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## Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort Wins Major Categories at 2018 Moffat Fiji National Salon Culinaire Awards

*Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort chefs win coveted titles, Fiji Chef of The Year and Fiji Pastry Chef of The Year*



**CORAL COAST, FIJI** – Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort’s Navneet Reddy has been named 2018 Moffat Salon Culinaire Chef of the Year.

The Outrigger Fiji team won 8 gold medals, 13 silver and 3 bronze taking the medal tally to 24 over the four-day event.

Starting as a trainee chef in 2009, Navneet won Junior Chef of the Year during the 2013 Moffat Salon Culinaire and is currently the resort’s Junior Sous Chef.

He is in charge of the resort’s busiest restaurant, the Sundowner Bar and Grill, which is renowned for its extensive grill menu featuring Cape Grim beef from Tasmania, local seafood and woodfired pizzas.

“When I was a small kid, I was motivated by watching my father, who was an executive chef before he retired,” Navneet said.

“I learnt that to be a good chef and bring food to life, it has to come from the heart,” he said.

The Moffat Salon Culinaire Pastry Chef of the Year award was won by Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort's Vikash Chetty.

"I started my career as a kitchen hand without any qualifications," he said. "For a year I cleaned pots, plates and cutlery and the other chefs used to encourage me to study." "For me, this competition is not about winning or losing, it's about learning."

"My father had a sugarcane farm but then went on to become a chef and I thank him for inspiring and encouraging me to join the hotel industry," he said.

Reema Singh, the resort's pastry demi chef de partie, was named First Runner-Up in the contest for Pastry Chef of the Year while colleague Shaneel Naidu won the award for First Runner-Up for the title of Junior Chef of the Year.

The awards attracted more than 300 competitors from all over Fiji and were presided over by three international judges including an international chief judge.

Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort's executive chef, Shailesh Naidu, said the resort's performance was a pleasing result from a very young team.

"The team delivered outstanding results and the comments from Judges were phenomenal. This year's benchmark has been raised by the Outrigger chefs in all the major categories," he said.

Navneet and Vikash will now represent Fiji at the 2019 Global Chefs semifinal in Melbourne.

**Picture caption:**

Medal winners L to R – Shaneel Naidu, Navneet Reddy, Vikash Chetty and Reema Singh

**ABOUT OUTRIGGER FIJI BEACH RESORT**

Located on the Coral Coast of the main island of Viti Levu, Outrigger Fiji delivers culturally authentic guest experiences where guests can connect with each other, their beautiful Fijian hosts and the destination. The accent is on providing five-star, beachfront accommodation while retaining authentic elements of the traditional Fijian village. One of the trademarks of the resort is the Meimei nannies program, an affordable service staffed by trained, professional nannies which allows parents to enjoy time together, safe in the knowledge that their children are in caring, capable hands. It is supported by an extensive daily activities schedule, two kids clubs and a teens' program. The resort features a large, family-oriented pool and an adults-only pool with swim-up bar and bistro. Adults can also relax at the resort's Bebe Spa Sanctuary located high on a hill overlooking the resort with views across the coral fringed lagoon. In addition to a number of family-friendly restaurants, the resort also features its signature, adults-only restaurant Ivi, the ideal choice for parents looking for that special dining occasion. Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort is that place where families find themselves at one with their destination and its people.

**ABOUT OUTRIGGER HOTELS AND RESORTS**

For more than 70 years, Outrigger Hotels and Resorts has charted a journey of discovery – expanding from Hawaii to premier resort destinations in Fiji, Thailand, Guam, Mauritius and the Maldives. The privately held hospitality company currently operates and/or has in development 38 properties and over 7,000 rooms – inviting guests to 'Escape Ordinary' with authentic Signature Experiences and the [Outrigger DISCOVERY loyalty program](#). Outrigger's multi-branded portfolio includes Outrigger® Resorts, OHANA Hotels by Outrigger® and Hawaii Vacation Condos by Outrigger® while also managing select properties from top international hotel brands including Embassy Suites®, Best Western®, Wyndham Destinations and Hilton Grand Vacations™. Find out more at [Outrigger.com](#) or visit @OutriggerResorts on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Donna Parkin

Outrigger Resorts PR – Australia / New Zealand

Email: [donna@parkinpr.com.au](mailto:donna@parkinpr.com.au) | M: +61 419742573

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