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YAS ABU DHABI

Yas Viceroy Abu Dhabi's Chef Wafaei Al Zaham Crowned Regional Cuisine Chef of the Year At Gourmet Abu Dhabi 2014

26 February 2014: Yas Viceroy Abu Dhabi's Chef Wafaei Al Zaham is celebrating his most recent accolade from Gourmet Abu Dhabi where he won 'Regional Cuisine Chef of the Year' at the St Regis Abu Dhabi Hotel on the Corniche.

Chef Wafaei Al Zaham, Chef de Cuisine at Atayeb was crowned during the capital's biggest food festival for his high level of skill and creativity in preparing ethnic Middle Eastern-inspired cuisine. He has constantly set standards of excellence in the culinary arts, delivered excellent dining experiences and been a great inspiration to his team.

"I am overjoyed and truly honoured to have won the award of "Regional Cuisine Chef of The Year" and would like to extend my appreciation to the whole Atayeb team at Yas Viceroy Abu Dhabi," said Chef Wafaei.

Chef Wafaei's passion for cooking started as a child, when he would spend days in the kitchen with his mother while she prepared special meals for family and guests at celebrations and feasts. Wafaei saw how the passion his mother poured into each dish enhanced every meal, and this inspired him to enrol in the culinary school.

Since graduating from culinary school, Chef Wafaei has worked in several of the Middle East's best hotels, including Egypt's Grand Rotana Resort and Spa, Jumeirah Beach Hotel and Al Bustan Rotana in Dubai; and in several other countries, such as Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

Wafaei has taken his vast knowledge of Arabic cuisines and used it to help build Atayeb into one of Abu Dhabi's finest restaurants. During his three years as Chef De Cuisine, Chef Wafaei has won several awards such as the Gourmet Abu Dhabi Regional Cuisine Restaurant 2012, Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence 2013 and Time Out Abu Dhabi Best MENA award 2010/2011.

Chef Wafaei sees Gourmet Abu Dhabi as a great platform to highlight what the city has to offer and a chance to award the talents in the food industry who continue to elevate the food scene in the Emirates. Chef Wafaei says: "This event is constantly growing, offering the best and most creative culinary experiences and activities over the years; which is what we need for such a great city like Abu Dhabi".

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About Yas Viceroy Abu Dhabi

Offering an iconic destination for the young at heart seeking glamorous experiences to enrich their distinctly vibrant lifestyles, Yas Viceroy Abu Dhabi is an architectural triumph perched over land and water and spanning the Formula 1™ Yas Marina Circuit.

Savour tastes from around the world with 11 restaurants and lounges showcasing gastronomic international menus from lavish Indian delights, traditional Arabic cuisine, house-made Italian pasta, Southeast Asian specialties and Japanese Teppan to light snacks at rooftop infinity pool lounges. Skylite bar and Rush nightclub are hot-spots for the fashionable crowd featuring breathtaking views.

ESPA at Yas Viceroy is a true haven of relaxation, where the meditative spa suites combine contemporary architecture with calming interiors, offering personalised programmes from the region's finest wellness professionals.

Encompassing 499 rooms and suites, Yas Viceroy is the first Viceroy Hotels and Resorts property in the Middle East, already distinguishing itself as one of the premier Abu Dhabi hotels and as an iconic landmark of Yas Island, Abu Dhabi.

About Viceroy Hotel Group

Viceroy Hotel Group delivers one-of-a-kind lifestyle experiences that bring together provocative design and intuitive service in sought-after locations. Signature brand amenities and services created for the diverse business and leisure guests include dynamic dining venues featuring world-class culinary talents and destination spas specializing in health, fitness and beauty. Current properties include hotels and resorts in Abu Dhabi, Anguilla, Beverly Hills, Maldives, Miami, New York, Palm Springs, Riviera Maya, San Francisco, Santa Monica, Snowmass, St. Lucia and Zihuatanejo with forthcoming openings in New York, Istanbul and Dubai.

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