



GOURMET ABU DHABI TO HOST 'OSCARS' OF ARABIAN GULF HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY PUBLIC & EXPERT JUDGING PANEL TO DECIDE WINNERS

Gourmet Abu Dhabi – the 10-day festival of epicurean genius, which will run in the UAE capital from February 5-14 – will feature the 'Oscars' of the Arabian Gulf hospitality industry.

The Abu Dhabi Gourmet Stars Awards, an initiative of the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority (ADTA), will be presented at a Gala Dinner on February 10. They will recognise culinary prowess across eight categories: Restaurant Of The Year; Executive Chef Of The Year; Restaurant Manager Of The Year; Regional Cuisine Restaurant Of The Year; Regional Cuisine Chef Of The Year; Regional Cuisine Manager Of The Year; Food & Beverage Manager Of The Year and Restaurant Host Of The Year.

“The awards’ objective is very focussed – to bring added impetus to the ongoing campaign within the Abu Dhabi and Arabian Gulf’s hospitality industry to consistently strive for total excellence in product and service provision,” said Mubarak Al Muhairi, Director General, ADTA.

The Abu Dhabi Gourmet Stars Awards have been designed deliberately to honour those who excel in knowledge and provision of Arabian Gulf cuisine as the first step in propelling the region’s indigenous cuisine into the global industry spotlight.

“By including regional cuisine in Gourmet Abu Dhabi, and with the staging of the awards, we hope to begin an intercontinental dialogue which will result in the visiting Michelin-star chefs being inspired by Arabian culinary traditions and eventually earning the region’s hospitality industry its rightful place on the global culinary landscape. This would, in essence, be a fitting tribute to the region’s long and well-recognised heritage of warm hospitality,” said Ahmed Hussein, Deputy Director General Tourism Operations, ADTA.

A shortlist of candidates, recommended by leading industry experts, has already been identified for the voting procedure. Though industry-focussed, public opinion is being sought with the public voting for short-listed candidates via www.gourmetabudhabi.ae or by voting forms available at most leading restaurants in the UAE capital.

Public voting will end on January 28 with the results then tallied and combined with those of an expert judging panel.

Please bookmark www.gourmetabudhabi.ae for updates.

About Gourmet Abu Dhabi: Gourmet Abu Dhabi is a culinary lifestyle extravaganza initiated and presented by the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority (ADTA). This world-class festival is crafted for discerning individuals who seek gourmet enjoyment in perfect grandeur and want to experience true Arabian hospitality. This gourmet event features only the finest cuisines and most unique dining experiences in Abu Dhabi.

About ADTA: Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority (ADTA) was established in September 2004. It has wide ranging responsibilities for building and developing the emirate's tourism industry. These include; destination marketing; infrastructure and product development and regulation and classification. A key role is to create synergy in the international promotion of Abu Dhabi through close co-ordination with the emirate's hotels, destination management companies, airlines and other public and private sector travel-related organisations.

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