

## KL International Gourmet Festival Raises Half a Million for Charity and Lafite wins *Golden Cauldron Award for the Best All Round Restaurant*

After a month-long celebration of gastronomic delights, the KL International Gourmet Festival wrapped up in style at Shangri-La Hotel Kuala Lumpur on Friday evening. Twenty-three of the city's finest restaurants participated in this month long annual fine dining event.

Chinese restaurant Lai Po Heen of Mandarin Oriental, Kuala Lumpur was awarded *The Best Service Team during the Festival*, while Senses of Hilton Kuala Lumpur, a first-time Festival participant grabbed *The Most Creative Festival Menu* award. Chinese-Thai restaurant Imperial Rama of Highlands Hotel, also a first-time participant, impressed the judges; they took home *The Most Creative Restaurant Display at the Festival Gala Launch*.

Tai Zi Heen of Prince Hotel & Residence Kuala Lumpur, and **Dynasty of Renaissance Kuala Lumpur Hotel** were awarded *The Best Festival Cuisine* and *The Best Marketed Restaurant* respectively. Renowned French restaurant Lafite of Shangri-La Hotel Kuala Lumpur was the star of the night. Having bagged The Best Value Menu of the Festival, it went on to win the coveted award, *The Golden Cauldron Award for the Best All Round Restaurant*.

What really got the crowd cheering was the Chef's Charity Auction, where 17 of the 23 chefs were auctioned off for a good cause, The Force of Nature Aid Foundation (FON). FON is a foundation that addresses the long-term needs of communities affected by natural disasters. Winning bidders for each chef will be able to wine and dine guests either at the respective restaurants or in the comfort of their residence.

What made the auction even more exciting was the inclusion of new "chefs", namely Hong Kong-cum Hollywood icon, Jackie Chan and the Prime Minister's daughter, Nori Abdullah.

Chairman of FON, YB Tan Sri Razali Ismail was thrilled by the generous contributions shown by the guests, a whopping RM500,000 was raised, which is a new record for the Chef's Charity Auction.