

NEW... Veuve Clicquot World's Best Female Chef Shortlist announcement

Restaurant magazine is pleased to announce the shortlist for the first ever Veuve Clicquot World's Best Female Chef Award.

Nominees for the award are a trio of talented chefs:

- Elena Arzak, Arzak, Spain
- Anne-Sophie Pic, Maison Pic, France
- Nadia Santini, Dal Pescatore, Italy

This new award will reward the exceptional female chef whose cooking delights and excites the toughest of critics across the globe. It has been voted for by the members of the 27 international panels who make up The Electrolux World's 50 Best Restaurants Academy, organised by Restaurant magazine.

The winner will be announced on 11th April 2011 and recognised at The S.Pellegrino World's 50 Best Restaurants Awards ceremony which is being held at London's Guildhall on Monday 18th April 2011.

About the chefs:

Elena Arzak is the fourth generation of her family at Arzak restaurant, founded in 1897 by her great-grandparents just outside San Sebastian in Spain. Growing up, Elena was surrounded by strong female chefs including her mother, grandmother and aunt. Having spent time learning from the very best chefs including Ducasse, Troisgros and Adria, she returned to Arzak and joined the restaurant's food laboratory which strives to create new dishes and find a balance between modernism and tradition. Working alongside her father, the duo continue to push the boundaries of cuisine and are a constant source of inspiration for one another.

Anne-Sophie Pic was born into a prestigious line of French chefs and immersed in cooking from a young age. She initially decided to travel to the USA and Japan to discover the business world before returning to fulfill her destiny at Maison Pic in the south-eastern French town of Valence. Specialising in fish, she focuses on mixing textures and flavours crafting creative, light and refined cooking with a feminine touch.

Nadia Santini is one of the best known chefs in Italy due to the enduring appeal of Dal Pescatore, the family run restaurant she has been at the helm of for over 30 years. Situated between Milan and Venice, the restaurant has a reputation for outstanding seafood. Nadia and her husband Antonio manage to combine world class cuisine with Italian family hospitality and as the fourth generation of Santinis now work alongside Nadia and Antonio, Dal Pescatore's reputation is in good hands.

Stephane Gerschel, Director of International Communications at Veuve Clicquot, said: "We are proud to announce the establishment of a new award to honour women in the culinary arts as part of The S.Pellegrino World's 50 Best Restaurants Awards. It is inspired by the life and achievements of Madame Clicquot, who, nearly 200 years ago, set the standard for women in business. The three women shortlisted here absolutely reflect Madame Clicquot's attributes of innovation, creativity and determination and we congratulate them on their accomplishment."

William Drew, editor of Restaurant magazine, comments, "We are delighted to reveal the shortlist for the Veuve Clicquot World's Best Female Chef Award. All the candidates have exceptional talent and I wish them the best of luck."

The S.Pellegrino World's 50 Best Restaurants Awards and List is organized by Restaurant magazine, and sponsored by S.Pellegrino, the worldwide famous sparkling mineral water representing Italian style all over the world.

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Notes to editors:

Restaurant magazine is the UK's leading publication for restaurateurs and chefs, and has been running The World's 50 Best Restaurants since 2002. Restaurant magazine is solely responsible for organising the awards, collating the votes and producing the list.

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