



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **It's Official! Outrigger on the Lagoon the most TASTEFUL resort in Fiji!**

**Winner – Best Restaurant Category - 2006 Fiji Excellence in Tourism Awards**

*Outrigger on the Lagoon · Fiji*, Fiji's First Five Star Resort, has won yet another prestigious award for its exceptional culinary contribution to Fiji. Taking out top honours in the recently held *2006 Fiji Excellence in Tourism Awards* in the "Best Restaurant" category, Outrigger's Ivi Restaurant creamed the competition, confirming its reputation as the best Hotel/Resort fine dining experience in Fiji.

The judging was based on the level of contribution a Restaurant has made to Fiji Tourism through the provision of food and beverage. Ivi's award submission highlighted the Restaurant's original dining concepts, traditional Fijian setting and it's award winning chefs who have offered international media exposure to Fiji and Fiji's evolving food scene.

General Manager, Mr Darren Shaw says, "The amount of international awards given to Ivi's chefs in recent years is nothing short of amazing. They've showcased their talents on an international stage which has meant the stimulation of culinary innovation and flair and exceptional pride in their daily creations...this has ultimately raised the benchmark for Fiji's cuisine".

Mr Shaw says the restaurant prides itself in being purely and uniquely Fijian. He says, "...we adapt and reshape internationally recognised standards to emulate the spirit and warmth of Fiji hospitality...I can safely say there is truly nothing like it in the world".

### **IVI Restaurant's Chef awards**

#### **2006**

Fiji Pastry Chef of the Year – Sainivalati Tavaga ; Fiji Junior Chef of the Year, Runner up – Veenal Reddy ; Fiji Chef of the Year, runner-up – Vinay Ram ; All chefs selected to represent Fiji in the 32<sup>nd</sup> World Chef's congress - Auckland, NZ ; Food Hotel Asia 2006 Culinary Challenge in Singapore – Silver to Shailesh Naidu

#### **2005**

A total of 29 medals won in Fiji's Salon Culinare Competition including –

Fiji Chef of the Year – Rukshana Ali ; Fiji Junior Chef of the Year – Veenal Reddy ; Pastry Chef of the Year - Sainivalait Tavaga ; Fiji "Battle of the Chefs" – Vinay Ram ; 2005 Oceaniafest – Perth, AUS – Gold Medal plus overall Bronze in "Oceania Chef of the Year" - Shailesh Naidu

#### **2004**

Fiji Chef of the Year – Shailesh Naidu ; Junior Chef of the Year – Rukshana Ali ; Pastry Chef of the Year – Runner Up – Sainivalati Tavaga.

*Outrigger on the Lagoon · Fiji* is an officially rated five star Resort located on the famous Coral Coast of Fiji. Ivi, its signature Restaurant is complemented by three other Restaurants and 24 hour in-room dining. All dining options offer creative International cuisine featuring the best of local and international produce.

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