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CITY OF DREAMS MANILA'S CHEFS WON SILVER FOR THE PHILIPPINES AT THE FHC CHINA INTERNATIONAL YOUNG CHEFS CHALLENGE



City of Dreams Manila SVP and Chief Operating Officer Kevin Benning and VP for Hotels and Food & Beverage Michael Ziemer (both at the center) together with the luxury resort's chefs Rayzel Salvador (extreme left), Rier Franco (second from left), Michael Monsalve (second from right) and Jomari Miranda (extreme right) who bagged the Silver Award at the 2019 International Young Chefs Challenge.

November 20, 2019 – City of Dreams Manila's talented young chefs continue to make their culinary talents shine -- clinching the silver award for the Philippines at the FHC China International Young Chefs Challenge recently held in Shanghai New International Expo Centre.

"We are extremely proud of the young chefs of City of Dreams Manila, who are already making their mark in the global culinary industry at the early years of their career. Their recognition is a testament to City of Dreams Manila's commitment to the culture of excellence and creativity, and mentorship of young talents who are the future of the hospitality industry. We look forward to the continued development and career growth of our young chefs, for them to continue to share their immense talent not only to our guests but to the world," City of Dreams Manila's Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Kevin Benning said.

The culinary team, composed of 25-year-old Michael Monsalve; 24-year-old Rayzel Salvador; 25-year-old Jomari Miranda; and led by 23-year-old Rier Franco, is the first ever National Young Chef's team sent by the Philippine Young Chefs Club (PYCC), LTB Chefs Association's youth arm, to represent the country to the global competition, which is known to be judged by esteemed chef-members of WorldChefs or the World Association of Chefs' Societies.

Prior to the international competition, Franco and Miranda also recently bagged gold medals and topped the 2019 Philippine Culinary Cup - Young Chefs Team Challenge.

Under the tutelage of veteran chef and PYCC president Cherrie Uy-Tan, and guidance from City of Dreams Manila's executive chefs Audi Budiman and Markus Tauwald, and executive pastry chef Hoon Sung, the Philippine team competed with 12 other international and regional teams consisting of young chef-delegates from Australia, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Penang-Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and the United States.

Tasked to prepare a themed buffet spread for 12 persons, the team's Christmas-themed buffet earned them the silver award, which was judged according to a set of criteria including taste, presentation, professional preparation and mis en place.

FHC China International Young Chefs Challenge, which aims to train young chefs and enrich their competition experience, was held concurrently with the 23rd FHC China, an international food, beverage and hospitality exhibition, and is supported by WorldChefs, known to be a global authority on food.

Currently, Miranda and Franco are part of City of Dreams Manila's banquet kitchen team for the Grand Ballroom, while Salvador and Monsalve are assigned at Qi Long, the 24-hour, exclusive, member-only dining outlet which features Asian and international cuisine and DreamPlay's Chez Gingy, respectively.

The luxury resort's 1,081.20 sq. m. Grand Ballroom can accommodate 600 guests with a round table set-up, and for smaller functions, the ballroom can be divided into three banquet rooms fitting 150 to 200 persons each. The banquet menu is developed, curated and prepared by the chefs from the establishment's award-winning and signature restaurants Crystal Dragon, Nobu Manila and Red Ginger. Throughout the property, there are more than 20 dining options to cater to the varied and discerning taste of guests.

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About City of Dreams Manila

The luxury integrated casino resort City of Dreams Manila marks the formal entry of Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited into the fast-growing and dynamic tourism industry in the Philippines. Officially opened in February 2015, City of Dreams Manila is operated by Melco Resorts Leisure (PHP) Corporation, a subsidiary of Melco Resorts and Entertainment (Philippines) Corporation.

The dynamic and innovative resort complex, located on an approximately 6.2-hectare site at the gateway to Entertainment City in Parañaque, includes the ultimate in entertainment, hotel, retail and dining and lifestyle experiences with aggregated gaming space, including VIP and mass-market gaming facilities with approximately 380 gaming tables, 2,300 slot machines and 1,280 electronic table games.

The integrated resort features three luxury hotel brands: Nüwa Manila, ranked Five-Star by Forbes Travel Guide in 2018 and 2019 which also named it one of the World's Most Luxurious Hotels in 2018, and Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star awardees Nobu and Hyatt Regency, more than 20 impressive restaurants and bars, and distinctive entertainment venues, including: the family entertainment center DreamPlay, the world's first DreamWorks-themed interactive play space and The Garage, a VR Zone and food park.

City of Dreams Manila delivers an unparalleled entertainment and hospitality experience to the Philippines and is playing a key role in strengthening the depth and diversity of Manila's leisure, business and tourism offering, enhancing its growing position as one of Asia's premier leisure destinations. For more information, please visit cityofdreamsmanila.com.

About Melco Resorts and Entertainment (Philippines) Corporation

Integrated casino developer Melco Resorts and Entertainment (Philippines) Corporation is a subsidiary of Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited (NASDAQ:"MLCO"), the developer, owner and operator of casino gaming and entertainment casino resort facilities in Asia and Europe. It developed City of Dreams Manila, which is managed and operated by Melco Resorts Leisure (PHP) Corporation.

For more information about Melco Resorts and Entertainment (Philippines) Corporation, please visit: melco-resorts-philippines.com.

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