



MEDIA RELEASE

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AIRPORT HOTEL RESTAURANT JETS INTO FIRST PLACE

Te Maroro Restaurant, located on-site at Jet Park Hotel and Conference Centre near Auckland Airport, has won the coveted title of Restaurant of the Year at the 19th New Zealand Culinary Fare.

The Culinary Fare, held over July 17th-19th by the Restaurant Association of New Zealand in association with Hospitality Standards Institute, is the largest competition in the Southern Hemisphere, with over 850 entrants from New Zealand, Australia, the Cook Islands and even Mexico fiercely competing for titles such as Restaurant of the Year, Chef of the Year and many more.

The Te Maroro team, led by Executive Chef Nancye Pirini and Food & Beverage Manager John Snowball, put up an incredible effort against five great contenders for the coveted title. Te Maroro's Lorna Masoe also won a Gold award (for Service), and with Cristian Morales and Alan Mataia's Bronze awards (for Kitchen) combined to win the overall title of NZ Restaurant of the Year 2011.

A tough and challenging three days of competition has been the result of some hard work behind the scenes. Chef Nancye is the first to admit that she likes to set a tone in her kitchen where she encourages her team with a leadership style that sees her lead from the front, push hard and expect the best.

"This being my first Executive Chef job, I am driven to succeed. I have to say this is the highlight of my career to date, and it's great that I am no longer in the shadow of being seen as 'Nancye Pirini – ex Dine, by Peter Gordon'," she says.

"The highlight for us was simply knowing that the product that we served, as judged by our peers, was the best," John says.

Training for this event took place after normal restaurant hours - which needed to continue 'business as usual' - so the staff of Te Maroro restaurant

and front house of Jet Park Hotel worked hard to keep the high standards alive while Nancye, John and the team worked behind the scenes to showcase the fantastic food and beverage product and service Jet Park Hotel has to offer.

It's all part of the reason that the family owned-and-run Jet Park is anything but your average airport hotel!

Make your reservation at Te Maroro Restaurant now:

Jet Park Airport Hotel & Conference Centre, 63 Westney Road, Mangere, Manukau, Auckland, tel. 09-275-4100, reservations: 0800 538-466

www.jetpark.co.nz

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Prepared on behalf of Jet Park Hotel & Conference Centre by *the pr shop*. For more information, please contact Katie Stow on 09 368 1074, 021 444 526 or email katie@theprshop.co.nz.