



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southern Sun Shines at the 2024 Inter-Hotel Challenge

Friday, 6 December 2024 – Southern Sun has once again demonstrated its excellence in South Africa’s hospitality industry by claiming top honours in multiple categories at the prestigious 2024 Inter-Hotel Challenge. This annual event, widely regarded as the “hospitality Oscars,” celebrates the exceptional talent, innovation, and skill within the sector.

Marcel von Aulock, CEO of Southern Sun, commended the hotel group’s performance, stating, “The Inter-Hotel Challenge is a pillar of talent development in our industry. This year’s winners exemplify the dedication, passion, and mentorship culture that are integral to Southern Sun. We are immensely proud of our teams’ achievements, which reflect our commitment to excellence and growth in South African hospitality.”

Among the standout achievements, **Wayne Siepmann**, General Manager of Southern Sun Cape Sun, was named **General Manager of the Year**, earning well-deserved recognition for his visionary leadership. His accolade reflects Southern Sun’s enduring commitment to excellence in management and guest experiences.

In the culinary arena, **Chef Rethabile Maseola** and **Wine Steward Simphiwe Duma**, representing 54 on Bath, captivated the judges with their exceptional food and wine pairing. Their creation, a harmonious blend of Grilled Sea Bass, Prawn Arancini, paired with De Grendel Op Die Berg Chardonnay 2023, showcased innovation and a profound understanding of flavour.

Adding to the group’s success, **Executive Chef PJ Peter Lakay** of Southern Sun Cape Sun received the coveted **Showcook Man of the Match** award for his outstanding culinary artistry. Meanwhile, Southern Sun’s rising pastry stars shone brightly, with **Nonzuzo Mhlungu** of The Edward hotel claiming the title of **Lancewood Pastry Chef of the Year** and earning an exclusive culinary trip to France.

Southern Sun’s excellence extended beyond the kitchen, with **Danie Kortjas**, a wine steward from Southern Sun Elangeni & Maharani, and **Sanele Mhlongo**, from The Edward, demonstrating mastery in service and wine knowledge. Their recognition highlights Southern Sun’s emphasis on nurturing versatile hospitality professionals.

The group also excelled in the barista category, where **Simphiwe Mtshali** of 54 on Bath and **Ivan Lange** of Southern Sun The Cullinan stood out for their passion and precision in coffee artistry.

Speaking on these achievements, von Aulock, CEO of Southern Sun, further commented: “This year’s winners are a testament to values that define Southern Sun. The Inter-Hotel Challenge is not just a competition, it is a platform to showcase the skills and commitment of our people, who are at the heart of South African hospitality. Their success reflects the strength of our teams and our unwavering investment in their growth.”

The 2024 Inter-Hotel Challenge, anchored by its emphasis on mentorship and skills transfer, brought together the country’s top hospitality professionals in an inspiring showcase of talent. Southern Sun’s continued success at this event underscores its leadership in shaping the future of the industry.

Visit <https://www.southernsun.com/> for more information.

.../Ends

ISSUED BY SOUTHERN SUN FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Neo Mboniswa | PR and Communications Manager | 082 466 2161 | neo.mboniswa@southernsun.com

Southern Sun is the leading hospitality group in Southern Africa with hotels in South Africa, Africa, the Seychelles and the Middle East. Southern Sun’s portfolio of brands includes award-winning luxury hotels such as 54 on Bath, Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa, the Beverly Hills, Mount Grace Hotel & Spa and the Sandton Sun & Towers, as well as trusted economy offerings such as StayEasy and Sun1, well-known full-service brands such as Southern Sun Hotels, SunSquare and Garden Court, and a collection of resorts in idyllic settings. For more information, visit southernsun.com, follow us on Twitter (@SouthernSunGrp), Instagram (@SouthernSunHotels), Facebook (Facebook/SouthernSunHotels) and LinkedIn (@Southern-Sun).



| Luxury | | Full Service | Economy | Convention Centre |
|--------|--|--------------|---------|-------------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |