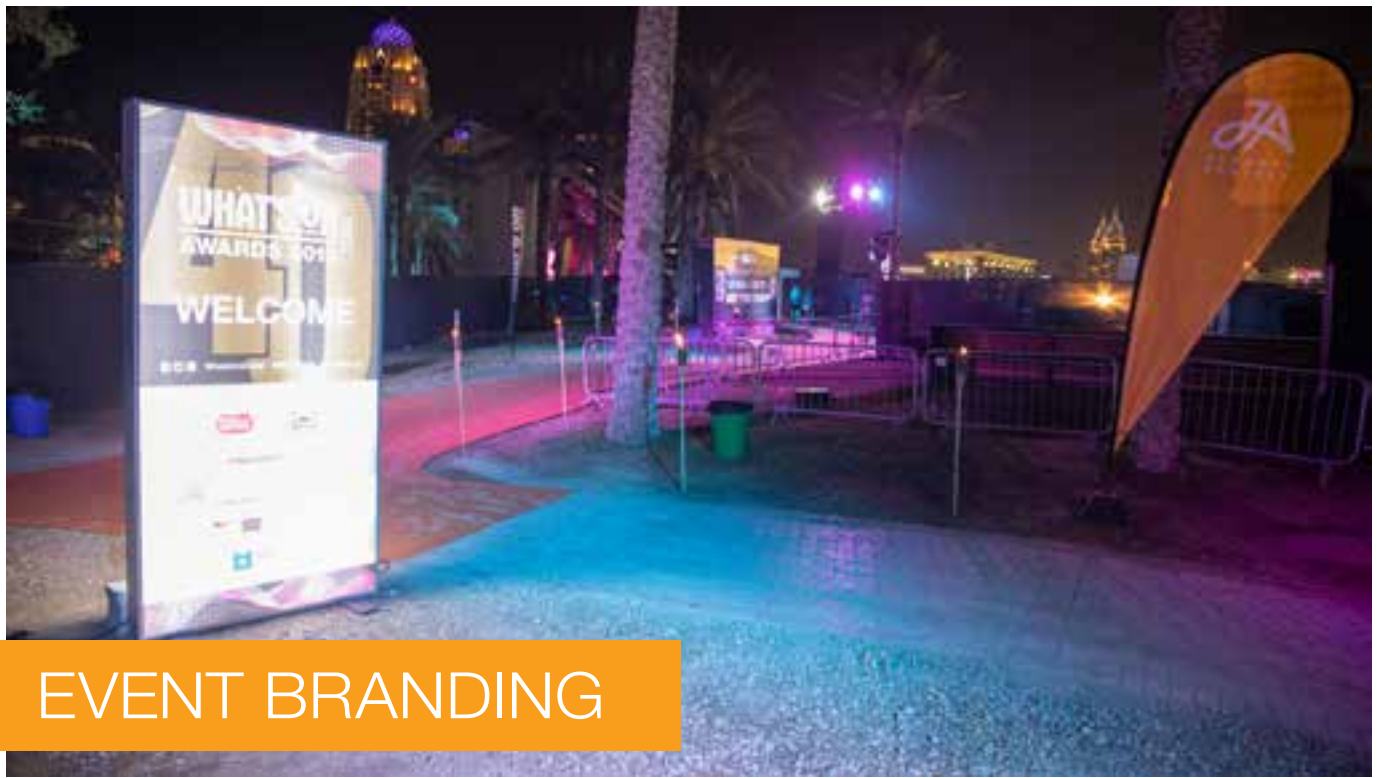


Sponsors' logos were placed on all event collateral, including but not limited to: invites, photo wall, winner's wall, table-top branding, menu & programme, welcome boards and outdoor signage.

Sponsors







## EVENT BRANDING



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# EVENT BRANDING



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## SPONSOR



Our culinary partner for *What's On Awards Dubai* was JA Resorts & Hotels. The guests were treated to a vast range of menu options, inspired by JA Resorts & Hotels' very own F&B outlets; Kinara, Phoenicia, Sette, Motorino, White Orchid and International Buffet.

Food stations were spread throughout offering a range of spectacular cuisine, tastefully and creatively decorated. What was awe-inspiring however, was the Dessert Deck; taking guests through a journey under the theme of 'cinema'.



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SPONSOR



Acqua Panna and San Pellegrino were served throughout the event, each guest received a glass upon arrival from the impressive display of sparkling water-filled flutes.

Guests were also presented with a limited edition bottle of San Pellegrino to take home.

On behalf of Bidfood, Key Account Manager, Aysha Al Raisi, presented the following awards:

- Favourite Greek Restaurant presented to **GAIA**
- Favourite Indian Restaurant presented to **Masala Library by Jiggs Kalra at JW Marriott Marquis**
- Favourite Italian presented to **Il Borro Tuscan Bistro Dubai**



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SPONSOR



**african+eastern**

INSPIRING GREAT BLENDS

Our beverage partner African & Eastern provided refreshments for the event, including two brands which had individual stalls, serving guests throughout the night:

- Gordon's Pink Gin & Tonic Bar
- Wolf Blass Wine Bar



David Beattie, General Manager Sales, On Trade Dubai, presented the following awards:

- **Favourite Ladies' Night** presented to **Atelier M at Pier 7 Dubai Marina**
- **Favourite Nightclub** presented to **White Dubai**
- **Favourite Bar** presented to **Nola Eatery & Social House**
- **Favourite Brunch** presented to **Wanderlust, JW Marriott Marquis Dubai**



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Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



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SPONSOR



Category sponsors **Country Hill & Stockyard** had two giant branded cows on display at the event venue.

David Clarke, GM of Stockyard and Maria Luisa Panzica La Manna - Bus. Dev. Manager, Country Hill International presented three categories on the night:

- Favourite Japanese Restaurant presented to **Akira Back**
- Favourite Latin American Restaurant presented to **Lima Dubai**
- Favourite Steakhouse presented to **Porterhouse Steaks & Grills at Sofitel Dubai the Palm Resort & Spa**



Sponsors



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Vote Processing Partner



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## SPONSOR



Stella Artois sponsored 'The Stella Artois Perfect Serve', a category created specifically for them at this event.

Daria Kuznetsova, AB InBev Sales Manager presented the award to **Kickers Sports Bar**.



### Sponsors



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### Structural Supplier



### Beverage Partner



### Photography Partner



### Flower Partner



### Vote Processing Partner



### Presented By







SPONSOR



## EMIRATES PRINTING PRESS

Emirates Printing Press sponsored three categories on the night. Mohamed Al Shirawi, Deputy Managing Director of Al Shirawi Group of Companies and CEO of Emirates Printing Press LLC and Mohan Valrani, Snr Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Al Shirawi Group of Companies presented awards for the following categories:

- Favourite Healthy Eating Restaurant presented to **Comptoir 102**
- Favourite Café presented to **Nightjar Coffee Roasters**
- Favourite Business Lunch presented to **Brothaus Bakery-Bistro**



Sponsors



Culinary Partner



Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



Presented By







**JACOBSONS**  
better experiences

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

Akram Raffoul, Partner and Executive Director at Jacobsons presented the awards for:

- Favourite Pub Grub presented to **The Irish Village**
- Favourite Asian Restaurant to **Maiden Shanghai at Five Palm Jumeirah Dubai**
- Favourite British Restaurant presented to **Gordon Ramsey Hell's Kitchen at Caesars Palace Bluewaters Dubai**



Sponsors



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Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



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SPONSOR



Flower partners Margot filled the Amphitheater tables with unique centerpieces using white Lillies.



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Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



Presented By





SPONSOR

# GEO PRO GEOPRO AE

Photography Partners GEOPRO covered the event in terms of video and photography.

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Partner



Structural  
Supplier



Beverage  
Partner



Photography  
Partner



Flower  
Partner



Vote Processing  
Partner



Presented By





SPONSOR



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

ALL  
EVENTS  
SERVICES

JJ Trichardt, Managing Director of All Events Services, presented two categories:

- Favourite European Restaurant presented to ***The Beach House at Anantara The Palm Dubai Resort***
- Favourite Middle Eastern Restaurant presented to ***Al Nafoorah at Jumeirah Emirates Towers***

Sponsors



Culinary Partner



Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner

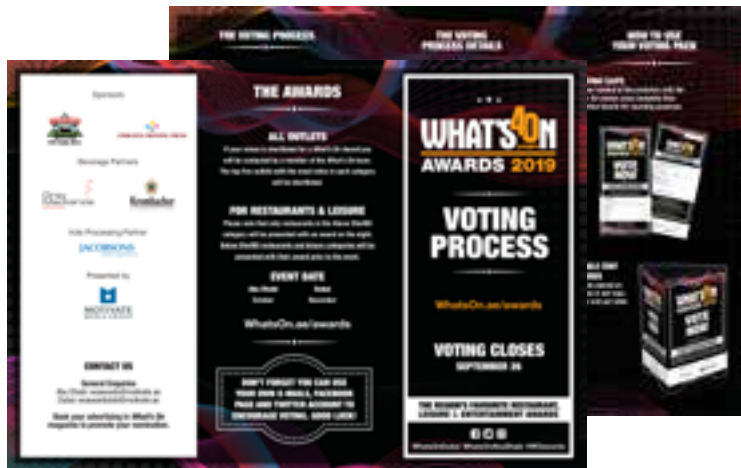


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# VOTING PROCESS



## VOTING SLIPS

## VOTING PROCESS FORM

*What's On Awards* registrants consisted of bars, restaurants, cafes, spas, nightclubs and events. Registrations opened at the end of May with voting starting on **June 17 until September 26**.

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 and voting slips.

Once voting had closed on **Sept 26**, all online and printed slips were sent to Jacobsons Direct, our auditing partner who checked and verified all votes. The top five outlets in each category were then invited to the *What's On Awards Dubai* on **November 4**, where the final winners were announced.

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



## REGISTRATION FORM



## TABLE TENT CARD



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Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



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# PRE-EVENT COVERAGE

## REGISTRATION, VOTING AND TICKET SALES CAMPAIGN

### PRINT

#### What's On Dubai

June 2019 – Readership **100,000**  
 July 2019 – Readership **100,000**  
 August 2019 – Readership **100,000**  
 September 2019 – Readership **100,000**  
 October 2019 – Readership **100,000**

#### Golf Digest

July 2019 – Readership **37,000**  
 August 2019 – Readership **37,000**  
 October 2019 – Readership **37,000**

#### Gulf Business

July 2019 – Readership **84,000**  
 October 2019 – Readership **84,000**

#### Emirates Woman

October 2019 – Readership **75,000**

#### Business Traveller ME

July 2019 – Readership **100,000**  
 September 2019 – Readership **100,000**  
 October 2019 – Readership **100,000**

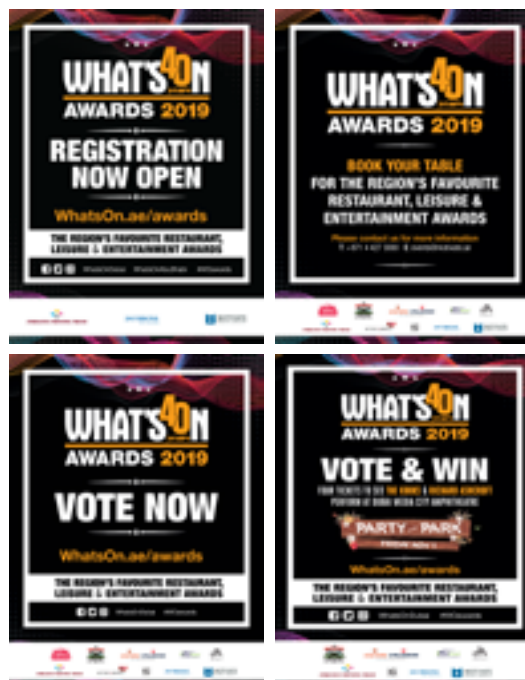
#### Identity

July 2019 – Readership **30,000**  
 August 2019 – Readership **30,000**

#### Campaign

June 16 – Readership **30,000**  
 June 30 – Readership **30,000**  
 July 7 – Readership **30,000**  
 August 12 – Readership **30,000**  
 August 25 – Readership **30,000**  
 September 23 – Readership **30,000**

**TOTAL READERSHIP – 1,557,800**



#### Gulf News

September 17  
 September 24  
 Readership **163,800**

Sponsors



Culinary Partner

Structural Supplier

Beverage Partner

Photography Partner

Flower Partner

Vote Processing Partner

Presented By





# PRE-EVENT COVERAGE

## REGISTRATIONS OPEN

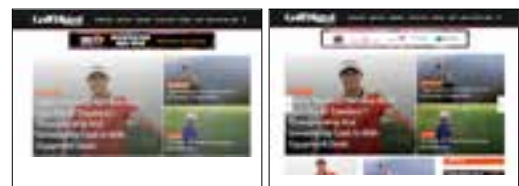
**Watson.ae, Gulfbusiness.com, Golfdigestme.com**  
(January 18 – July 31)



**MPU**  
**IMPRESSIONS – 445,861**



**HALF PAGE**  
**IMPRESSIONS – 578,461**



**LEADERBOARD**  
**IMPRESSIONS – 69,909**

**MOBILE LEADERBOARD**  
**IMPRESSIONS – 260,996**

**MOBILE CATFISH**  
**IMPRESSIONS – 250,433**

Sponsors



Culinary Partner

Structural Supplier

Beverage Partner

Photography Partner

Flower Partner

Vote Processing Partner

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# PRE-EVENT COVERAGE

## REGISTRATIONS OPEN

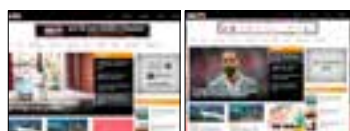
**Whatson.ae, Campaignme.com, Gulfbusiness.com, Golfdigestme.com**  
(August 7 – September 26)



**MPU**  
**IMPRESSIONS – 621,858**



**LEADERBOARD**  
**IMPRESSIONS – 323,654**



**HALF PAGE**  
**IMPRESSIONS – 1,462,232**

**MOBILE LEADERBOARD**  
**IMPRESSIONS – 471,970**

**MOBILE CATFISH**  
**IMPRESSIONS – 689,812**

Sponsors



Culinary  
Partner



Structural  
Supplier



Beverage  
Partner



Photography  
Partner



Flower  
Partner



Vote Processing  
Partner



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# PRE-EVENT COVERAGE

## SHORTLISTS ANNOUNCED

**Watson.ae**

**(October 24 – October 28)**



**MPU**

**IMPRESSIONS – 21,689**

## LEADERBOARD

**IMPRESSIONS – 19,721**



## HALF PAGE

**IMPRESSIONS – 44,803**

## MOBILE LEADERBOARD

**IMPRESSIONS – 39,055**

## MOBILE CATFISH

**IMPRESSIONS – 689,812**

Sponsors



Culinary Partner



Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



Presented By





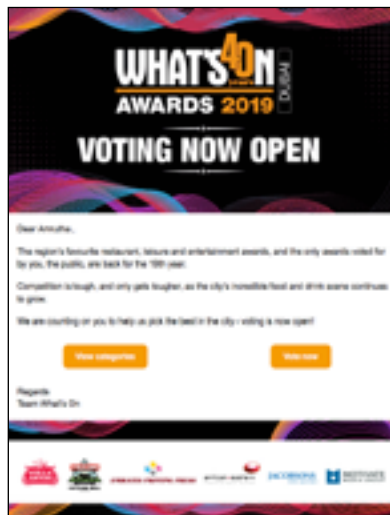
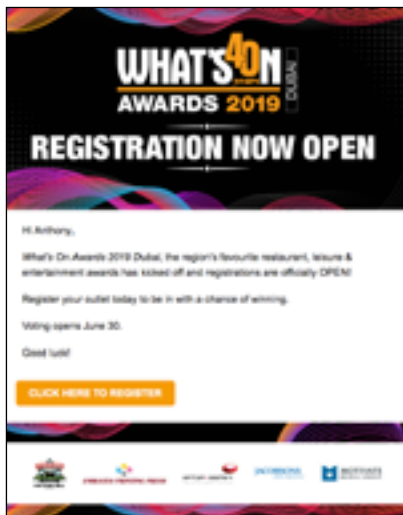
# PRE-EVENT COVERAGE

## EDMs

**What's On database (25,000 subscribers)**

**Ave. Open Rate: 18%**

June 17	July 15	September 2
June 26	July 22	September 11
June 30	July 29	September 18
July 2	August 7	September 25
July 3	August 14	October 20
July 8	August 19	October 28



## RADIO AD

**30 SECONDS DUBAI 92 August 14 - September 12**

**“What’s your favourite restaurant in Dubai? Or your top pick for brunch? What about your favourite fitness studio in the city? Vote now in the What’s On Awards and WIN four tickets to Party in the Park. Voting is easy. Go to [whats on dot ae/ awards](http://whats on dot ae/ awards). What’s On, proudly celebrating 40 years in the region.”**



Sponsors



Culinary Partner



Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



Presented By

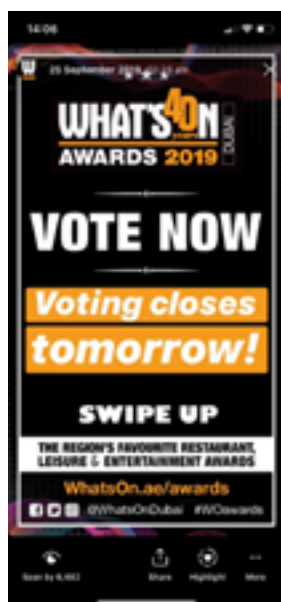
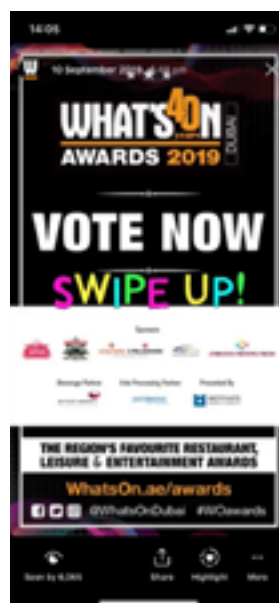
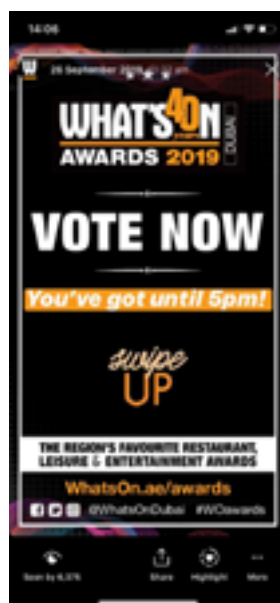




# VOTING PROMOTION

Examples of What's On Instagram story posts pushing consumers to vote:

(Average number of consumers seeing each post: 7,000)



Sponsors



Culinary Partner



Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



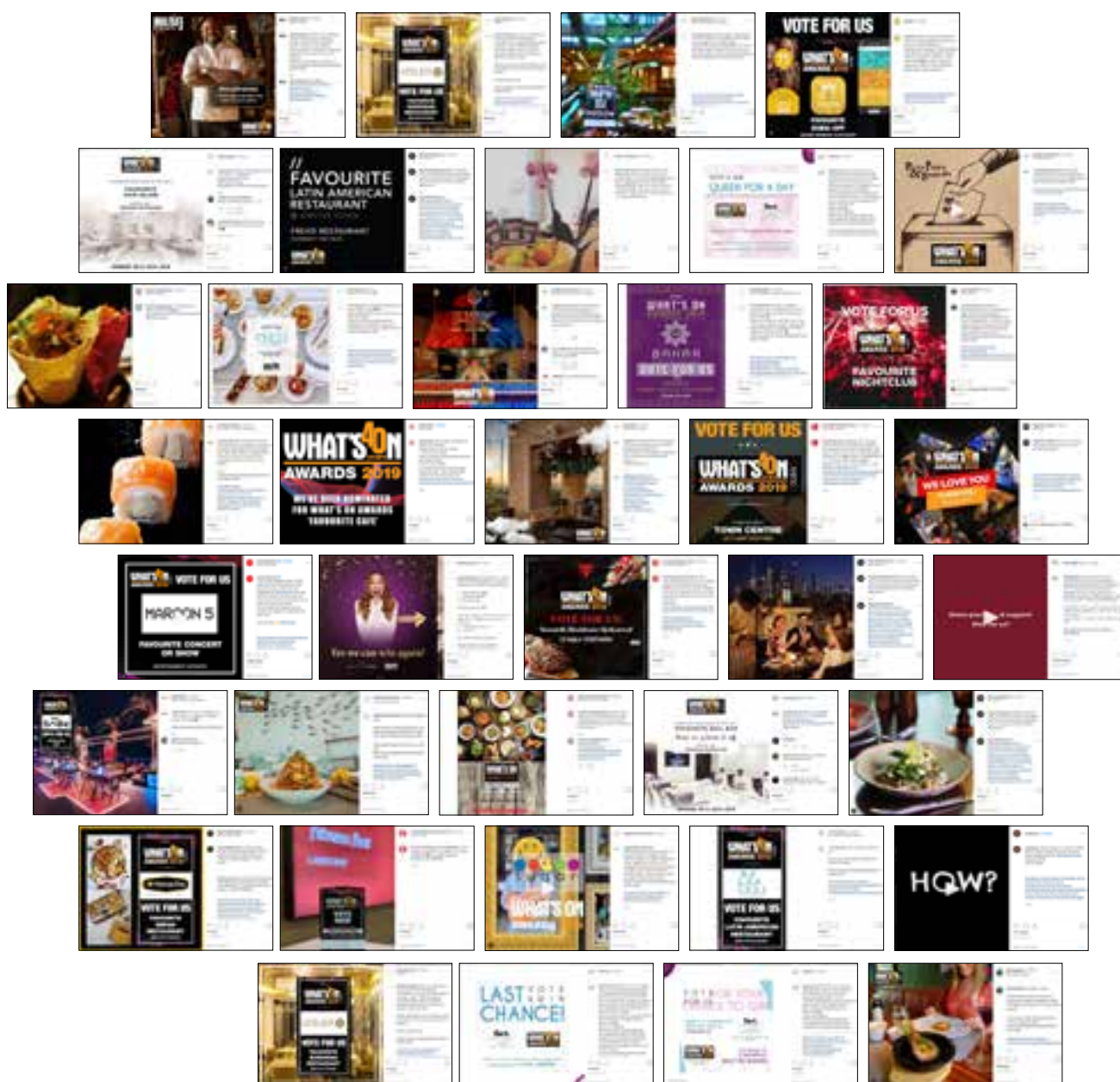
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# VOTING PROMOTION

Examples of outlets encouraging their customers to vote:



Sponsors



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Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



Presented By





# THE WINNERS



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
**AHMED BAKER,**  
**CHAIRMAN - DUTCO GROUP**



WHAT'S ON RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR  
**GAIA**



WHAT'S ON CHEF OF THE YEAR  
**FULVIO OPALIO, HEAD CHEF OF IL BORRO**



WHAT'S ON INDIE RESTAURANT  
OF THE YEAR  
**21 GRAMS**



WHAT'S ON NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR  
**ALICI**

Sponsors



Culinary Partner



Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



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# THE WINNERS



**FAVOURITE CAFÉ**  
**NIGHTJAR COFFEE ROASTERS**



**FAVOURITE HEALTHY EATING RESTAURANT**  
**COMPTOIR 102**



**FAVOURITE BUSINESS LUNCH**  
**BROTHAUS BAKERY-BISTRO**  
**AT STEIGENBERGER HOTEL**  
**BUSINESS BAY**



**FAVOURITE PUB GRUB**  
**THE IRISH VILLAGE, GARHOUD**



**FAVOURITE AFTERNOON TEA**  
**QUINTESSENTIAL AFTERNOON TEA,**  
**THE LOBBY LOUNGE**  
**AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, DUBAI JBR**



**FAVOURITE BAR**  
**NOLA EATERY & SOCIAL HOUSE**

Sponsors



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Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



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# THE WINNERS



**FAVOURITE NIGHTCLUB  
WHITE DUBAI**



**FAVOURITE LADIES' NIGHT  
ATELIER M AT PIER 7 DUBAI MARINA**



**FAVOURITE CONCERT OR SHOW  
MAROON 5 LIVE IN DUBAI  
AT COCA-COLA ARENA**



**FAVOURITE FESTIVAL  
REDFESTDXB  
AT DUBAI MEDIA CITY AMPHITHEATRE**



**FAVOURITE SPORTING EVENT  
EMIRATES AIRLINE  
DUBAI RUGBY SEVENS**



**FAVOURITE ATTRACTION  
TEPFACTOR DUBAI**

Sponsors



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# THE WINNERS



**FAVOURITE BEACH DAY**  
**NIKKI BEACH DUBAI RESTAURANT**  
**& BEACH CLUB**



**FAVOURITE DUBAI APP**  
**MOONSHINE**



**THE STELLA ARTOIS PERFECT SERVE**  
**KICKERS SPORTS BAR**



**FAVOURITE BRUNCH**  
**WANDERLUST**  
**AT JW MARRIOTT MARQUIS DUBAI**



**FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT**  
**AL NAFOORAH**  
**AT JUMEIRAH EMIRATES TOWERS**



**FAVOURITE BRITISH RESTAURANT**  
**GORDON RAMSAY HELL'S KITCHEN AT**  
**CAESARS PALACE BLUEWATERS DUBAI**

Sponsors



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Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



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# THE WINNERS



**FAVOURITE ASIAN RESTAURANT**  
**MAIDEN SHANGHAI**  
**AT FIVE PALM JUMEIRAH DUBAI**



**FAVOURITE EUROPEAN RESTAURANT**  
**THE BEACH HOUSE**  
**AT ANANTARA THE PALM DUBAI RESORT**



**FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT**  
**MASALA LIBRARY BY JIGGS KALRA**  
**AT JW MARRIOTT MARQUIS DUBAI**



**FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT**  
**IL BORRO TUSCAN BISTRO DUBAI**



**FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT**  
**AKIRA BACK AT W DUBAI - THE PALM**



**FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT**  
**THE MAINE OYSTER BAR & GRILL**

Sponsors



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Structural Supplier



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# THE WINNERS



FAVOURITE MODERN AMERICAN  
RESTAURANT  
**CHICAGO MEATPACKERS**



FAVOURITE STEAKHOUSE  
**PORTERHOUSE STEAKS & GRILLS AT  
SOFITEL DUBAI THE PALM RESORT & SPA**



FAVOURITE GREEK RESTAURANT  
**GAIA**



FAVOURITE LATIN AMERICAN  
**LIMA DUBAI**

Sponsors



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Partner



Structural  
Supplier



Beverage  
Partner



Photography  
Partner



Flower  
Partner



Vote Processing  
Partner



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# THE WINNERS

## PRE-AWARDED (BELOW DHS400)



**FAVOURITE FITNESS FACILITY  
GYMNATION AT AL QUOZ**



**FAVOURITE SPA  
SOFITEL SPA AT SOFITEL DUBAI  
THE PALM RESORT & SPA**



**FAVOURITE NAIL BAR  
N.BAR AT SHORELINE,  
THE PALM JUMEIRAH**



**FAVOURITE HAIR SALON  
MARQUEE AT DUBAI MARINA GATE**



**FAVOURITE BARBERS  
THE ART OF SHAVING AT CITY WALK**



**FAVOURITE BRUNCH  
SUPERNATURAL AT ZERO GRAVITY**

Sponsors



Culinary Partner



Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



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# THE WINNERS

## PRE-AWARDED (BELOW DHS400)



**FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT  
MAJLIS AL SULTAN  
RESTAURANT AND CAFÉ**



**FAVOURITE BRITISH RESTAURANT  
POTS, PANS & BOARDS AT THE BEACH**



**FAVOURITE ASIAN RESTAURANT  
STREETERY FOOD HALL BY ZEN**



**FAVOURITE EUROPEAN RESTAURANT  
RIVA RESTORANTE AT RIVA BEACH CLUB**



**FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT  
ZAFRAN INDIAN BISTRO, MIRDIF CITY  
CENTRE**



**FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT  
DA VINCI'S RESTAURANT  
AT MILLENNIUM AIRPORT HOTEL DUBAI**

Sponsors



Culinary Partner



Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



Presented By





# THE WINNERS

## PRE-AWARDED (BELOW DHS400)



**FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT  
MIYAKO AT HYATT REGENCY DUBAI**



**FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT  
APRONS & HAMMERS AT  
THE BEACH BY MERAAS**



**FAVOURITE MODERN AMERICAN  
RESTAURANT  
BURGER & LOBSTER**



**FAVOURITE STEAKHOUSE  
TURKISH STEAK RESTAURANT & CAFÉ**



**FAVOURITE GREEK RESTAURANT  
MYTHOS KOUZINA & GRILL**



**FAVOURITE LATIN AMERICAN  
MAMA ZONIA DUBAI**

Sponsors



Culinary Partner



Structural Supplier



Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



Flower Partner



Vote Processing Partner



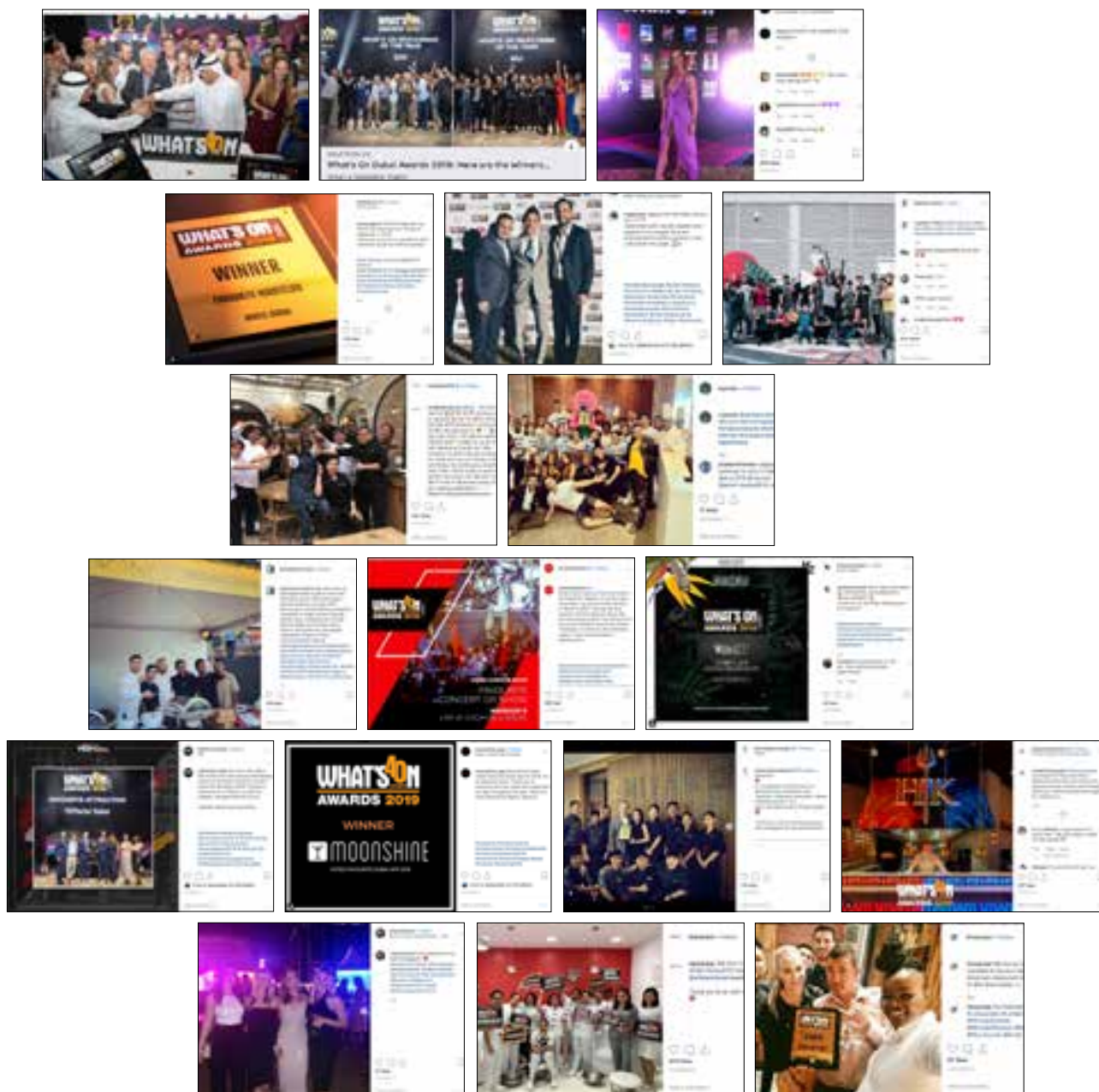
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# EVENT COVERAGE EXAMPLES

## SOCIAL MEDIA



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Beverage Partner



Photography Partner



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# POST-EVENT COVERAGE

## WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT



### PRINT

#### What's On Dubai

December 2019 – Readership **100,000**

#### Gulf News

November 5 – Readership **77,781**

### BADGES

Badges sent to all winners.



Sponsors



Culinary  
Partner



Structural  
Supplier



Beverage  
Partner



Photography  
Partner



Flower  
Partner



Vote Processing  
Partner



Presented By





# POST-EVENT COVERAGE

## WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

**Whatson.ae (November 5 – November 12)**



**HALF PAGE  
IMPRESSIONS – 294,648**



**LEADERBOARD  
IMPRESSIONS – 69,909**



**MPU  
IMPRESSIONS – 60,938**

**MOBILE LEADERBOARD  
IMPRESSIONS – 44,828**

**MOBILE CATFISH  
IMPRESSIONS – 123,668**

**EDM  
What's On database  
(25,000 subscribers)  
5 November**



Sponsors



Culinary  
Partner



Structural  
Supplier



Beverage  
Partner



Photography  
Partner



Flower  
Partner



Vote Processing  
Partner



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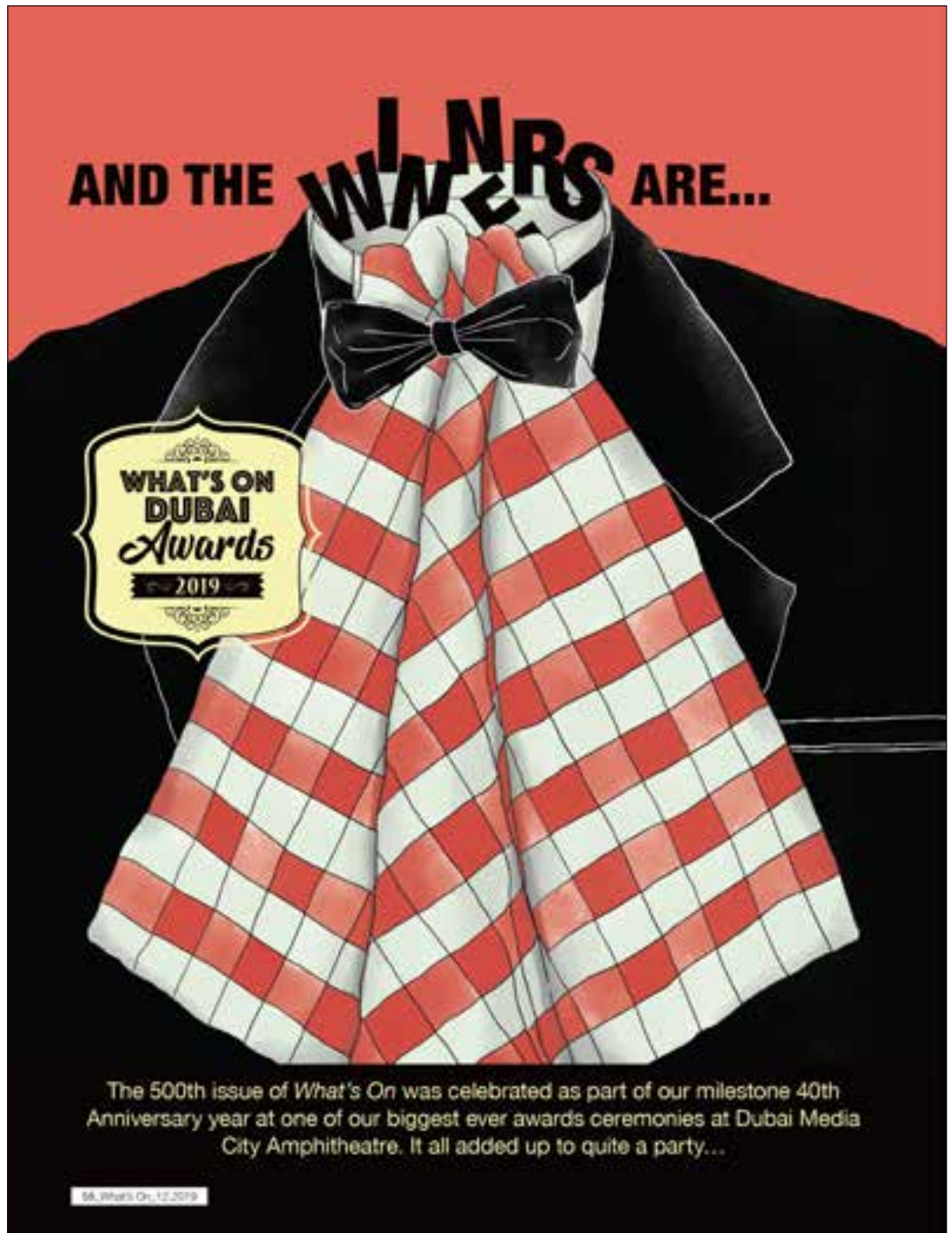


# POST-EVENT COVERAGE

## EDITORIAL COVERAGE

**WHAT'S ON  
DUBAI  
DEC 2019**

**READERSHIP  
100,000**



Sponsors



Culinary  
Partner



Structural  
Supplier



Beverage  
Partner



Photography  
Partner



Flower  
Partner



Vote Processing  
Partner



Presented By





# POST-EVENT COVERAGE

## EDITORIAL COVERAGE

**WHAT'S ON  
DUBAI  
DEC 2019**

**READERSHIP  
100,000**



### RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

**GAIA**

Given that it has become such a stalwart of Dubai's dining scene, it's hard to believe our Restaurant Of The Year opened its doors just over a year ago. Credited with putting Greek cuisine on Dubai's foodie map, this gregarious restaurant is helmed by the

incredible chef Izu Ani, who, it seems, can do no wrong. While plenty of restaurants have signature dishes that keep diners coming back for more, at this DIFC hotspot, everything on the menu stands out.

[gaia-restaurant.com](http://gaia-restaurant.com)



### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Ahmed Baker**

When the first issue of What's On was hot off the press in 1979, Ahmed Baker had begun construction of his very first hotel. It opened two years later in April 1981, and demonstrated bold, pioneering confidence in what was then such a young nation. That hotel was Jebel Ali Hotel, the first hotel constructed by the EUTCO group under the chairmanship of Ahmed Baker. The group is now known as JA Hotels & Resorts and includes a portfolio of eight hotels, including the recently opened JA Lake View Hotel. It's a homegrown success story that spans an incredible 40 years.

[ja-hotels.com](http://ja-hotels.com)

12.2019, What's On, 88

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### THE BIG WINNERS



#### CHEF OF THE YEAR

**Fulvio Opalia, of Il Borro Tuscan Bistro**

Courteous, friendly, humble – it would be easy for the many accolades bestowed upon his multi-award-winning restaurant to go to his head. But our Chef of the Year is as modest as they come. He works hard to create dishes that are popular in the market rather than forcing dishes on to his diners. And he perfects them, and perfects them some more. And that's why people keep coming back time again to Il Borro.

[@ilborrodubai](#)



#### NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

**Aliei**

It's hard not to be bowled over by our Newcomer of the Year. The attention to detail is outstanding. From the tiles and the flowers lining the terrace to the music and the perfectly timed tablecloths, nothing is left to chance. Thankfully, the seafood – inspired by the Amalfi Coast – is as sensational as the surroundings. But should we really be that surprised? After all, the brains behind this homegrown restaurant is the very same team that brought us the beloved Il Borro.

[@alieidubai](#)



#### INDIE RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

**21 Grams**

Now, there's a common misconception that the cuisine from our Indie Restaurant of the Year is all meat and potatoes. Well, that couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, it's home to fresh vegetables, homemade relishes and light salads. Yes, you'll find all kinds of quality dishes at this beautiful spot run by the equally beautiful Stasia Toubchev. But if you ask our editor, there's one dish on the menu that stands out above the rest, the brilliant Komplet Eggs. If you haven't tried it yet, well, make sure it's on your to-do list for this weekend. Trust us, you won't regret it.

[@21grams.ae](#)



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WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2019 // BEST RESTAURANTS ABOVE Dhs400



## BEST RESTAURANTS

ABOVE Dhs400



### FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

**The Maine Oyster Bar & Grill**

It's a hat-trick for The Maine, as the seafood spot wins for the third year in a row. Cool décor, great service, and mind-blowing lobster rolls.

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



### FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT

**Al Nafourah At Jumeirah  
Emirates Towers**

Delicious Lebanese food, with a focus on traditional, Al Nafourah is once again back on top as the city's finest Middle Eastern restaurant.

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



### FAVOURITE BRUNCH

**Wanderlust at JW Marriott  
Marquis Dubai**

Whether you're fresh off the plane or a Dubai brunch veteran, the JW Marriott Marquis Dubai Wanderlust brunch is always well-worthy. Forget moderation and prepare for a party.

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



### FAVOURITE ASIAN RESTAURANT

**Maiden Shanghai at FIVE Palm  
Jumeirah Dubai**

The combination of cool décor, prime views, and a menu of pan-Asian favourites with a sprinkling of nightclub vibes makes Maiden Shanghai a great choice.

[maidenrestaurant.dubai.fivepalmjumeirah.com](http://maidenrestaurant.dubai.fivepalmjumeirah.com)

62 What's On, 12.2019

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WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2019 // BEST RESTAURANTS ABOVE Dhs400



### FAVOURITE GREEK RESTAURANT

#### GAIA

Exquisite Greek food with a contemporary twist, we're not one bit surprised that Gaia won this award. Since opening at the tail end of last year this stylish restaurant has wowed with every bite. That southern carpaccio, in particular, is the stuff of dreams.

👉 [gaia-restaurant.com](http://gaia-restaurant.com)



### FAVOURITE MODERN AMERICAN

#### Chicago Meatpackers

The dog owners of Dubai rejoiced when Chicago Meatpackers opened. They could finally enjoy succulent steaks with their four-legged friends in tow. A beautiful location with a stunning view out towards Atlantis, The Palm, it's found at new dining destination at The Pointe.

👉 [chicagomeatpackers.com](http://chicagomeatpackers.com)



### FAVOURITE EUROPEAN RESTAURANT

#### The Beach House at Anantara The Palm Dubai Resort

A multi-award winner, a visit to The Beach House feels like an escape from the city. Choose a table on the terrace, soak up the sunshine, and tuck into pizza and seafood while you pretend you're in the Mediterranean.

👉 [anantara.com](http://anantara.com)



### FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT

#### Il Borro Tuscan Bistro

Inventive, consistent, humorous – Il Borro restaurant has won a What's On Award every year since it opened... and it deserves all its accolades. The service is excellent, and the food remarkable. Long may it reign.

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

64 What's On, 12.2019

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### FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT

**Masala Library by Jiggs Kaira at JW Marriott Marquis Dubai**

Prepare for an Indian culinary adventure at Masala Library, the hit new restaurant at JW Marriott Marquis Dubai that combines cultural heritage with modern-day cooking techniques. Be bold and try the 12-course tasting menu, which serves creative dishes from different provinces of the country. You'll be surprised - and delighted - by how unique every dish tastes.

[jwmarriottmarquisdubai.jw.com](https://jwmarriottmarquisdubai.jw.com)

### FAVOURITE STEAKHOUSE

**Porterhouse Steaks & Grills**

**At Sofitel Dubai The Palm Resort & Spa**

For fantastic steaks in a glamorous setting, Porterhouse knocks spots off the rest.

[sofitel-dubai-thepalm.com](https://sofitel-dubai-thepalm.com)



### FAVOURITE BRITISH

**Gordon Ramsay's Hell's Kitchen at Caesars Palace Bluewaters Dubai**

A relative newcomer, Gordon Ramsay's newest restaurant has quickly become a go-to for the expat in search for a slap-up Saturday roast or a comforting Beef Wellington.

[gordonramsayrestaurants.com](https://gordonramsayrestaurants.com)



### FAVOURITE LATIN AMERICAN RESTAURANT

**Lima Dubai**

Dubai diners can't get enough of Lima's perfect Peruvian dishes prepared with authentic Latin America flair by friendly chefs.

[limadubai.com](https://limadubai.com)



### FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT

**Akira Back at W Dubai**

**- The Palm**

Offering innovative twists on Japanese favourites in a mega-glam environment. Don't leave without trying the signature tuna pizzas.

[w.marriott.com](https://w.marriott.com)



### FAVOURITE ALL DAY DINING

**Jones the Grocer**

There's a lot to love about the new Jones the Grocer at The Dubai Mall. It has a fantastic wraparound terrace overlooking the Dubai Fountain and the Artisan cheese and cured meats platters are delicious.

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

12.2019, What's On, 85

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## CONCEPTS



### FAVOURITE CAFE

**Nightjar Coffee Roasters**

If there's one man who knows his coffee, it's Leon Styrski. Keen to satisfy the growing demand for artisanal craft coffee, he opened Nightjar in Alserkal. The cool café roasts and brews its coffee onsite. It's packed most weekends and for good reason. The food is just as good as the brews.

[nightjar.coffee](http://nightjar.coffee)



### FAVOURITE PUB GRUB

**The Irish Village, Garhoud**

For over 20 years, The Irish Village has offered the fall-safe combo of live music, good quality pub grub and great music. No matter what day of the week you pay a visit to this spot, you'll find it filled with people and laughter.

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



### FAVOURITE AFTERNOON TEA

**Quintessential Afternoon Tea, The Lobby Lounge At The Ritz-Carlton, Dubai JBR**

This is arguably the UAE's most iconic afternoon tea spot. The service is friendly, the finger sandwiches dainty and delicious, and the people-watching is first class.

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



### FAVOURITE BUSINESS LUNCH

**Brothaus Bakery-Bistro At Steigenberger Hotel Business Bay**

A special and a drink for Dh60 sounds like a pretty decent deal to us, and judging by the number of votes this cosmopolitan German bakery received, it's a winner in your eyes, too.

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



### FAVOURITE HEALTHY EATING RESTAURANT

**Comptoir 102**

A regular recipient of this particular What's On Award, Comptoir 102 was arguably the pioneer of the city's now thriving health food scene, and continues to be a firm favourite, serving up food that is sustainable, nutritious, and undeniably delicious.

[comptoir102.com](http://comptoir102.com)

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WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2019 // BEST SPAS AND SALONS

## SPAS AND SALONS

**FAVOURITE FITNESS FACILITY**  
*GymNation at Al Quoz*

**FAVOURITE SPA**  
*Sofitel SPA at Sofitel Dubai The Palm Resort & Spa*

**FAVOURITE BARBERS**  
*The Art of Shaving, City Walk*

**FAVOURITE NAIL BAR**  
*N.Bar at Shoreline, The Palm Jumeirah*

**FAVOURITE HAIR SALON**  
*Marquee at Dubai Marina Gate*

## SPONSORED CATEGORY

**THE STELLA ARTOIS PERFECT SERVE**  
*Kickers Sports Bar*

Once again Stella Artois has partnered with What's On to deliver the Perfect Serve award. Stella Artois's very own sommelier has meticulously trained bar staff at some of the top venues, teaching them how to perform the perfect four-step pour of the Belgian ale brand. Congratulations to this year's winners Kickers Sports Bar. This popular watering hole at Dubai Sports City is the ultimate sports bar with a relaxed atmosphere, fantastic pub grub and of course it serves an excellent pint.

[kickersportsbar.ae](https://www.kickersportsbar.ae)

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WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2019 // BEST ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS



# BEST ENTERTAINMENT

& EVENTS



### FAVOURITE BAR

**Nola Eatery & Social House**

Who would have thought that Cluster F in JLT would become such a little nightlife spot? And that's thanks in part to this hugely popular little New Orleans-inspired bar. With great drink deals, a popular ladies' night, and excellent Deep-South-style cuisine (beignets, anyone?), it's no wonder Nola is your favourite bar in Dubai.

[nola-social.com](http://nola-social.com)





### FAVOURITE NIGHTCLUB

**White Dubai**

White Dubai at Meydan has welcomed stars including Backstreet Boys, Justin Bieber and Tinie Tempah, firmly establishing itself as the city's finest open-air super club.

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



### FAVOURITE DUBAI APP

**Moonshine**

This homegrown UAE-based app helps its members locate and receive free or discounted drinks, plus a range of other event offers around town. You can also find out what events are happening.

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



### FAVOURITE BEACH DAY

**Nikki Beach Dubai**

Unsurprisingly, one of the world's best beach club brands is also your favourite in Dubai. Nikki Beach Dubai is perched on the edge of Pearl Jumeira, and is designed to wow.

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

29, What's On, 12.2019

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### FAVOURITE ATTRACTION TEPfactor Dubai

Think of the 1990s TV show *The Crystal Maze* and you'll have some idea of what you're getting yourself into at TEPfactor Dubai. Teams dramatically dash around 21 different challenges, testing their patience, skill, fitness and logic. It's the ultimate adventure experience and your top attraction in the city.

by [tepfactor.ae](http://tepfactor.ae)



### FAVOURITE FESTIVAL RedFestDXB at Dubai Media City Amphitheatre

It's not easy to get a festival right. There are many factors that go can wrong. Bad line-up. Queuing chaos. Scratchy sound systems. Not enough food and drink. Thankfully, RedFestDXB smashed it out of the park in 2019, and its artists, including Camila Cabello, DJ Snake and Macklemore, put on a show to remember.

by [redfestdxb.com](http://redfestdxb.com)



### FAVOURITE CONCERT OR SHOW Maroon 5 Live In Dubai at Coca-Cola Arena

Performing their first UAE gig in over eight years, Maroon 5 brought their 'Red Pill Blues Tour' to Dubai this June for a region-exclusive performance inside the brand-new, Coca-Cola Arena. Tickets sold out swiftly, and the show was sensational.

by [coca-cola.arena.ae](http://coca-cola.arena.ae)



### FAVOURITE LADIES' NIGHT Atelier M at Pier 7 Dubai Marina

Located at the top of Pier 7, Atelier M's excellent ladies' night deal includes two drinks and a set menu for Dhs390, followed by four free drinks at the lounge, followed by another four free drinks on the rooftop. With that little lot you're bound to have a fantastic night, but a pretty sore head in the morning.

by [atelierm.ae](http://atelierm.ae)



### FAVOURITE SPORTING EVENT Emirates Airline Dubai Rugby Sevens

It's one of the biggest weekends on Dubai's jam-packed calendar, drawing a huge, fancy dress-clad crowd to the Sevens Stadium year after year. The combination of the entertainment and the unfurlingly brilliant atmosphere makes sports fans of us all.

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

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WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2019 // BEST RESTAURANTS UNDER DHS400



## BEST RESTAURANTS

UNDER DHS400



### FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Da Vinci's Restaurant at Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai



### FAVOURITE BRITISH RESTAURANT

Retro Feasts At The Beach  
by Meraas



### FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT

Zafran Indian Bistro, Mirdif City  
Centre



### FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT

Miyako at Hyatt Regency Dubai

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**FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT**  
Majlis Al Sultan Cafe



**FAVOURITE GREEK RESTAURANT**  
Mythos Kouzina & Grill



**FAVOURITE BRUNCH**  
Supernatural At Zero Gravity



**FAVOURITE ASIAN RESTAURANT**  
Streetery Food Hall By Zen



**FAVOURITE MODERN AMERICAN RESTAURANT**  
Burger & Lobster



**FAVOURITE EUROPEAN RESTAURANT**  
Riva Ristorante At Riva Beach Club



**FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT**  
Aprons & Hammers at The Beach by Meraas



**FAVOURITE STEAKHOUSE**  
Turkish Steak Restaurant & Cafe



**FAVOURITE LATIN AMERICAN**  
Mama Zonia Dubai

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**WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2019 // PARTY PICTURES**

### THE BIG NIGHT

With more than 1,000 guests, the What's On Awards was not only our most successful to date but also helped round off our 500th print issue celebrations, 40th Anniversary year and incredible digital growth. UAE society was there in force – from long-time supporters to new friends of What's On...











**THE BIG WINNERS**

01 Ian Fairweather welcomes guests 02 Full house at Media City Amphitheatre 03 Indra Kasaria and Jan Linn 04 Tariq Salim, Robert McEwan, Mohammed Sheraif 05 Ian presenting OUTGO Chairman Award 06 Ahmed Farouk, and Jamal Al Shami 07 Emirates' Boukris Brothers, Ian, and Anna Boudier 08 The GAA team accepting the award for What's On Restaurant of the Year

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

09 British Consul General HE Andrew Jackson, 1st, and Mohan Vemuri 10 Abdulla Jubari, Ahmed Baker, Zayed Baker, 1st, and Mohammed Al Nouni 11 Mrs. Maloum Umetsawa and Consul General of Japan HE Dr. Akira Umetsawa 12 The Dolce & Gabbana Avenue and Shree Firefly teams with the Favourite Concert award 13 Jo Maufette and Jihan Connor 14 Laura Coughlin, Elaine Kelly and Dina Ghendour 15 The Boshonaa 16 Middle Eastern cuisine from JA Finearts & Hotel restaurant Providence

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WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2019 // PARTY PICTURES

17 Master of Ceremonies, Tom Unghart  
18 Motorino Pizzeria team 19 The Neghar team celebrate winning Favourite Cafe  
20 Issue 500 of What's On magazine  
21 The Buzzies 22 3 Pellegrino refreshments  
23 The Fairservice family 24 An edited TEPlastic Dubai team with the award for Favourite Attraction

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25 Mohammed Ghazal, Mohan Vahan, Mohammed Al Noori, the Fairness family and winners 26 Merla Fareschi 27 Ahmed Elkas, Anna and David Fairness 28 Tounon Thakern team 29 Masouda founders Faten and Rana 30 What's On 40th anniversary cake courtesy of JA Resorts & Hotels 31 Fata, Fata and (boards team) 32 Winners celebrate on stage



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



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

33 Mikyal Narayanan, Tarun Singh and Omran Naseem 34 The Boxtones  
36 Faliha Maghazil 38 Kity-Carlton Dubai J/BF team 37 Complete 102 team  
39 Aine Hoffman and Josh Pagan 39 Alison Haraghi 40 Shola Doozanza, Perry Thokohem, Auri Saadabhai, Lauren Fletcher, Sam Djoent, Elin Kier and Laura Coughlin

78, What's On, 12.2019

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