

Press Release



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Head Bartender of *Waku Ghin* is Singapore's champion for Diageo Reserve World Class competition

Akihiro Eguchi to represent Singapore in World Championship held at Rio de Janeiro in July

Singapore (05 June, 2012) *Waku Ghin* has added another impressive accolade to its list of achievements as its Head Bartender, Akihiro Eguchi, was named the Singapore Champion in the Diageo Reserve World Class competition held on 30 May 2012.

This is the second year that Eguchi was awarded this title as he won the same competition last year. Previously, he had made it to the finals in this prestigious competition that gathers the best talents from the bartending world.

As part of his win, Eguchi will be representing Singapore in the Global Final of Diageo Reserve World Class 2012 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The competition, held from 8 – 12 July, will see more than 50 of the world's best bartenders pit their skills against each other.

"I am extremely happy to win this competition for two consecutive years. This year's competition was much more challenging as I was defending my title and the standards this year were much higher. Since I started bartending when I was 20 years old, I've developed a strong passion for spirits and cocktails. The possibilities are infinite when we create our own concoctions. The team at *Waku Ghin*, especially Chef Tetsuya, has been very supportive of me throughout the duration of this competition and I could not have done it without them," said Eguchi.

For the competition, Eguchi created a unique cocktail, which he named "*Indulge in the Skye*". The concoction was created from a mixture of Talisker 10 year-old Single Malt Whisky from the Isle of Skye, dark Chocolate, Tahiti lime juice, egg white and a homemade Guinness. The sour cocktail was a seamless blend of bold flavours and it captured the hearts of the judging panel.

Eguchi has always had a keen interest on spirits and cocktails. He found bartending an interesting profession as bartenders have the freedom to create innovative cocktails to pair with guests' moods and preference. Born and raised in Yokohama, Eguchi was classically trained in Japan for five years before he moved to Singapore. It was through his various stints in local pubs where he had the opportunity to hone his bartending skills and build on his knowledge on spirits and cocktails.

Guests who are looking forward to try this award winning cocktail will now have the opportunity to do so. “*Indulge in the Skye*” is available at Waku Ghin’s bar from 05 May onwards. The cocktail makes for an ideal pre dinner drink before guests proceed to the private dining rooms for their exquisite dinner.

Another of Waku Ghin’s bartender, Kazuhiro Chii, was also recognized in another acclaimed bartending competition. Held in Taiwan, the 18th Golden Cup Bartending Competition is an annual event organized by the local bartending association. Chii edged out more than 10 bartenders from the region and was awarded second runner up.

Waku Ghin is building up its cocktail bar concept, with a focus on Japanese-styled cocktails, which are lighter, more refined and delicate. Staffed by bartenders Eguchi and Chii, the bar at *Waku Ghin* will also in the near future offer a bar menu that comprise of new dishes. From 6pm until late every day, guests can enjoy these classic cocktails prepared by both award winning bartenders.

For dinner, guests can choose from either 6pm or 8:30pm seatings. Guests are also welcomed to savor the exquisite dishes from Waku Ghin on Fridays when it is opened for lunch. From 11:30am – 1:30pm on Fridays, guests can indulge in a six-course degustation menu featuring both signature dishes and new creations from the world renowned Chef Tetsuya.

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