

PRESS RELEASE

*Swinton Park
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Swinton Park Chef wins Chef of Year National Award

Thursday 3rd of June saw the 34th annual national final of the Chaîne International Young Chef of the Year Competition, held at the Gaggenau showroom in Central London.

The winner was announced as Thomas Spencerly (20) from Swinton Park, Masham, North Yorkshire, who cooks under head chef Simon Crannage. This was Thomas' first time competing individually since leaving culinary college. From his unseen 'market basket' of ingredients, Thomas whipped up a 3 course feast of pan seared trout with lemon marinated asparagus and courgette, black pudding stuffed loin of pork with pea puree, fondant potatoes and a red wine jus, and a vanilla infused pannacotta with lemon, lime and ginger jam.

Head judge Anthony Marshall, executive chef of the Hilton Park Lane and a previous Young Chef winner himself, said "it was extremely difficult to choose a winner and came down to a matter of two or three points between contestants. The standard was incredibly high for such young chefs."

In 2010, British restaurants hold more Michelin stars than ever before, proving that the current enthusiasm for cooking has ushered in a golden age of gastronomy. The rise of TV chefs and cookery programmes means that today there is even greater interest and participation in the culinary arts. The Chaîne is keen to encourage and celebrate young professional chefs who will set future standards within the industry. "From a consumer point of view these competitions ensure the maintenance and growth of standards which make the whole restaurant experience more enjoyable, and for the chefs they can use them to enhance their careers and aspire to greater things" said Philip Evins, head of Chaîne des Rôtisseurs in the UK.

"Considering this is the second time in just a few years that a chef at Swinton Park has won this award, we are absolutely thrilled" commented owner Felicity Cunliffe-Lister. "Well done to Thomas, and particularly also to our Head Chef Simon Crannage who trains our chefs to such an excellent standard."

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