WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2025 DUBAI

POST-EVENT REPORT

WhatsOn.ae WhatsOnDubai #WOAwards

Sponsors

OOKA

Hilton
DUBAI PALM JUMEIRAH

LUXURY SUPERCAR RENTALS

SANI RESORT

Culinary Partner	Beverage Partner	Printing Partner	Vote Processing Partner	Structural Partner
JA RESORTS & HOTELS	african + eastern	Al Ghurair Printing and Publishing	JACOBSONS better experiences	ALL EVENTS SERVICES

Presented By

MOTIVATE MEDIA GROUP

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

THANK YOU

Motivate Media Group would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to our sponsors for what was a hugely successful evening celebrating the very best of Dubai and Northern Emirates' hospitality, leisure and entertainment industry.

We hope you enjoyed the event, and we look forward to working with you in the near future.

Thanks again,
Motivate Media Group Events Team

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

THE VENUE

Dubai Media City's amphitheatre offers extraordinary event spaces in Dubai which can accommodate up to 15,000 guests and provide full operational support, ensuring a flawless experience.

Located in the heart of Dubai Media City, the amphitheatre is easily accessible and come with extensive food and beverage options, making every event a memorable one. Their open-air design fosters an exceptional ambiance for an engaging experience that captivates every member of the audience.

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

INVITATION

1,000 guests including C-suite leaders, general managers, and stakeholders from the hospitality industry attended the What's On Dubai Awards.

Forty two awards were presented to well-deserved winners.

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

THE ORANGE CARPET

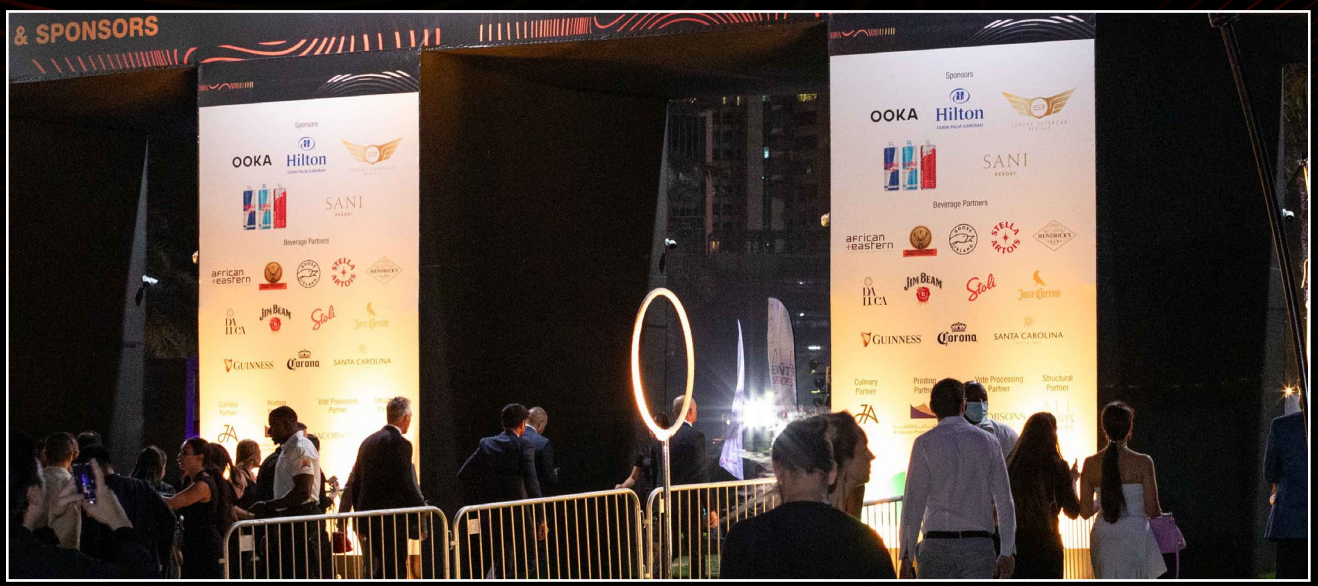
WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

THE ORANGE CARPET

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

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, outdoor signage and ballroom banners, etc.

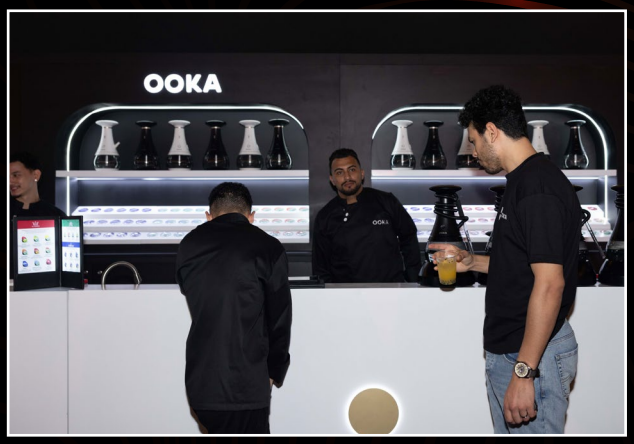


WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

EVENT BRANDING

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

SPONSOR-OOKA



MONIQUE BUITENDAG - Head of Offline, CHRIS TARABAY - Senior Manager HORECA, and Luigi Bologna - General Manager, OOKA, presented the following awards:

- Fine Dining Indian Restaurant
- Favourite Fine Dining Italian Restaurant
- Favourite Fine Dining Japanese Restaurant

FAVOURITE FINE DINING INDIAN RESTAURANT
Kinara By Vikas Khanna, JA Lake View Hotel

FAVOURITE FINE DINING ITALIAN RESTAURANT
The Artisan

FAVOURITE FINE DINING JAPANESE RESTAURANT
Salvaje Dubai

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

SPONSOR-RED BULL

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

SPONSOR-LUXURY SUPERCARS

Claire Salvador and Alona Pyvovar, Luxury Supercars Rental, presented the following awards:

- Favourite Casual Latin American Restaurant
- Favourite Casual Mediterranean Restaurant
- Favourite Casual Middle Eastern Restaurant

FAVOURITE CASUAL LATIN AMERICAN RESTAURANT
Frevo, Fairmont The Palm

FAVOURITE CASUAL MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT
Lana Lusa

FAVOURITE CASUAL MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT
Huqqabaz Garden

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

SPONSOR-JA RESORTS & HOTELS

FAVOURITE BRASSERIE
Rare Brasserie & Bar

FAVOURITE FRENCH RESTAURANT
Couqley Downtown

Murad Ahmed, the Cluster General Manager of JA Beach Hotel, JA Lake View Hotel, JA Palm Tree Court, presented the following awards:

- Favourite Brasserie
- Favourite French Restaurant

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

SPONSOR- AFRICAN+EASTERN

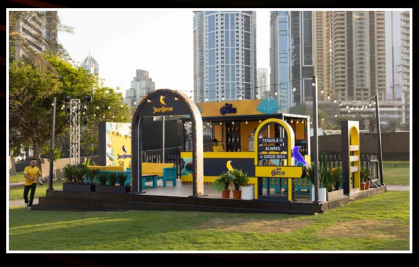
FAVOURITE CASUAL INDIAN RESTAURANT
Rohini By Little Miss India, Mövenpick Hotel Jumeirah Lakes Towers

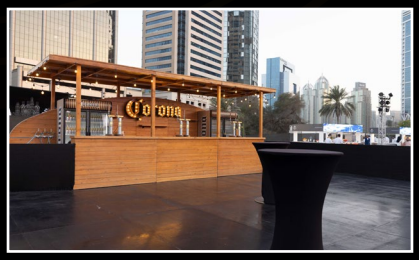
FAVOURITE CASUAL ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Arrogante Dubai

FAVOURITE CASUAL JAPANESE RESTAURANT
Kinoya Restaurant

David Beattie, the General Manager of Sales for African & Eastern – UAE On Trade, presented the following awards:

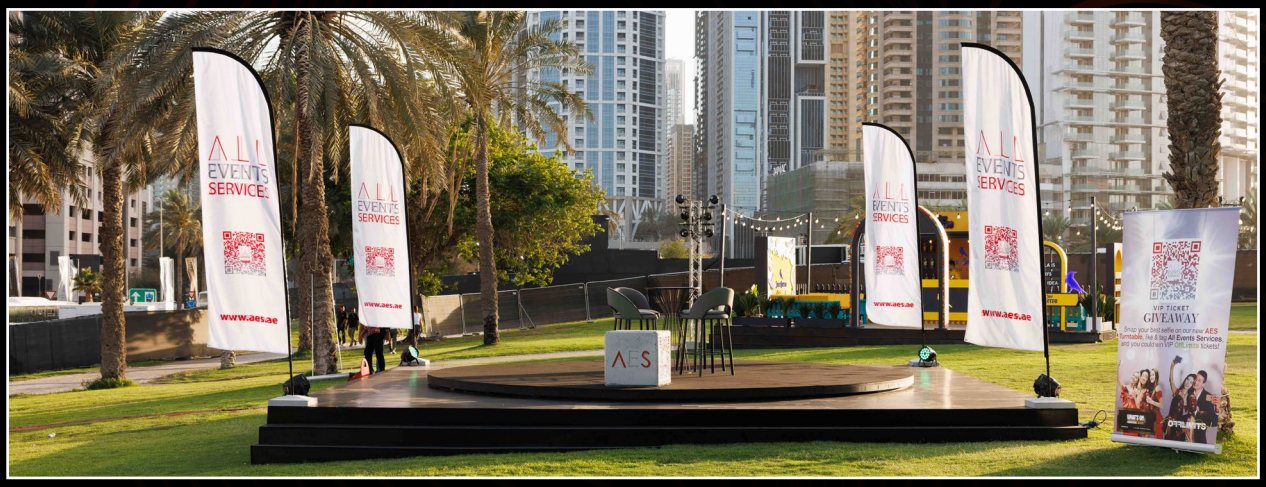
- Favourite Casual Indian Restaurant
- Favourite Casual Italian Restaurant
- Favourite Casual Japanese Restaurant





WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

SPONSOR-AES



JJ Trichardt, Founder and Managing Partner of All Events Services, presented the following awards:

- Favourite Attraction
- Favourite Concert, Show, or Festival
- Favourite Bar

FAVOURITE ATTRACTION
Topgolf Dubai

FAVOURITE CONCERT, SHOW OR FESTIVAL
Bohemia, FIVE Palm Jumeirah

FAVOURITE BAR
Amelia Dubai

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

SPONSOR-JACOBSONS

Ashley Jacob, the Director of Jacobsons Direct, presented the following awards:

- Favourite Casual Asian Restaurant
- Favourite Casual Brunch: Buffet

FAVOURITE CASUAL ASIAN RESTAURANT
ZETA Seventy Seven, Address Beach Resort

FAVOURITE CASUAL BRUNCH: BUFFET
Wanderlust, JW Marriott Marquis Hotel Dubai

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

WINNERS

EDITOR'S CHOICE

WHAT'S ON RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
FZN Dubai Atlantis, The Palm

WHAT'S ON CHEF OF THE YEAR
Salam Daqqaq

WHAT'S ON HOMEGROWN RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
Moonrise

WHAT'S ON NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR
Gigi Dubai

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

WINNERS

ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

FAVOURITE SPA
The Pearl Spa and Wellness, Four Seasons Resort Dubai at Jumeirah Beach

FAVOURITE CONCERT, SHOW OR FESTIVAL
Bohemia, FIVE Palm Jumeirah

FAVOURITE STAYCATION: NORTHERN EMIRATES
Rixos Al Mairid Ras Al Khaimah

FAVOURITE STAYCATION: DUBAI
Hilton Dubai Palm Jumeirah

FAVOURITE DAYCATION
Maison Revka

FAVOURITE ATTRACTION
Topgolf Dubai

FAVOURITE BAR
Amelia Dubai

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

WINNERS

FOOD CONCEPTS

FAVOURITE BREAKFAST
BohoX

FAVOURITE BURGER
The Meat Avenue

FAVOURITE BUSINESS LUNCH
CÉ LA VI Dubai

FAVOURITE CAFÉ
Risen

FAVOURITE PUB GRUB
UBK, Mövenpick Jumeirah Lakes Towers

FAVOURITE PET-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT
Tap & Grill, Jumeirah Golf Estates

FAVOURITE ALFRESCO RESTAURANT
Tagomago

FAVOURITE AFTERNOON TEA
Balloons at the Palace, Jumeirah Al Qasr

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

WINNERS

CASUAL RESTAURANTS

FAVOURITE CASUAL ASIAN RESTAURANT
ZETA Seventy Seven, Address Beach Resort

FAVOURITE CASUAL INDIAN RESTAURANT
Rohini By Little Miss India, Mövenpick Hotel Jumeirah Lakes Towers

FAVOURITE CASUAL BRUNCH: BUFFET
Wanderlust, JW Marriott Marquis Hotel Dubai

FAVOURITE CASUAL ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Arrogante Dubai

FAVOURITE CASUAL JAPANESE RESTAURANT
Kinoya Restaurant

FAVOURITE CASUAL LATIN AMERICAN RESTAURANT
Frevo, Fairmont The Palm

FAVOURITE CASUAL MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT
Lana Lusa

FAVOURITE CASUAL MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT
Huqqabaz Garden

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

WINNERS

RESTAURANTS

FAVOURITE RESTAURANT: NORTHERN EMIRATES
Mekong, Anantara Mina Ras Al Khaimah Resort

FAVOURITE BRUNCH: À LA CARTE
Tasca by José Avillez,
Mandarin Oriental Jumeira, Dubai

FAVOURITE ALL-DAY DINING RESTAURANT
Huqqabaz Dubai

FAVOURITE STEAKHOUSE
Porterhouse Bar & Grill,
Sofitel Dubai The Palm

FAVOURITE BRASSERIE
Rare Brasserie & Bar

FAVOURITE FRENCH RESTAURANT
Couqley Downtown

FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
The Maine Oyster Bar and Grill

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

WINNERS

FINE DINING RESTAURANTS

FAVOURITE FINE DINING ASIAN RESTAURANT
Jun's

FAVOURITE FINE DINING BRUNCH: BUFFET
Al Qasr Brunch, Jumeirah Al Qasr

FAVOURITE FINE DINING INDIAN RESTAURANT
Kinara By Vikas Khanna, JA Lake View Hotel

FAVOURITE FINE DINING ITALIAN RESTAURANT
The Artisan

FAVOURITE FINE DINING JAPANESE RESTAURANT
Salvaje Dubai

FAVOURITE FINE DINING LATIN AMERICAN RESTAURANT
La Niña Dubai

FAVOURITE FINE DINING MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT
Spica Dubai

FAVOURITE FINE DINING MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT
Ninive Bab Al Shams

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

THE HIGHLY COMMENDED

ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

FAVOURITE SPA
Cinq Mondes Spa at Raffles The Palm Dubai
Sofitel Spa with L'Occitane

FAVOURITE DAYCATION
Be Beach
Nikki Beach Dubai

FAVOURITE STAYCATION: NORTHERN EMIRATES
Anantara Mina, Ras Al Khaimah Resort
InterContinental Ras Al Khaimah,Mina Al Arab Resort & Spa

FAVOURITE STAYCATION: DUBAI
Address Beach Resort
Sofitel Dubai The Palm

FAVOURITE ATTRACTION
Aquaventure World,
Atlantis, The Palm
Aura Skypool

FAVOURITE CONCERT, SHOW OR FESTIVAL
Phantom of the Opera at Dubai Opera
Snoopy Beats

FAVOURITE BAR
Mimi Kakushi
Paradiso Dubai, FIVE LUXE

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

THE HIGHLY COMMENDED

FOOD CONCEPTS

FAVOURITE BREAKFAST
Mina Brasserie, Four Seasons Hotel DIFC
Zouzou Dubai

FAVOURITE AFTERNOON TEA
Mashrabiya Lounge, Fairmont The Palm
Noor Lounge, Mandarin Oriental Jumeira, Dubai

FAVOURITE BUSINESS LUNCH
Eugène Eugène
Nobu Dubai

FAVOURITE CAFÉ
The Coffee Club
Unwind Café

FAVOURITE PUB GRUB
The Croft, Dubai Marriott Harbour Hotel & Suites
Toad in the Hole, Topgolf Dubai

FAVOURITE BURGER
Slaw
Smokd Eatery

FAVOURITE PET-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT
Beach By FIVE Deck, FIVE Palm Jumeirah
Lila Molino + Café

FAVOURITE ALFRESCO RESTAURANT
Nuska Beach, Jumeirah Beach Hotel
Surf Club

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

THE HIGHLY COMMENDED

CASUAL RESTAURANTS

FAVOURITE CASUAL ASIAN RESTAURANT
Andaliman, One&Only One Za'abeel
Vietnamese Foodies

FAVOURITE CASUAL BRUNCH: BUFFET
Amalfi Brunch at Vero, Hilton Dubai Jumeirah
SoulCaliCool Brunch at Soul St., FIVE Jumeirah Village

FAVOURITE CASUAL INDIAN RESTAURANT
Indya By Vineet, Le Royal Meridien Beach Resort & Spa
Rang

FAVOURITE CASUAL ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Fi'lia, SLS Dubai Hotel & Residences
Luigia Dubai

FAVOURITE CASUAL LATIN AMERICAN RESTAURANT
Fusion Ceviche
Lila Wood-Fired Taqueria

FAVOURITE CASUAL MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT
Em Sherif Café
Samakjë Dubai

FAVOURITE CASUAL JAPANESE RESTAURANT
Izakaya, JW Marriott Marquis Hotel Dubai
Kata

FAVOURITE CASUAL MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT
OIA Greek Restaurant & Pool Lounge, JA Ocean View Hotel
Taverna

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

THE HIGHLY COMMENDED

RESTAURANTS

FAVOURITE BRUNCH: À LA CARTE
Demon Duck, Banyan Tree Dubai
The Maine Oyster Bar and Grill

FAVOURITE ALL-DAY DINING RESTAURANT
Kitchen6, JW Marriott Marquis Hotel Dubai
Trove Restaurant

FAVOURITE BRASSERIE
CQ French Brasserie
The Maine Land Brasserie

FAVOURITE FRENCH RESTAURANT
Drift Beach, One&Only Royal Mirage
La Dame de Pic, One&Only One Za'abeel

FAVOURITE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
Aprons and Hammers
Ibn Albahr Restaurant

FAVOURITE STEAKHOUSE
Leña Dubai
Smoki Moto Dubai, Marriott Resort Palm Jumeirah

FAVOURITE RESTAURANT: NORTHERN EMIRATES
Orient Restaurant, Rixos Al Mairid Ras Al Khaimah
Spice Grill

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

THE HIGHLY COMMENDED

FINE DINING RESTAURANTS

FAVOURITE FINE DINING BRUNCH: BUFFET
London Social Garden Brunch at The Ritz-Carlton, Dubai
Traiteur Brunch, Park Hyatt Dubai

FAVOURITE FINE DINING ASIAN RESTAURANT
Ronin, FIVE LUXE
SHI Restaurant & Lounge

FAVOURITE FINE DINING INDIAN RESTAURANT
Little Miss India, Fairmont The Palm
Tresind Studio

FAVOURITE FINE DINING ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Chic Nonna
Il Borro Tuscan Bistro Dubai

FAVOURITE FINE DINING JAPANESE RESTAURANT
Akira Back Dubai, W Dubai - The Palm
Sushisamba Dubai

FAVOURITE FINE DINING LATIN AMERICAN RESTAURANT
Coya Dubai
Sucre Dubai

FAVOURITE FINE DINING MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT
Estiatorio Milos Dubai, Atlantis The Royal
Tatel Dubai

FAVOURITE FINE DINING MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT
Alaya Dubai
Amaseena Dubai, The Ritz-Carlton Dubai

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

PRE-EVENT MARKETING

PRINT ADS

EVENT ADS WERE PLACED IN WHAT'S ON DUBAI, WHAT'S ON ABU DHABI, CAMPAIGN, GOLF DIGEST AND GULF BUSINESS WITH READERSHIP OF OVER 200,000

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

PRE-EVENT MARKETING

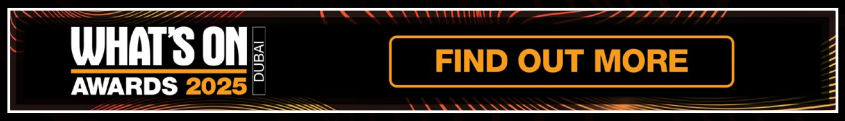
PRINT ADS

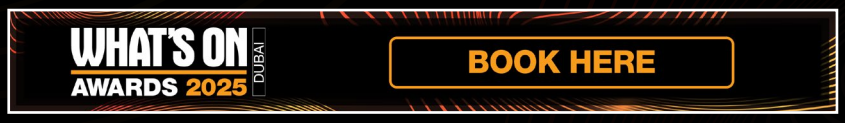
EVENT ADS WERE PLACED IN WHAT'S ON DUBAI, WHAT'S ON ABU DHABI, CAMPAIGN, GOLF DIGEST AND GULF BUSINESS WITH READERSHIP OF OVER 200,000

WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2025 DUBAI

PRE-EVENT MARKETING

EMAIL SIGNATURES

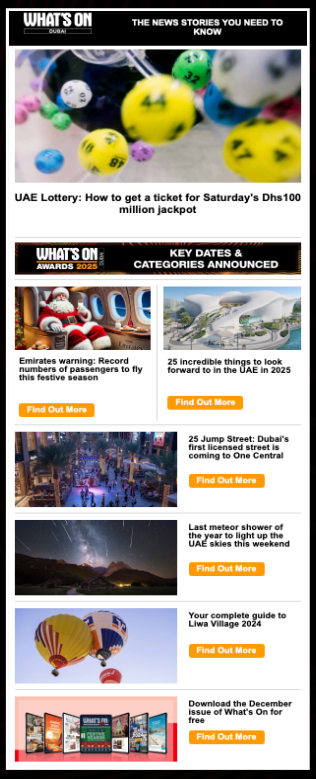


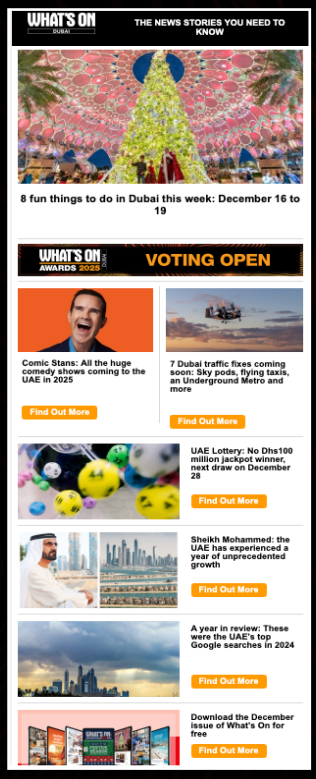


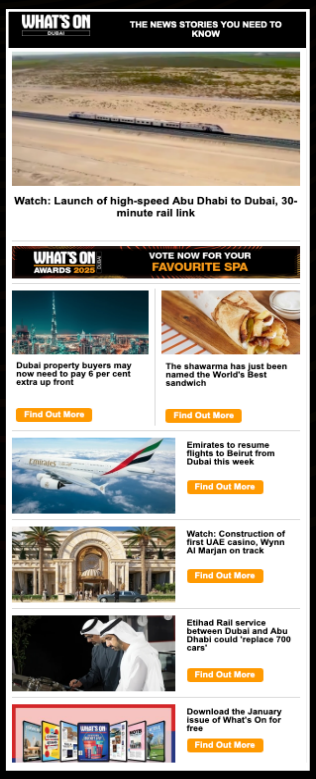
WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

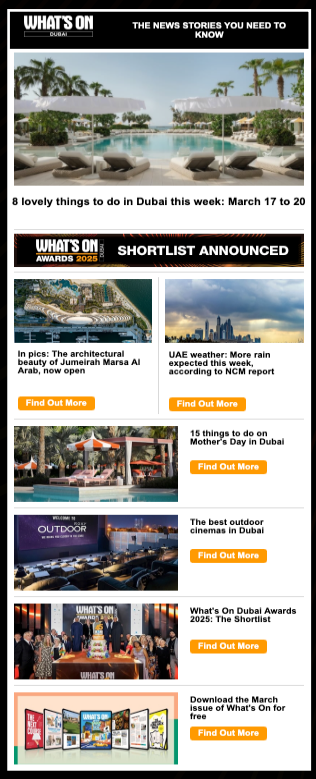
PRE-EVENT MARKETING

NEWSLETTER BANNERS









WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2025 DUBAI

PRE-EVENT MARKETING

EDMs

EDMS WERE SENT OUT TO THE WHAT'S ON DUBAI, WHAT'S ON ABU DHABI, CAMPAIGN, GOLF DIGEST, BUSINESS TRAVELLER MIDDLE EAST AND GULF BUSINESS DATABASES OF OVER 180,000 SUBSCRIBERS

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

PRE-EVENT MARKETING

EDMs

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

PRE-EVENT MARKETING

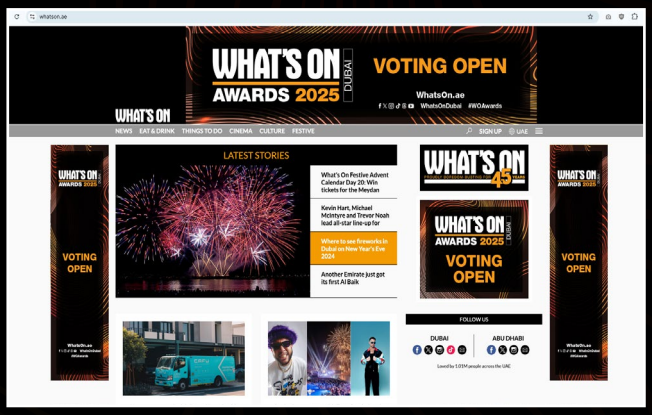
DIRECT MAILS

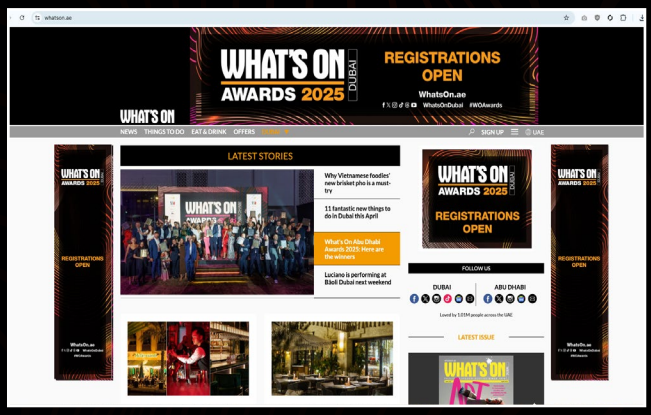
DIRECT MAIL INVITATIONS AND REMINDERS WERE SENT TO OVER 1,000 ATTENDEES, SPONSORS, AND PARTNERS

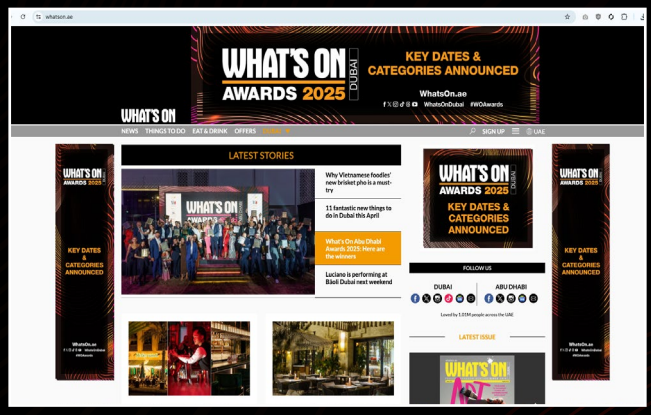
WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

PRE-EVENT MARKETING

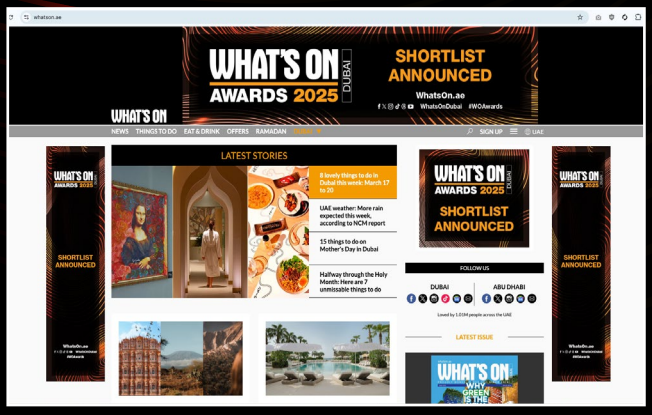
DIGITAL BANNERS

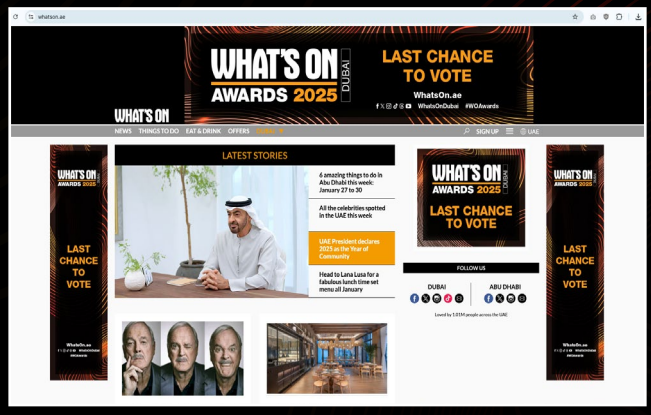






DIGITAL BANNERS WERE PLACED ON WHAT'S ON DUBAI, WHAT'S ON ABU DHABI, CAMPAIGN, GOLF DIGEST, GULF BUSINESS, BUSINESS TRAVELLER, WITH MORE THAN 700,000 IMPRESSIONS SERVED

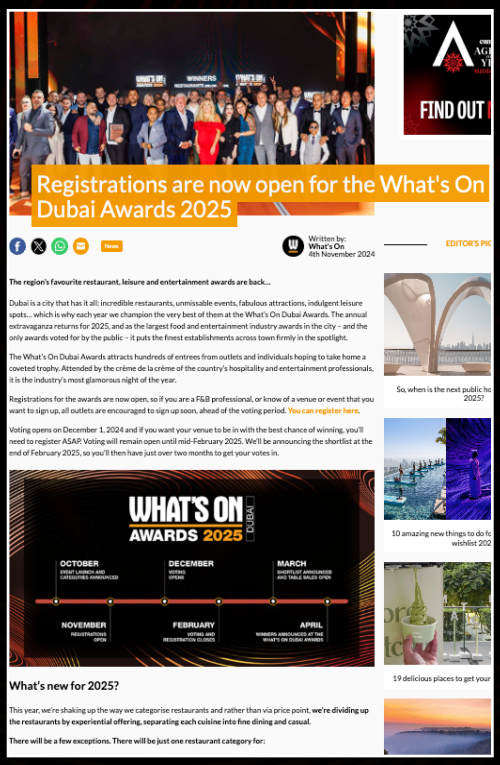


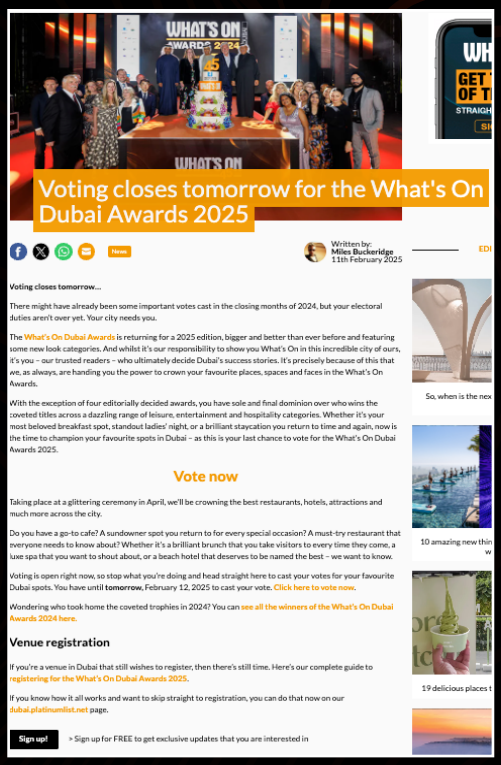


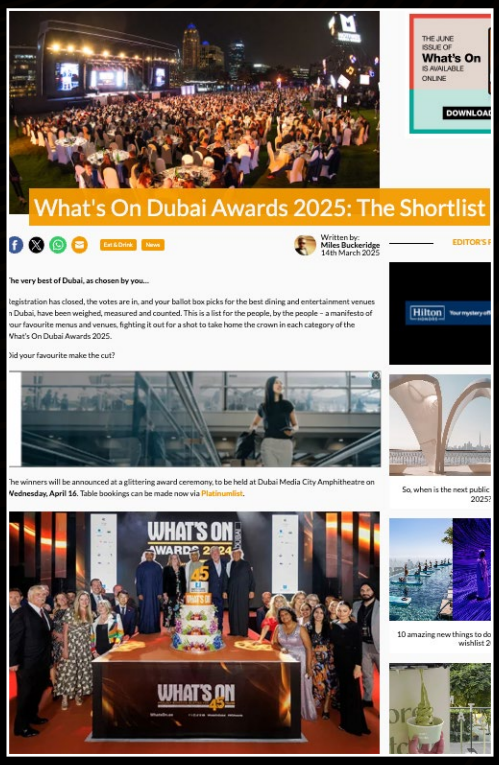
WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

PRE-EVENT MARKETING

ONLINE ARTICLES







WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

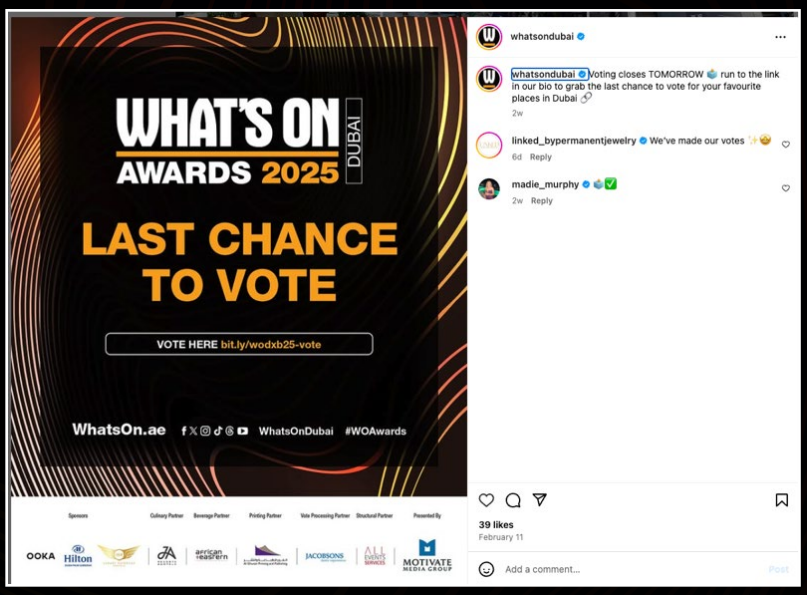
PRE-EVENT MARKETING

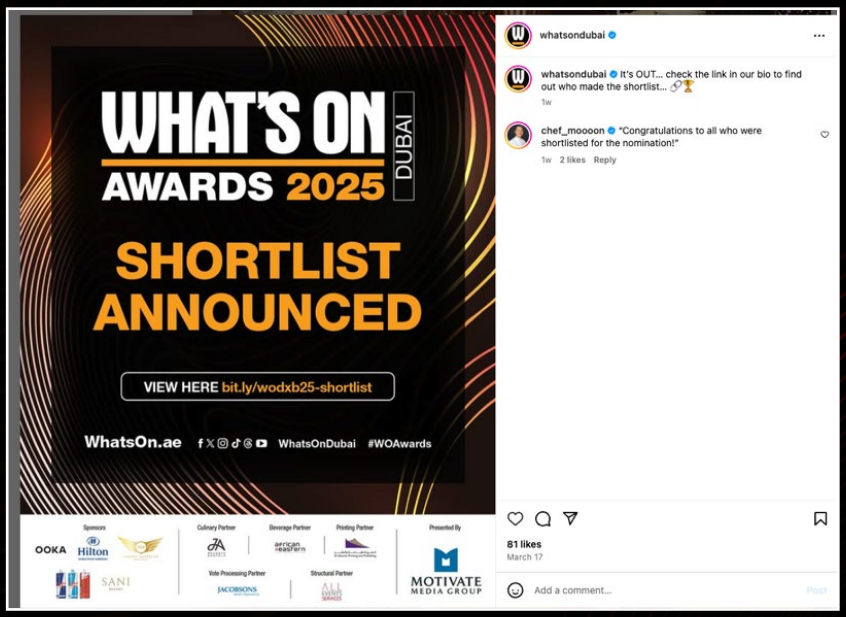
SOCIAL MEDIA

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

PRE-EVENT MARKETING

SOCIAL MEDIA

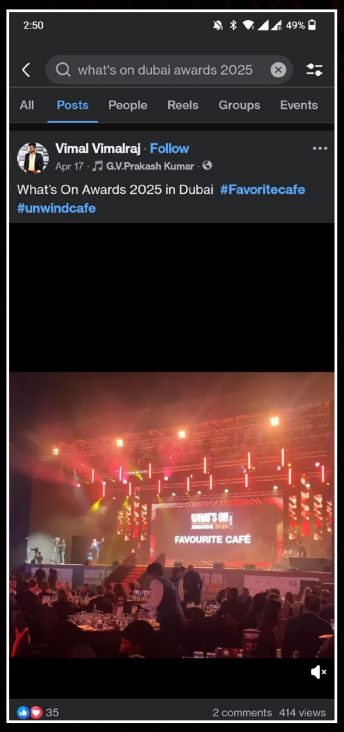


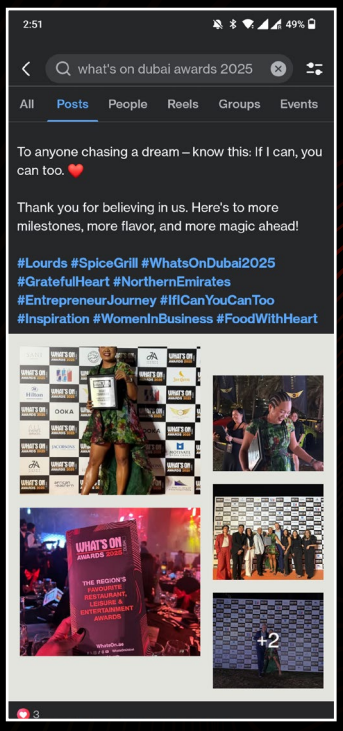


WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

LIVE EVENT SOCIAL MEDIA FEED

AT THE EVENT

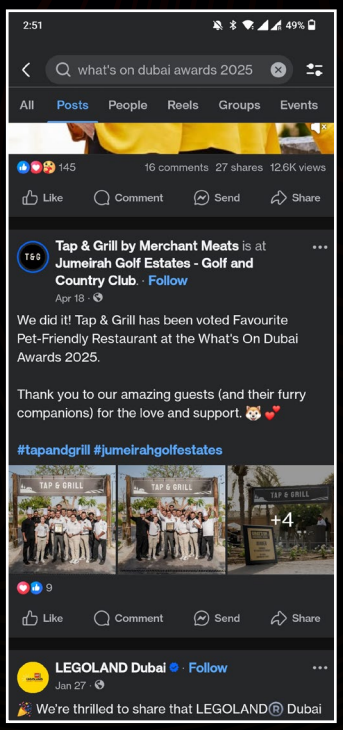


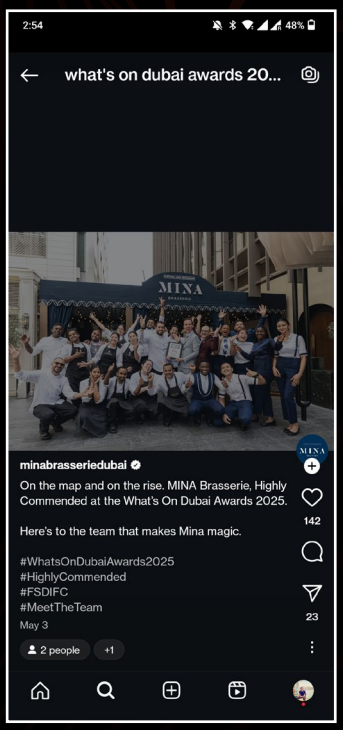


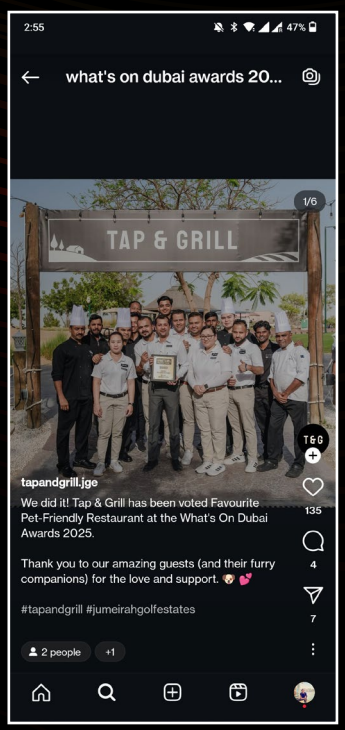
WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

LIVE EVENT SOCIAL MEDIA FEED

AT THE EVENT







WHAT'S ON AWARDS 2025 DUBAI

POST-EVENT MARKETING

EMAIL SIGNATURE
WINNER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

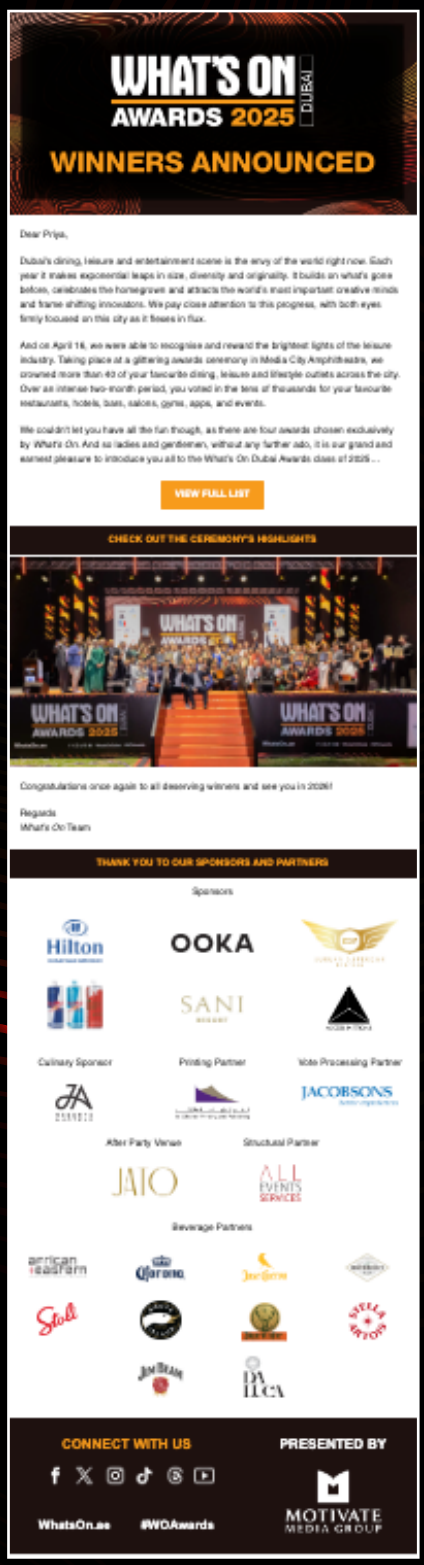
PRINT AD
WINNER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

EVENT ADS WERE PLACED ON WHAT'S ON DUBAI, WHAT'S ON ABU DHABI, CAMPAIGN, GOLF DIGEST AND GULF BUSINESS WITH READERSHIP OF OVER 200,000

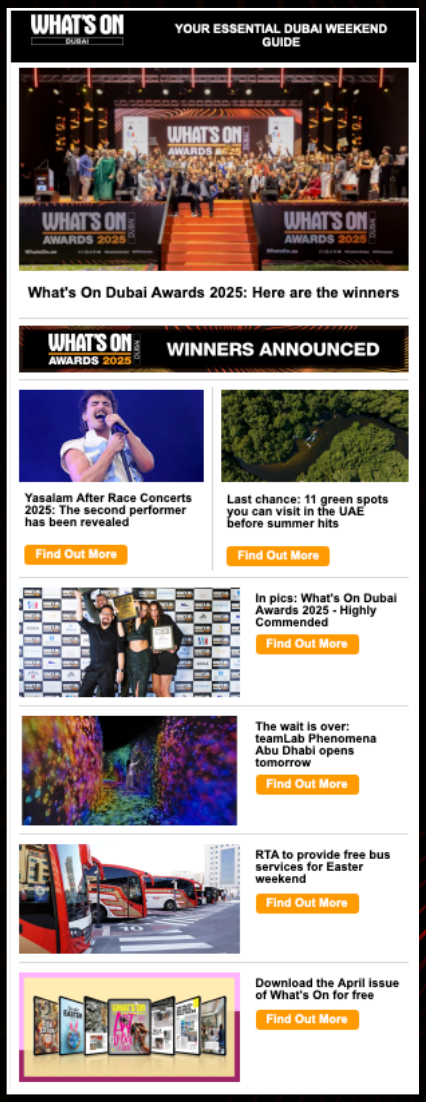
WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

POST-EVENT MARKETING

EDMs WINNER'S ANNOUNCEMENT



NEWSLETTER BANNER WINNER'S ANNOUNCEMENT



EDMS WERE SENT OUT TO THE WHAT'S ON DUBAI, WHAT'S ON ABU DHABI, CAMPAIGN, GOLF DIGEST, BUSINESS TRAVELLER MIDDLE EAST AND GULF BUSINESS DATABASES OF OVER 180,000 SUBSCRIBERS

WHAT'S ON DUBAI
AWARDS 2025

POST-EVENT MARKETING

ONLINE ARTICLE
WINNER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

What's On Dubai Awards 2025: Here are the winners

News

Written by:
What's On
17th April 2025

EDITOR'S

These are officially the best restaurants, hotels, chefs, events, cafes and spas in Dubai...

Dubai's hospitality and entertainment scene really is the envy of the world right now – and for good reason. The pace of its development, the strength and depth of homegrown ingenuity, and the critical mass of its creative core – draws in globally recognised talent and the biggest names in the business, just so they too can get a seat at the grand table. All of it together, puts Dubai in a league of its own.

And because it's our job to show off and celebrate the best of *What's On* in this city, each year we host our annual What's On Awards Dubai, where you get to decide who takes home the winner's trophies and bragging rights. On April 16, in a glittering awards ceremony, we crowned your favourite dining, leisure and lifestyle outlets across the city, across a huge 38 categories. Together, you churned out a record-breaking ballot tally, with more than 100,000 votes registered in a rigorous three-month period.

We couldn't let you have all the fun though, as there are four awards chosen exclusively by *What's On* – these are Restaurant of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Chef of the Year, and Homegrown Restaurant of the Year. We won't keep you in suspense a moment longer, here are your winners for 2025...

Editors' Choice

What's On Restaurant of the Year: FZN Dubai, Atlantis, The Palm

So, when is the next public
2025

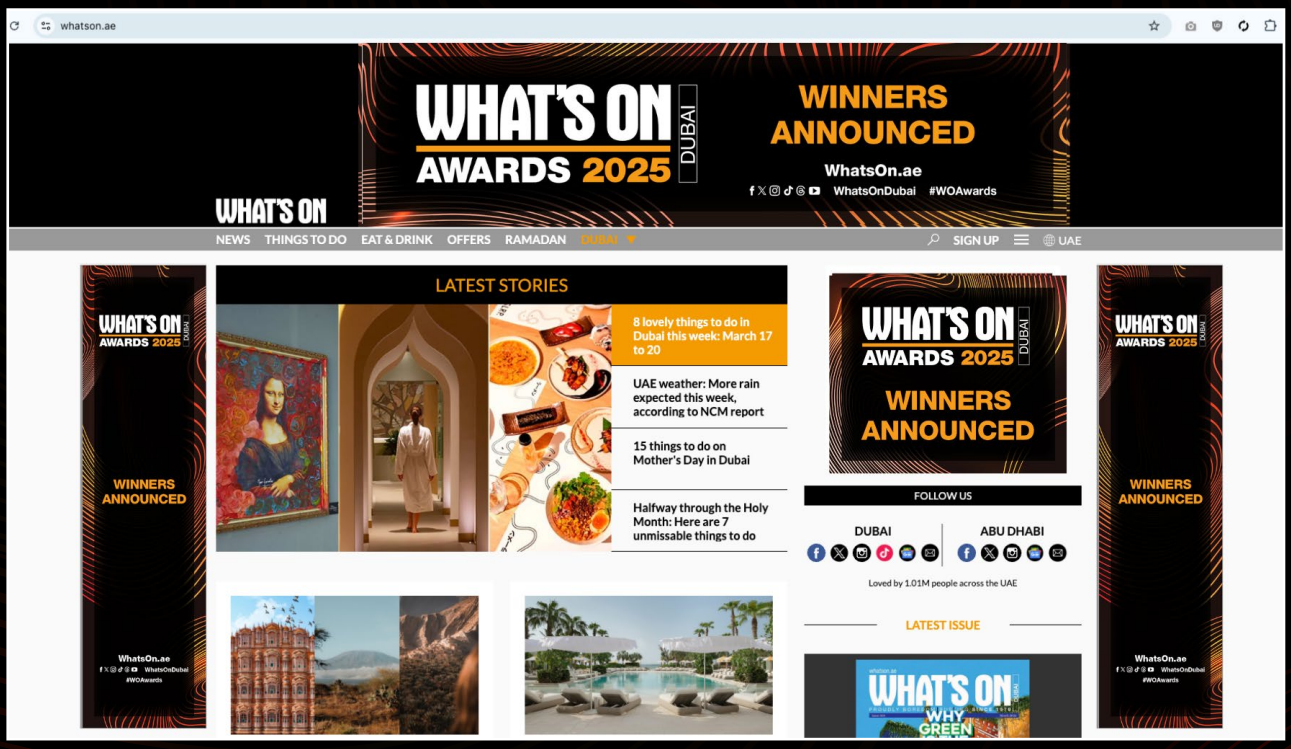
10 amazing new things to d
wishlist 2

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

POST-EVENT MARKETING

BANNER
WINNER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

DIGITAL BANNERS WERE PLACED ON WHAT'S ON DUBAI, WHAT'S ON ABU DHABI, CAMPAIGN, GOLF DIGEST, GULF BUSINESS, BUSINESS TRAVELLER, WITH MORE THAN 700,000 IMPRESSIONS SERVED



WHAT'S ON DUBAI
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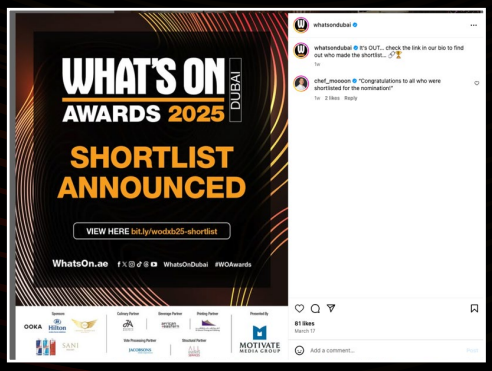
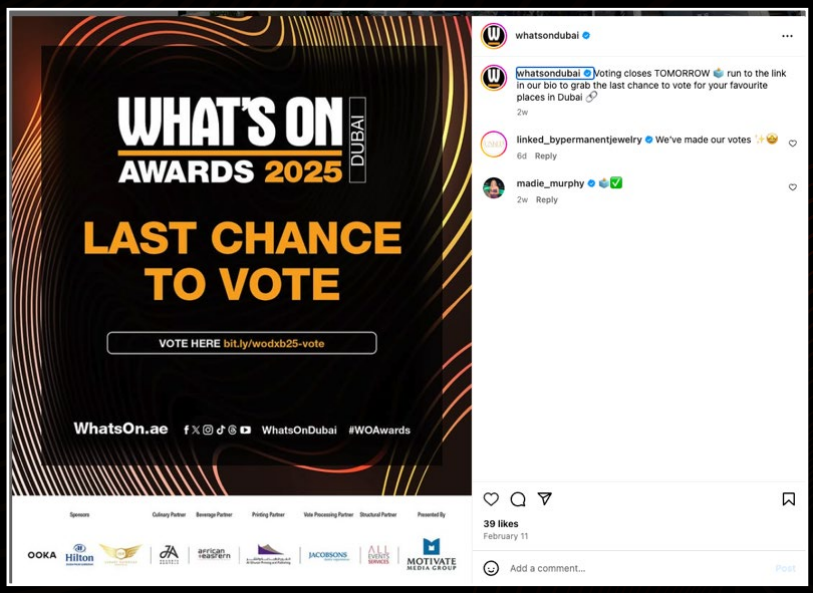
SOCIAL MEDIA WINNER'S ANNOUNCEMENT





WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

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EDITORIAL PRINT COVERAGE

WHAT'S ON DUBAI MAGAZINE
200,000 READERSHIP

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

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RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

FZN

FZN, at Atlantis The Palm, is without a doubt Dubai's best new restaurant. Created by Björn Frantzén, this Japanese-European molecular dining experience pushes boundaries with innovative techniques and flawless service. Though not a local concept, FZN raises the bar for Dubai's restaurant scene, cementing its place on the global culinary map. It's a true masterpiece.

CHEF OF THE YEAR

Salam Daqqaq

Chef Salam Daqqaq, of Bait Maryam and Sufret Maryam, is a culinary artist and a passionate advocate for Middle Eastern cuisine. Her restaurants offer a warm, family-like atmosphere, with dishes deeply rooted in Palestinian heritage and her own life experiences. Her talent, consistency, and emotional connection to her food make her truly deserving of this recognition.

★ THE BIG ONES ★

TAURANT OF THE YEAR

onrise

Moonrise, led by self-taught Syrian Chef Solemann Haddad, offers a culinary journey steeped in nostalgia and creativity. With a rotating 12-course omakase menu, Moonrise celebrates Dubai's diverse culinary scene, featuring locally sourced produce, inventive presentation, and flavours that tell a story. A powerful ambassador for the city's food culture, it's a must-visit for any food lover.

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Gigi Dubai

Imported from St. Tropez, Gigi Dubai quickly became a standout at J1 Beach. With its bohemian charm, exceptional menu, and Rikas Group's expert stewardship, Gigi has transformed into the go-to hotspot for dining, socialising, and celebrity-watching. It's rare for a restaurant to make such an immediate impact, but Gigi does so effortlessly in one of Dubai's most competitive locations.

THE RESTAURANTS (FINE DINING)

FAVOURITE ASIAN RESTAURANT
Jun's
Chef Kelvin Cheung's inventive creations are bold yet thoughtfully constructed, often presented by the chef himself, who takes the time to share the inspiration and story behind each dish.
Highly Commended: **Ronin**
Highly Commended: **SHI Restaurant & Lounge**

FAVOURITE BUFFET BRUNCH
Al Qasr Brunch, Jumeirah Al Qasr
A mainstay on the brunch scene, Al Qasr Brunch is a luxury catch-all. Beautiful setting, fabulous atmosphere, and an enormous spread perfect for everyone.
Highly Commended: **London Social Garden Brunch at The Ritz-Carlton, Dubai**
Highly Commended: **Traiteur, Park Hyatt Dubai**

FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT
Kinara By Vikas Khanna
A Jebel Ali firm favourite, thanks to its fresh ingredients, traditional cooking methods, and inventive menu.
Highly Commended: **Little Miss India**
Highly Commended: **Tresind Studio**

FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT
The Artisan
It's not easy standing out in the crowded fine-dining Italian scene in Dubai. But The Artisan, with its classy atmosphere and outstanding menu, makes it a winner in the eyes of Dubai.
Highly Commended: **Chic Nonna**
Highly Commended: **Il Borro Tuscan Bistro**

FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT
Salvaje Dubai
With views stretching across Downtown Dubai, Salvaje combines stellar Japanese food with entertainment. Guests love the duck fried rice, sushi, and sashimi, as well as sizzling robata-grilled steaks.
Highly Commended: **Akira Back**
Highly Commended: **Sushisamba Dubai**

FAVOURITE LATIN AMERICAN RESTAURANT
La Niña Dubai
La Niña has managed to carve out a name for itself by raising the bar of modern Iberian Latino cuisine. Flawless, elegant, and featuring a Manchego cheese-sprinkled steak tartare that begs to be savoured.
Highly Commended: **Coya Dubai**
Highly Commended: **Sucre Dubai**

FAVOURITE MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT
Spica Dubai
The faultless experience at Spica Dubai has Mediterranean lovers returning again and again. Add to that pretty seaside views, and you've got yourself a winning experience.
Highly Commended: **Estiatorio Milos Dubai**
Highly Commended: **Tatel Dubai**

FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT
Ninive Bab Al Shams
Easily one of Dubai's most beautiful restaurants, this Bedouin-inspired majlis is the perfect place to enjoy excellent Middle Eastern and Turkish cuisine in a luxurious yet comfortable locale.
Highly Commended: **Alaya Dubai**
Highly Commended: **Amaseena Dubai**

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THE RESTAURANTS (MID-LEVEL)

FAVOURITE ALL-DAY DINING
Huqqabaz Dubai
When a venue can claim to have a great breakfast and be a fab shisha spot, you know it's the ideal venue day or night. It's no wonder then that Huqqabaz is your favourite all-day dining spot.
Highly Commended: **Kitchen6**
Highly Commended: **Trove Restaurant**

FAVOURITE BRASSERIE
Rare Brasserie & Bar
Premium steaks and Parisian charm – Rare in City Walk blends European elegance with NYC energy to spectacular effect. A favourite among the *What's On* team, and voters.
Highly Commended: **CQ French Brasserie**
Highly Commended: **The Maine Land Brasserie**

FAVOURITE FRENCH RESTAURANT
Couqley Downtown
This is arguably Dubai's most revered steak frites spot, but we also love their escargot, their affordable wine list and so much more. May it never change.
Highly Commended: **Drift Beach**
Highly Commended: **La Dame de Pic**

FAVOURITE SEAFO
The Maine Oyste
Whether for the lobster rolls, oyster brilliant atmosphere, the faultless exp coming back
Highly Commended: Ap
Highly Commended: Ib

FAVOURITE STEAKHOUSE
Porterhouse Bar & Grill
A multi-award winner, and for good reason, with consistently fantastic steaks in a glamourous setting, Porterhouse knocks spots off the rest.
Highly Commended: **Leña Dubai**
Highly Commended: **Smoki Moto Dubai**

FAVOURITE RESTAURANT IN THE NORTHERN EMIRATES
Mekong, Anantara Mina Ras Al Khaimah Resort
Mekong brings glamorous dining and the spice of Asia to Ras Al Khaimah, all reinterpreted for the modern palate while remaining true to traditional cooking techniques.
Highly Commended: **Orient Restaurant**
Highly Commended: **Spice Grill**

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FOOD CONCEPTS

FAVOURITE AFTERNOON TEA
Balloons at the Palace, Jumeirah Al Qasr
This charming spot offers afternoon tea served within beautifully decorated, tethered hot air balloons.
Highly Commended: **Mashrabiya Lounge, Fairmont The Palm**
Highly Commended: **Noor Lounge, Mandarin Oriental Jumeira, Dubai**

FAVOURITE BUSINESS LUNCH
CÉ LA VI Dubai
When we're looking to truly impress our dining guests, CÉ LA VI is always our go-to destination. With its stunning setting and refined atmosphere, it never fails to deliver that 'wow' factor.
Highly Commended: **Eugène Eugène**
Highly Commended: **Nobu Dubai**

FAVOURITE BREAKFAST
BohoX
From cheesy omelettes to beefy brisket Benedicts, the all-day breakfast menu at BohoX offers something delicious for everyone, impressing our key voters these year.
Highly Commended: **Mina Brasserie, Four Seasons Hotel DIFC**
Highly Commended: **Zouzou Dubai**

FAVOURITE CAFÉ
Risen
Dubai's award-winning homegrown café and artisanal bakery is celebrated for its sustainable approach and locally sourced ingredients. Offering an all-day menu of handcrafted pastries, café-style dishes, and fresh artisanal breads, it's a go-to spot.
Highly Commended: **The Coffee Club**
Highly Commended: **Unwind Cafe**

FAVOURITE PET-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT
Tap & Grill
This alfresco spot in Jumeirah Golf Estates offers a lovely outdoor area for you and your four-legged pals to hang out and enjoy a barbecue together.
Highly Commended: **Beach By Five Deck, FIVE Palm Jumeirah**
Highly Commended: **Lila Molino + Cafe**

FAVOURITE PUB GRUB
UBK, Mövenpick Jumeirah Lakes Towers
It's laid-back vibes all day at UBK and that easygoing energy is exactly why guests love it. The food hits the spot too.
Highly Commended: **The Croft, Dubai Marriott Harbour Hotel & Suites**
Highly Commended: **Toad in the Hole, Topgolf Dubai**

FAVOURITE BURGER
The Meat Avenue
Part butcher, part restaurant, this spot leans into Lebanese cuisine but its burgers – like the wagyu truffle with Provolone – have become clear crowd-pleasers.
Highly Commended: **Slaw**
Highly Commended: **Smokd Eatery**

FAVOURITE ALFRESCO RESTAURANT
Tagomago
Tagomago, perched in the lighthouse-style landmark on the Palm, burst onto the scene with the vibrant flavours and bohemian spirit of the Balearics. A must-visit for anyone seeking laid-back island vibes.
Highly Commended: **Nuska Beach, Jumeirah Beach Hotel**
Highly Commended: **Surf Club**

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

FAVOURITE ATTRACTION
Topgolf Dubai
Highly Commended: Aquaventure World, Atlantis, The Palm
Highly Commended: Aura Skypool

FAVOURITE BAR
Amelia Dubai
Highly Commended: Mimi Kakushi
Highly Commended: Paradiso Dubai, FIVE LUXE

FAVOURITE DAYCATION
Maison Revka
Highly Commended: Be Beach
Highly Commended: Nikki Beach Dubai

FAVOURITE STAYCATION NORTHERN EMIRATES
Rixos Al Mairid Ras Al Khaimah
Highly Commended: Anantara Mina Ras Al Khaimah Resort
Highly Commended: InterContinental Ras Al Khaimah Mina Al Arab Resort & Spa

FAVOURITE SPA
The Pearl Spa and Wellness, Four Seasons Resort Dubai at Jumeirah Beach
Highly Commended: Cinq Mondes Spa at Raffles The Palm Dubai
Highly Commended: Sofitel Spa with L'Occitane

THE RESTAURANTS (CASUAL)

FAVOURITE ASIAN RESTAURANT
ZETA Seventy Seven
Highly Commended: Vietnamese Foodies
Highly Commended: Andaliman

FAVOURITE BUFFET BRUNCH
Wanderlust
Highly Commended: Amalfi Brunch at Vero, Hilton Dubai Jumeirah
Highly Commended: SoulCaliCool Brunch at Soul St.

FAVOURITE INDIAN RESTAURANT
Rohini By Little Miss India
Highly Commended: Indya By Vineet
Highly Commended: Rang

FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Arrogante Dubai
Highly Commended: Fi'lia
Highly Commended: Luigia Dubai

FAVOURITE JAPANESE RESTAURANT
Kinoya Restaurant
Highly Commended: Izakaya
Highly Commended: Kata

FAVOURITE LATIN AMERICAN RESTAURANT
Frevo, Fairmont The Palm
Highly Commended: Fusion Ceviche
Highly Commended: Lila Wood-Fired Taqueria

FAVOURITE MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT
Lana Lusa
Highly Commended: OIA
Highly Commended: Taverna

FAVOURITE MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT
Huqqabaz Garden
Highly Commended: Em Sherif Cafe
Highly Commended: Samakjë Dubai

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★ THE BIG NIGHT ★

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

Under the dazzling lights of the iconic Media City Amphitheatre, we came together to honour the very best of Dubai's hospitality scene. With over 1,000 guests in attendance, it was the biggest and most spectacular What's On Awards yet – a night of celebration, recognition, and unforgettable moments.

01 All the winners at the *What's On* Awards Dubai 2025 **02** Ian Fairservice welcom
04 A fantastic set up from our partners OOKA **05** Taran Singh with Jocelyn and As
team from Pare Brasserie before their big win **07** Tablescape spectacular **08** The c
JA Resorts & Hotels

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

09 The International Playboys live on stage **10** Bars are ready **11** Supercars showcase from Luxury Supercars Rentals **12** Happy guests mingle **13** The Slaw table place their orders **14** Acrobatic performers entertain guests **15** The party continues late into the night **16** Our master of ceremonies, Tom Urquhart **17** Jo Malone presents awards to deserving winners **18** Josh Duncan, Dave Magill and Franky Dsouza from The First Group **19** The team from Access Nations **20** Violeta Popescu, Varsha Bhatia and husband **21** Decadent desserts put on by JA Resorts & Hotels

Check out more party pics at whatson.ae

WHAT'S ON DUBAI AWARDS 2025

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