

Press Release



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Sommeliers from Marina Bay Sands garner top honours

*Osteria Mozza, db Bistro Moderne and RISE gain
recognition with stellar sommeliers*

Singapore (October 2, 2013) – Marina Bay Sands continues to garner top honours for its award-winning restaurants as three sommeliers recently took home accolades at regional and national competitions. Victory was extra sweet with two of the sommeliers competing for the first time.

In the most recent 4th Southeast Asia Best Sommelier Competition organized by the South East Asia Alliance (including Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and Taiwan as a supporter of the Alliance), Han Yew Kong from Osteria Mozza emerged champion and was named Best Sommelier in Southeast Asia. The 28-year-old sommelier competed against 11 of the region's best who were placed first and second at the national competition in their respective countries.

Earlier this year, in the national round of the Best Sommelier Competition, Han was named the Best Sommelier in Malaysia while Britt Ng from db Bistro Moderne was first runner-up. Winning second place was an impressive achievement for Britt, as it was his first attempt at a sommelier competition that earned him a spot to compete together with Han at the regional competition.

To top it off, Jonathan Tangalin Comia from RISE Restaurant was also awarded first runner-up at the Singapore Sommelier Challenge 2013. Organised by the Association of Bartenders and Sommeliers Singapore (ABSS) and Magnum Spirits & Wine, Jonathan was up against 97 other contestants from hotels, bars and restaurants in Singapore. It was also his first attempt at a sommelier competition.

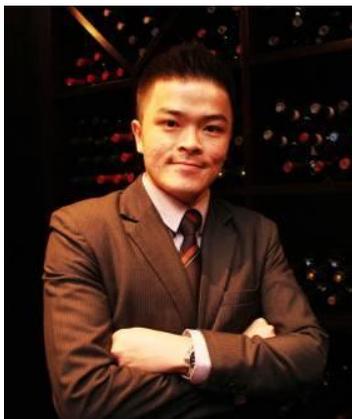
Mr. Tamir Shanel, Vice President of Food and Beverage Marina Bay Sands said, "Sommeliers play a crucial role in providing an exceptional dining experience to our guests. The recent wins at the sommelier competitions are a testament to their hard work and talent, and our commitment to grooming them and enabling them to perform their roles even better."

Following his win, Osteria's Han will continue to pursue his passion by taking the Level III Advanced Sommelier Course by the Court of Master Sommeliers in Germany. He is not new to the Southeast Asia Best Sommelier Competition – in 2012, he won the title of “Most Knowledgeable Sommelier” as recognition for his extensive knowledge on wines and spirits. “It is such an honour for me to be able to compete with the best in the region, and to win. I have to thank my colleagues and peers for their support and guidance,” said Han, who joined Osteria Mozza in October 2011.

Having worked his way from a Service Attendant, to Expeditor then Captain and finally to Assistant Sommelier at db Bistro Moderne, Britt Ng has been with the team since its opening in November 2010. He said, “This has been an amazing journey for me and I have learnt so much from taking part in the competitions. It has given me the confidence to continue to pursue my passion for wines.”

Jonathan Tangalin Comia joined RISE restaurant in January 2011 and is currently a Service Attendant. His interest in wines started when he took the introductory and intermediate wine programmes conducted by Wine Director, Alphonse Kaelbel at Marina Bay Sands. He said, “Taking part in the Singapore Sommelier Challenge 2013 was a huge step for me and I'm proud to have gained some recognition. I hope to further hone my skills and knowledge in wines, and take part in more competitions.”

The sommeliers had to go through a series of theory tests, blind tastings and challenges that tested their knowledge of wines and wine service standards in the various competitions.



L-R: Han Yew Kong (Sommelier, Osteria Mozza), Britt Ng (Assistant Sommelier, db Bistro Moderne) and Jonathan Tangalin Comia (Service Attendant, RISE)



About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

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