

AFWS launches 2014 UK Restaurant Manager of the Year



The search has begun for the Academy of Food & Wine Service's **2014 UK Restaurant Manager of the Year**.

The competition, now in its sixth year, is open to restaurant managers, or those working in similar roles in any sector of the hospitality industry, providing they are responsible for the performance of a business, managing people, staff training and coordinating the operation of the restaurant.

At a launch event for the award, held in London last night [30 June 2014], head of judges and former winner Peter Avis, chairman of the UK Restaurant Guild, commented: 'Since I won the award in 2009 I have felt a massive responsibility to promote the role of restaurant manager as I believe they have a vital role to play in the success of any establishment. This year we are determined to encourage entrants from across the board and highlight what a fantastic career the profession can offer.'

Last year's winner, BaxterStorey restaurant manager Janine Swales, paid tribute to the competition: 'Winning the competition was life changing; I never thought that something like this would happen to me. Being the first winner from the foodservice sector shows that it doesn't matter where you work, but how you work. The competition has given me so much confidence, new skills and amazing mentors along the way. It's been a once in a lifetime opportunity.'

This year's competition will consist of a first round entry form, which can be completed online. The best entries will then be selected to attend one of two semi-finals in London or the Midlands.

At the semi-final candidates will be interviewed and tested on their all-round knowledge of the job, the industry and marketing. They will also complete a business scenario in front of a panel of judges, for which they will be given 14 days to prepare.

The top candidates from the semi-final will then receive a visit from the judges at their own establishment before the winner is finally selected and announced at a Gala Dinner Awards Ceremony at London's Roof Gardens on 17 November 2014.

Entry forms can be downloaded at <http://www.restaurantmanageroftheyear.co.uk> or contact Daniel@afws.co.uk. The deadline for entries is 30 August 2014.

(ends)

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About the Academy

The Academy of Food and Wine Service (AFWS) established in 1988, is the professional body for front-of-house service. It is dedicated to improving the status and awareness of food and beverage service as a viable career choice, raising standards across the industry, and by encouraging teamwork to foster good relations with other industry sectors. The Academy can offer advice and

training to anyone following, or considering, a career as a sommelier, wine waiter, waiter, bar manager or restaurant manager.

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