

**MEDIA ADVISORY  
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**RAS ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR RAS EPICUREAN STAR AWARD 2015**

*An all-time high of 21 awards to be presented at the RAS Epicurean Star Award Gala Dinner on 18 November 2015*

**Singapore, 30 September 2015** – Conceptualised in 2006 as RAS Industry Night, the **RAS Epicurean Star Award** honours F&B establishments that have tabled unique concepts, inspired culinary innovation, and consistently rendered top-notch food and service. The 10<sup>th</sup> instalment of the annual awards ceremony to be held on 18 November 2015 will see awards doled out in 18 categories – the most ever – such as Best New F&B Establishment, Best Buffet Caterer and Best Gastro-Pub; in addition, three outstanding restaurants will also receive Best of the Best laurels, a category that is not open for nominations.

The Epicurean Star Award is not just a hallmark achievement for finalists; it is also an encouragement from RAS to spur them on in a continual effort to improve the quality of the local F&B scene for discerning diners.

**WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR**

While Chinese, Western and Asian Restaurant nominees were previously divided into just two sub-categories; 'Fine Dining' and 'Casual Dining', a third sub-category 'Chain' has been introduced this year. The Best Cafe category also sees a new split to distinguish the 'Local Traditional' outfits. Making its inaugural debut is the Best Ice Cream Parlour category, which sees home-grown darlings *Udders Ice Cream* and *Tom's Palette* scoring nominations.

Other notable first-timers among this year's finalists include *Bread Street Kitchen*, Gordon Ramsay's pioneer foray into Singapore, and *The Carvery*, a meat-centric all-you-can-eat concept at Park Hotel Alexandra; both will be competing against five others to clinch the title of Best New F&B Establishment.

**THE JUDGES**

A judging panel of 19 gastronomy heavyweights will be assessing the shortlisted restaurants through a one-month mystery dining period in October 2015. Some prominent figures include Janice Wong, owner-chef of 2am Dessert Bar, food critic Wong Ah Yoke, Class 95 radio DJ Yasminne Cheng, and influential food bloggers Maureen Ow and Dr Leslie Tay. The Epicurean Star Award winners will be elected based on restaurant concept, food menu and service quality.

*Epicurean Star Award 2015 website: <http://www.rasepicurean.com/>*

*\*For a full list of finalists, please refer to annex A.*

### **About Restaurant Association of Singapore**

Established in 1980, the Restaurant Association of Singapore (RAS) was formerly known as the Singapore Hotel and Restaurant Association, catering to the distinctive needs of restaurant and hotel operators then. As tourism flourished, it prompted restaurants and hotels to create separate representative bodies to better focus and service the needs of the respective individual sectors.

Started with only 20 members, RAS had since grown its membership base to more than 300, accounting for over 2,300 restaurant outlets. As the leading body of Singapore's F&B industry, RAS is tasked with the mission of championing and encouraging industry development and excellence through promoting and advancing the common needs, interests and aspirations of the industry. It also works closely with various Government bodies and F&B related associations overseas to develop and propel the local F&B industry.

Restaurant Association of Singapore website: <http://www.ras.org.sg/>

**Note to editor:** Interviews can be arranged with RAS President Mr. Andrew Tjioe, RAS Vice President cum Organising Chairman for RAS Epicurean Star Award Gala Dinner 2015 Mr. Vincent Tan, and selected finalists from RAS Epicurean Star Award Gala Dinner 2015.

### **For more information or interviews, please contact:**

#### **Sixth Sense Communications & PR Consultancy**

Rachel Xie

DID: 6423 0096

HP: 9023 4904

Email: [rachel@sixthsense.com.sg](mailto:rachel@sixthsense.com.sg)

Noelle Tan

DID: 6423 1096

HP: 9873 9631

Email: [noelle@sixthsense.com.sg](mailto:noelle@sixthsense.com.sg)

<b>BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT (FINE)</b>	<b>BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT (CASUAL)</b>	<b>BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT (CHAIN) - NEW</b>
Crystal Jade Golden Palace	Li Bai Cantonese Restaurant	Crystal Jade La Mian Xiao Long Bao
Feng Shui Inn	Ling Zhi Vegetarian Restaurant	Dian Xiao Er
Si Chuan Dou Hua	Peach Blossoms	Din Tai Fung
Tong Le Private Dining	Wan Hao Chinese Restaurant	Eat @ Taipei
Xi Yan Private Dining	Xin Cuisine Chinese Restaurant	Tung Lok Signatures
<b>BEST WESTERN RESTAURANT (FINE)</b>	<b>BEST WESTERN RESTAURANT (CASUAL)</b>	<b>BEST WESTERN RESTAURANT (CHAIN) - NEW</b>
Stellar at 1-Altitude	The Pelican Seafood Bar & Grill	Eighteen Chefs
Joël Robuchon	Osia	Aston Specialities
Raffles Grill	UNA One Rochester	Swensen's
CUT	Pizzeria Mozza	Fish & Co
Jaan	The Royal Mail	Dancing Crab
<b>BEST ASIAN RESTAURANT (FINE)</b>	<b>BEST ASIAN RESTAURANT (CASUAL)</b>	<b>BEST ASIAN RESTAURANT (CHAIN) - NEW</b>
Punjab Grill	Zaffron Kitchen	Wrap & Roll
Tamarind Hill Singapore	Nara Thai Cuisine	Seoul Yummy
Restaurant Labyrinth	Suanthai	Thai Express
CE LA VI	The Orange Lantern Vietnamese Restaurant	So Pho
Forest	Ottoman Kebab & Grill	Bangkok Jam
<b>BEST JAPANESE RESTAURANT (FINE)</b>	<b>BEST JAPANESE RESTAURANT (CASUAL)</b>	<b>BEST ICE CREAM PARLOUR - NEW</b>
Mikuni	Shimbashi Soba	Cold Stone Creamery
Waku Ghin	Tampopo Grand	Haagen-Dazs
Fat Cow	The Flying Squirrel	Udders Ice Cream
Yoyogi	Kinki	Alfero Gelato
IKYU	Fukuichi Japanese Dining @ 111 Somerset	Tom's Palette
<b>BEST CAFÉ (LOCAL TRADITIONAL) - NEW</b>	<b>BEST CAFÉ</b>	<b>BEST GASTRO-PUB</b>
Nanyang Old Coffee	Kith Sentosa Cove	Timbre @ Gillman
Hill Street Coffee Shop	Arteastiq	Barossa Bar
OLDTOWN White Coffee	I am	RedDot BrewHouse
Ruyi	Pies & Coffee	Brewerkz
Killiney Kopitiam	Oriole Coffee	Cook & Brew
<b>BEST BUFFET</b>	<b>BEST BUFFET CATERER</b>	<b>BEST NEW F&amp;B ESTABLISHMENT</b>
Lime Restaurant	Orange Clove	Syun
Ellenborough Market Café	Purple Sage	Bread Street Kitchen
Straits Kitchen	SK Catering	Streets Asian Cafe
10 at Claymore	Kuisine Catering	The Carvery
Marriott Cafe	Preparazzi	Lokkee
		Cove 99 Live Seafood Restaurant
		Carne & Caipirinha
		Brazilian Churrascaria