

CROWN ANNOUNCES MASTERCHEF WINNER AS FOURTH MYSTERY CHEF FOR ALUMNI RESTAURANT

Crown bringing the 2024 MasterChef Australia winner from small screen to in-person dining experience

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25 June 2024: Crown and *MasterChef Australia* have tonight revealed that the final mystery chef for the limited time only restaurant, **ALUMNI** at Crown Melbourne, will be the winner of the current season of *MasterChef Australia*.

Earlier this year, Crown and *MasterChef Australia* partnered to announce **ALUMNI**; a unique dining experience set to showcase the diverse talents of *MasterChef Australia* alumni cooks.

Following the airing of the season finale, the crowned winner will commence their residency at **ALUMNI** on 18 July until 4 August.*

The announcement comes during Khanh Ong's nearly sold-out residency with his unique Vietnamese-inspired menu, and follows Callum Hann and his fresh take on modern Australian flavours, with Kishwar Chowdhury opening the pop-up restaurant with her celebration of Bengali cuisine with Australian and native produce.

Crown Resorts EGM of Brand and Marketing, Yolanda Uys, said: "ALUMNI has been an outstanding success, welcoming nearly 1,500 bookings and serving over 4,000 meals across several booked-out seatings, with an 80 per cent guest satisfaction rate.

"We are so excited to welcome the soon-to-be crowned 2024 MasterChef winner to the venue and are proud to give this budding talent a platform while bringing the magic of season 16 to an in-person experience for our guests."

Season 16 of *MasterChef Australia* has already reached 9.97 million Australians with audience numbers set to grow as the series continues with just seven contestants remaining. Harry Butterfield, Darrsh Clarke, Josh Perry, Savindri Perera, Nat Thaipun, Lachlan Whittle and Mimi Wong will continue to cook up their distinctive dishes in the *MasterChef Australia* kitchen, all vying to impress the judges and be crowned the winner for 2024.

Endemol Shine Australia Director of Content, Melbourne, Marty Benson, said: "To see the *MasterChef Australia* audience enjoy the flavours they've fallen in love with on screen has been incredible, for both diners and chefs alike.

"We are delighted that the 2024 winner will kick off their career with an **ALUMNI** residency, and proud to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and evolution for the MasterChef brand."

Tamar Hovagimian, Head of Integration & Partnerships at Paramount Brand Studio said: "We're thrilled to give fans, who've been following the winner's journey this season, a truly special opportunity to now experience *MasterChef Australia* firsthand and taste the winner's unique cuisine at **ALUMNI**.

"This final residency is such a fitting celebration of the show and testament to the power of this unique partnership."



Bookings for the fourth residency at **ALUMNI** are <u>now available</u>. Lovers of fine dining and fans of the show should reserve their spot as bookings will fill fast.

At Crown's three Australian resorts, the *MasterChef Australia* collaboration can also be experienced across an array of activities, including:

- A MasterChef-inspired High Tea at TWR, Crown Sydney (available until 28 July)
- A MasterChef-inspired tasting menu at Oncore Bar curated by Michelin starred Chef Clare Smyth, as inspired by her guest judge appearances (available 16 July 28 July)
- Competitions running at Crown Perth and Crown Sydney to win a trip to Crown Melbourne to experience ALUMNI.

*See more information, terms and conditions, and plan your visit here:

Crown Melbourne: https://www.crownmelbourne.com.au/whats-on/masterchef Crown Sydney: https://www.crownsydney.com.au/whats-on/masterchef

Crown Perth: https://www.crownperth.com.au/whats-on/masterchef

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About ALUMNI

ALUMNI is a unique dining experience and pop-up restaurant at Crown Melbourne featuring a rotating cast of *MasterChef Australia* alumni doing three-week residencies, serving dishes from the cuisine they are best known for. **ALUMNI** commenced with Kishwar Chowdhury (16 May – 2 June), followed by Callum Hann (6 – 23 June) and Khanh Ong (27 June – 14 July) with the *MasterChef Australia* season 16 winner to be featured as the final chef (18 July – 4 August).

The creative brainchild and collaboration between media agency Initiative, integrated creative agency Mediabrands Content Studio (MBCS), Paramount Brand Studio and Endemol Shine Australia, **ALUMNI** is the latest iteration to support Crown's brand platform "Here's Where Things Get Interesting", launched in September 2023.

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