

# FNB Coffee Magazine Awards announces 2019 winners

This year's FNB *Coffee Magazine* Awards announced its winners at a prestigious gala dinner hosted at Durban's Waterfront Hotel on Saturday, 29 June.



Barista of the Year went to Simnikiwe Mkhize of Rosetta Roastery. Warren Fenner (RMB) and Jayendran Pillay (FNB) delivered the award to uproarious applause from the crowd.

Cape Town's Rosetta Roastery and Johannesburg's Bean There Coffee Company walked away with top honours. Rosetta Roastery won the Roastery of the Year award with their head barista, Simnikiwe Mkhize, taking home the coveted Barista of the Year award. Bean There Coffee Company was named Team of the Year with the company's Cuth Bland taking home the coveted Excellence in Coffee Award.

"I can't believe it!" said Mkhize, addressing 200 invited delegates at the awards' ceremony. "This award is because of my team, my customers and my friends." Mkhize, who is originally from Durban, is also the reigning Western Cape Barista Champion and the 2017 KZN Barista Champion.

The FNB Coffee Magazine Awards were initiated in 2018 to bring South African coffee professionals together while recognising and celebrate excellence within the industry.

## 2019 FNB Coffee Magazine Award winners

### **Dedication to Education Award**

Dave Bassett - Woza Coffee

**Best Cafe Design**

Pauline's

**Excellence in Coffee Award**

Cuth Bland - Bean There Coffee Company

**Best New Café**

Holiday Coffee

**Best New Roastery**

Bluebird Coffee Roastery

**Readers Choice Award for Favourite Café**

Fàbrica Cafe

**Readers Choice Award for Favourite Franchise**

Seattle Coffee Co

**Best Alternative Brewing Experience**

Origin Coffee Roasting

**Barista Trainer of the Year**

Belinda Flynn - Flynn Coffee

**Coffee Personality of the Year**

Winston Thomas - Winston Douglas Consulting

**Coffee Team of the Year**

Bean There Coffee Company

**Cafe of the Year**

Thirdspace

**Roastery of the Year**

Rosetta Roastery

**Barista of the Year**

Simnikiwe Mkhize - Roasetta Roastery

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