



PRESS RELEASE

Food luminaries celebrate aspiring hospitality talent

Electrolux Appetite for Excellence National Winners Announced

11 July 2009 – Last night, the Electrolux Appetite for Excellence national winners were announced at an awards ceremony in Sydney. Matthew Dempsey, from Pettavel Winery & Restaurant, Victoria, was named the Electrolux Young Chef and Alice Heath, from Montalto Vineyard & Olive Grove, Victoria, was named the Electrolux Young Waiter. Danielle Gjestland from Wasabi, Queensland, was named the inaugural Electrolux Young Restaurateur.

Now in its fifth year, Electrolux Appetite for Excellence, co-founded by Luke Mangan and Lucy Allon, is dedicated to educating and nurturing emerging hospitality industry professionals.

David Thompson, of Michelin Star awarded Nahm in London, and widely acclaimed Thai food expert, is a 2009 Electrolux Appetite for Excellence mentor and was the special guest at the awards last night.

“I’m extremely impressed with the high calibre of hospitality professionals Electrolux Appetite for Excellence attracted this year. The three winners are truly inspirational and a credit to the wealth of hospitality talent in Australia. I look forward to seeing their professional careers develop internationally over the next few years,” said David.

Last month in Sydney, Matthew and Alice participated in the Electrolux Young Chef and Electrolux Young Waiter national judging where the state finalist chefs competed in a mystery box cook-off and state finalist waiters were tested in a series of customer skills and food and wine knowledge,

under careful scrutiny from a panel of Australia's leading chefs and hospitality leaders including Tetsuya Wakuda, Guy Grossi, Cheong Liew and Luke Stringer.

Danielle, along with the three other Electrolux Young Restaurateur finalists, was interviewed by the judging panel, including Neil Perry and Christine Mansfield, before being selected as Australia's most promising restaurant entrepreneur.

The Electrolux Young Chef and Electrolux Young Waiter prize package includes a once in a lifetime experience to represent Australia in the prestigious S.Pellegrino Cooking Cup in Venice as well as a trip to visit the source of two of the world's most renowned Mineral waters, S.Pellegrino located in the Italian Alps and Acqua Panna positioned in the hills of Tuscany; return overseas flights provided by official airline partner Qantas; up to one month's work experience at David Thompson's Michelin Star Restaurant, Nahm, in London; a two day trip to historic Henschke in the Eden Valley, South Australia and tasting in the cellars with Stephen and Prue Henschke; Electrolux Professional appliances for the winner's restaurant; \$5,000 cash to assist with travel & work experience expenses; and a trophy.

The Electrolux Young Restaurateur prize package includes return flights to London provided by Qantas to attend "The S.Pellegrino World's 50 Best Restaurants", in London; \$10,000 cash prize; 12 months of business mentoring from the Commonwealth Bank; Electrolux Professional appliances for their restaurant; and the opportunity to meet Australia's leading chefs and restaurateurs.

For further details about the Electrolux Appetite for Excellence, please visit www.appetiteforexcellence.com

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