

Media Release
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BEST RESTAURANT COUP FOR CASTAWAY ISLAND FIJI

Castaway Island's pioneering Asian fusion restaurant, '1808' has been named Best Restaurant at the AON Fiji Excellence in Tourism Awards.

The award which recognizes establishments that deliver impeccable service, exceptional food and a great atmosphere, is the culmination of a culinary odyssey by Australian Executive Chef Lance Seeto, who has spent more than four years travelling throughout the Fijian archipelago researching local cuisine.

Resort Manager Steven Andrews said the award was particularly noteworthy as the outdoor, feet-in-the-sand restaurant was only opened following the aftermath of Cyclone Evan in early 2013.

In naming '1808' Best Restaurant, the judges praised Chef Seeto for his ability to embrace the heart and soul of Fijian food.

"He has cleverly brought the flavours of Fiji on to the international stage," they said.

Chef Seeto said that as a foreign chef, he was able to look from the outside in and fully appreciate what Fiji had to offer.

"There are some unique and very old Pacific island techniques and flavours that may seem ordinary to locals, but are new to the rest of the world. Harnessing those elements combined with the fresh local produce is what I believe the international traveller wants to experience," he said.

'1808' is named after the first year the Chinese presence was recorded in Fiji and incorporates artisan Fijian, Indian and Chinese cooking techniques with live fire cooking and tropical flavours.

Lance Seeto is the host and presenter of Fiji TV's top rating adventure cooking series 'Taste of Paradise' which is seen weekly in 13 countries across the South Pacific and Papua New Guinea. He also has a regular food column in the Fiji Times.

Accessible only by boat, seaplane or helicopter, the AON Best Restaurant accolade is Castaway's first since the private island was acquired by Outrigger Hotels and Resorts from its previous owner Mr Geoffrey Shaw earlier this month.

For additional information on Castaway Island visit www.castawayfiji.com

High resolution images available on request.

About Outrigger Enterprises Group

Outrigger Enterprises Group is one of the largest and fastest growing privately-held leisure lodging, retail and hospitality companies in the Asia-Pacific and Oceania regions and continues to expand its presence throughout the area. A family-owned company with 66 years of hospitality experience, Outrigger runs a highly-successful, multi-branded portfolio of hotels, condominiums and vacation resort properties, including Outrigger® Hotels and Resorts, OHANA® Hotels and Resorts, Embassy Suites®, Holiday Inn®, Best Western®, Wyndham Vacation Ownership® and Hilton Grand Vacations™. Currently, Outrigger operates and/or has under development 45 properties with approximately 11,000 rooms located in Hawaii; Australia; Guam; Fiji; Bali; Thailand; Mauritius, Vietnam; and Hainan Island, China. Outrigger Enterprises Group also operates and develops hotel properties and hospitality-related retail and real estate opportunities for partners in Hawaii, the Pacific, and Asia. For on-line information, log on at www.outriggerenterprisesgroup.com and www.outrigger.com.

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