

4 November 2009

CURRY LOUNGE HONOURED AT THE 'OSCARS' OF THE SPICE INDUSTRY

Nottingham restaurant finalist the Curry Lounge received a special commendation during the British Curry Awards 2009 in recognition of its quality regional food and outstanding service.

Announced last night (November 3) during a celebrity-packed awards ceremony at the Battersea Evolution in London, the Curry Lounge was one of three spice restaurants in the 'Best in Midlands' category that were highly commended by the judges.

British Curry Awards founder and organiser Enam Ali presented the commemorative plaque to owner Arfan Razak (known as Raz), who was shortlisted against stiff regional competition from Birmingham, Sheffield, Northampton and Nuneaton.

Conservative party leader David Cameron was among the 1,500 guests that saw Lasan in Birmingham pick up the coveted Midlands award from the 11 finalists for the third year running.

"The British curry industry is a great success story," said Mr Cameron. "It's shown exactly what an open-minded, dynamic and enterprising country can achieve - everyone here this evening should be incredibly proud of what they've achieved."

This year's British Curry Awards winners were chosen from a record number of public nominations, covering more than 2,700 restaurants.

Raz commented on his accolade: "I'm delighted that we've been recognised amongst such influential individuals and industry peers this year, and I'm particularly proud of the positive praise spoken by David Cameron.

"It's of great importance that the UK spice industry moves forward, and continues to prosper and nurture the talented chefs and committed restaurant staff, with the help of these types of awards."

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He added: "Thanks to our wonderfully loyal customers who voted for us, the Curry Lounge has been put well and truly on the spice map, even though we didn't quite scoop the regional award for the Midlands! My congratulations go to the Lasan team, who were exceptionally admirable opponents."

For full information, visit www.britishcurryaward.co.uk

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About the Curry Lounge:

Promising traditional Indian and Punjabi cuisine freshly cooked to order, The Curry Lounge has been praised by the toptable Top 100 Dining Awards 2009 as one of the top 10 restaurants that offers the best value meals when dining out in the UK.

Having opened the first Curry Lounge restaurant in Nottingham in 2007, the brand has gone from strength-to-strength since its appearance on Gordon Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares series.

Restaurant owner Arfan Razak (better known as Raz) is the brainchild behind Curry Lounge Ltd, and has set up a franchise venture that reaches right across the globe. It's this entrepreneurship that got Raz noticed when he came in the top five of the Midlands Business Awards' Entrepreneur of the Year category in 2008.

The Curry Lounge has also been voted Best Indian Restaurant East Midlands 2008 by the Customer Excellence Awards in recognition for the quality of the food, service and authenticity.

Located in Nottingham's city centre, The Curry Lounge caters for dinner, corporate events and special occasions. Visit www.currylounge.co.uk for more information.

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Picture caption:

Curry Lounge owner Arfan Razak celebrates the restaurant's success with television personality Chris Tarrant and Pat Parkes of the Nottingham Leisure Partnership.

