

Move over The Test Kitchen! The Eat Out Mercedes-Benz Restaurant Awards has a new #1

The *Eat Out* Mercedes-Benz Restaurant Awards recently unveiled the list of 2018's best restaurants in South Africa at GrandWest in Cape Town. The Restaurant at Waterkloof was named the Restaurant of the Year and became the list's first new number one since 2012.



Restaurant of the Year Winner - Gregory Czarnecki of Waterkloof

It moved two places up from number three in the top 10 last year. "We cook for pleasure and we cook to fulfil our passion and to get recognised for it is an amazing feeling. I am truly proud of the team and what they were able to achieve. It's just incredible," said triumphant Chef Gregory Czarnecki.

The 2018 *Eat Out* S.Pellegrino and Acqua Panna Chef of the Year is Kobus van der Merwe of Wolgat. No stranger to these awards, he was named the *Eat Out* Rising Star in 2014 and was chosen as a champion by the other nominated chefs to win the 2017 *Eat Out* Graham Beck Chefs' Chef Award.

The *Eat Out* Diners Club Service Excellence Award went to The Test Kitchen. Moses Magwaza, sommelier at Restaurant Mosaic at The Orient, was named the winner of the *Eat Out* Wine Service Award for the second year running.

Newcomer Saint was recognised with the *Eat Out* VISI Style Award, while Janse & Co was the recipient of the *Eat Out* Retail Capital New Restaurant of the Year Award. Germain Lehodey received the *Eat Out* John Psillos Award for Outstanding Contribution to Service.

The winning restaurants were determined by the scores of a panel of anonymous judges, convened by Margot Janse, who dined around the country unannounced. Although the winners have been announced, the panel will remain anonymous. This allows judges to remain on the panel to ensure consistency from year to year.

“Awesome moment! [@WaterkloofWines](#) [@Eat_Out](#) [#eatoutawards](#) [pic.twitter.com/tpq1rpOazX](#)— Thewinegirlcapetown (@thewinegirlCT) [November 18, 2018](#)”

Margot Janse will remain at the helm of judging for the restaurant awards, as she takes up the position of chief judge. "I am a chef at heart and know what it takes to make a restaurant unique and successful. I understand the pressures of maintaining and exceeding expectations. It has been my absolute honour to convene the judges this year, and I am looking forward to becoming *Eat Out*'s chief judge," said Janse.

The 2018 *Eat Out* Mercedes-Benz Restaurant Awards nominees are...



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The chefs at the 30 nominated restaurants were given the opportunity to vote for a champion chef amongst their peers. In a first-ever tie, two chefs share this award, receiving admiration in equal measure from the nominees. The winners of the *Eat Out* Graham Beck Chefs' Chef Award are Chris Erasmus of Foliage and Ivor Jones of Chefs Warehouse at Beau Constantia.

Abigail Donnelly was honoured with the *Eat Out* Lannice Snyman Lifetime Achievement Award. The former editor of *Eat Out*, she was recognised for her contribution to the industry and the brand over the last decade.

The Werf Restaurant at Boschendal received the *Eat Out* Woolworths Sustainability Award in recognition of its commitment to implementing environmentally and socially responsible practices. The winner was selected by a separate panel of judges, consisting of Sonia Mountford of Eategrity, Karen Welter of the Longtable Project, and Pavitray Pillay of WWF-Sassi.

Selvin Govender, Marketing Director of Mercedes-Benz Cars, said, “I’d like to offer my congratulations to all the 2018 nominees and winners. We’re thrilled to recognise South Africa’s esteemed industry stars, and encourage the public to go out and try these phenomenal restaurants.”



The winners of 2018 Eat Out Mercedes-Benz Restaurant Awards are:

Eat Out S.Pellegrino and Acqua Panna Chef of the Year: Kobus van der Merwe of Wolfgat

Eat Out Restaurant of the Year: The Restaurant at Waterkloof

Top 10 restaurants:

1. The Restaurant at Waterkloof
2. The Test Kitchen
3. La Colombe
4. Wolfgat
5. La Petite Colombe
6. Greenhouse at The Cellars-Hohenort
7. Restaurant Mosaic at The Orient
8. Camphors at Vergelegen
9. Jardine Restaurant
10. Chefs Warehouse at Beau Constantia

Restaurants ranked from 11–20:

11. Fermier Restaurant
12. Jordan Restaurant
13. Foliage
14. Le Coin Français
15. The Chefs' Table
16. Chefs Warehouse at Maison

17. La Tête
18. Overture
19. The Shortmarket Club
20. The Pot Luck Club

Eat Out Diners Club Service Excellence Award: The Test Kitchen

Eat Out Nederburg Rising Star: Candice Philip of Grei

Eat Out Retail Capital New Restaurant of the Year: Janse & Co

Eat Out Graham Beck Chefs' Chef Award: Chris Erasmus of Foliage and Ivor Jones of Chefs Warehouse at Beau Constantia

Eat Out Wine Service Award: Moses Magwaza of Restaurant Mosaic at The Orient

Eat Out John Psillos Award for Outstanding Contribution to Service: Germain Lehodey

Eat Out Lannice Snyman Lifetime Achievement Award: Abigail Donnelly

Eat Out Woolworths Sustainability Award: The Werf Restaurant at Boschendal

Eat Out VISI Style Award: Saint

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