



PRESS RELEASE

*Tuesday, September 24, 2013*

**BOMBAY BRASSERIE TAKES PLATINUM AT 16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL AMERICAN EXPRESS PLATINUM FINE DINING AWARDS**

Modelled on its namesake in London – Bombay Brasserie – Cape Town's fine dining Indian restaurant located at the super luxurious Taj Cape Town, walked off with a Platinum Award at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual American Express Platinum Fine Dining Awards evening, which was held on 23 September 2013, at The Vineyard Hotel in Newlands, Cape Town.

Known for its elegantly opulent interiors, featuring a palette of chalkboard grey, crisp white and deep rosewood brown, offset by blue Damien glass chandeliers and deco mirrors, Bombay Brasserie has built up an enviable reputation as a premier destination for Indian favourites such as Dum Ki Nalli (lamb shanks in delicate saffron curry), Murg Khatta Pyaz (chicken tikka masala with vinegar shallots) and Lasooni Palak (sautéed spinach with golden fried garlic). Its wine list also recently scooped a Diamond Award in the annual Diners Club International Winelist Awards.

*"We are delighted that one of the hospitality industry's premier awards has recognised the superb talent, ongoing commitment and sheer diligence of Chef Harpreet Longani and her team,"* says Michael Pownall, General Manager of Taj Cape Town.

Beginning her career in the late nineties at Taj Hotels, Resorts & Palaces flagship hotel, the Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai, India, Harpreet combed the subcontinent to research flavours and traditional recipes, as well as taking at the helm as the cook for the former Indian Prime Minister, for a time. As a culinary ambassador, she has promoted Indian cuisine in Bangkok, Frankfurt, Zurich and New York; representing Taj Hotels, Resorts and Palaces at the 2005 World Gourmet Summit in Las Vegas. Her favourite foods are Sarason Ka Saag, a Punjabi dish of spinach, mustard leaves and spices, and Indian vegetarian food in general.

Since inception in 1999, American Express, a leading multicurrency financial services corporation, has annually recognised top eating establishments both in South Africa and abroad, with stringent selection criteria that include quality and creativity of cuisine, service, wine list, décor and ambience, as well as overall excellence and American Express card acceptance. In an industry rendered volatile by the prevailing economic climate, consistency is paramount among the judging priorities.

## **About Taj Hotels, Resorts and Palaces**

Established in 1903, Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces is one of Asia's largest and finest group of hotels, comprising 95 hotels in 54 locations across India with an additional 16 international hotels in the Maldives, Malaysia, Australia, UK, USA, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Africa and the Middle East. From world-renowned landmarks to modern business hotels, idyllic beach resorts to authentic Grand Palaces, each Taj hotel offers an unrivalled fusion of warm Indian hospitality, world-class service and modern luxury.

For more than a century, The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai, the iconic group flagship has set a benchmark for fine living with exquisite refinement, inventiveness and warmth. Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces is part of the Tata Group, India's premier business house.

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