

Japan's capital keeps gourmet crown

Tokyo noodle shop awarded world's first ramen Michelin star

TOKYO, Dec 2, (Agencies): A tiny Tokyo noodle shop joined the ranks of the world's top restaurants Tuesday as it scooped up a star from the respected Michelin Guide.

The food bible gave a nod to nine-seat Tsuta — a first for a ramen eatery — as Tokyo also kept its title as the world's culinary capital with the most Michelin-starred restaurants.

Ramen is one of the most common fast foods in Japan and small shops serving the soup-and-noodle concoction can be found on almost every corner.

In recent years, the dish's populari-

ty has exploded with restaurants popping up in major cities around the world, from Hong Kong to New York.

Tsuta — which sells bowls from \$7 to \$9.75 apiece at its shop in the north Tokyo neighbourhood of Sugamo — features gourmet offerings such as rosemary-flavoured barbecued beef and soy sauce ramen with a hint of porcini mushroom.

"The most important thing is that customers like our ramen," Takatoshi Itami, one of the restaurant's cooks, said Tuesday.

"We have good reviews thanks to

them — getting a star was not our priority."

The guide, released Tuesday, listed 27 other Tokyo ramen shops as Bib Gourmand, a notch below its three-tiered star system.

While sophisticated, high-end Japanese restaurants including sushi and tempura venues, are no strangers to Michelin stars, it is rare for casual eateries to receive the award.

The latest Tokyo guide gave its coveted three-star rating to 13 restaurants, with two stars awarded to 51 restaurants and another 153 restaurants receiving one star.

Among the establishments gaining three-star ratings in the 2016 Michelin guide to Japan's capital was one serving blowfish that is poisonous if improperly prepared and a sushi restaurant whose master chef is in his late 80s.

The guide also widened its listing of foods in the "Bib Gourmand" section that emphasizes cheaper restaurants to include Japanese-style curry and gyoza, the Japanese version of Chinese potsticker dumplings.

"The number of restaurants in Tokyo is just huge, and the breadth of the offerings very wide, making it an

extremely appealing city for fine dining," said Michael Ellis, international director of the Michelin guides, in a statement.

Thirteen restaurants gained the coveted three-star rating, one more than last year, with the promotion of "Kohaku" — a Japanese restaurant featuring elaborate courses of elegant traditional dishes — to three stars from two.

As many as 217 restaurants gained stars, down from 267 last year but still the most for any world capital city, a Michelin spokeswoman said. The first Michelin restaurant guide,

aimed at drivers in the early days of motoring, was published by the tire company in 1900, with the star rating system introduced in the 1920s.

Tokyo was the first Asian city to have a guide devoted to it.

Following is a list of the 13 top-rated Tokyo restaurants, according to the 2016 Michelin guide that goes on sale on Friday.

1. Ishikawa; 2. Esaki; 3. Kanda; 4. Quintessence; 5. Kohaku; 6. Saito; 7. Joel Robuchon; 8. Sukiyabashi Jiro Honten; 9. Makimura; 10. Yamadaya; 11. Yukimura; 12. Yoshitake; 13. Ryugin.

Destinations



People look at the otherworldly SeaGlass Carousel at the Battery in Lower Manhattan, New York, lit up at night. (AP)



This photo shows several globes from the Cool Globes public art installation in Lower Manhattan, New York, with One World Trade in the background. (AP)



People walk near Pier A Harbor House (left), with One World Trade in the distance, in Lower Manhattan, New York. (AP)



A passerby walks past the exterior of Brookfield Place, an upscale mall in Lower Manhattan at the World Financial Center, in New York. (AP)

Visit to serene 9/11 park a must for any trip to NYC

Lower Manhattan offers shopping, food, light show

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one-day or three-day advanced linoleum carving course), ecoprinting (two-day course), shibori tie dye course (weekend course or 2-day weekday course), advanced fabric design (six session three-week course), natural dyes on wool (3 session course), and ecoprinting (one-day weekend /or evening course).

Please email: info@alsadu.org.kw and/or stationarymovement@yahoo.com for more information.

Dec 12

Winter Football Festival: The Annual Everton Winter Football Festival and Seasonal Carnival takes place in Bayan on Saturday Dec 12, from 8 am to 4 pm. Over 500 children will be participating in this day long event and spaces are available for vendors and stall holders wishing to attend. There will be bouncy castles, the Porsche Kids Driving School BBQ and cafeteria and lots of fun and games for all the family. For further details and stall enquiries contact Mike on 99981327.

Dec 15

IKFS announces competitions: Indo-Kuwait Friendship Society, (IKFS) a non-profit socio cultural NRI association whose chief patron is Rajindar Sachar, the

By Beth J. Harpaz

On a dark December night, a canopy of lights glitters across Lower Manhattan, and not just from One World Trade and the other downtown skyscrapers. The neighborhood sparkles with new attractions, from the otherworldly glow of the SeaGlass carousel in Battery Park to a colorful, choreographed light show called Luminaries at the Winter Garden.

You'll also find upscale shopping, outdoor art, 22 hotels and many dining options. Here are some details. **SeaGlass Carousel** The SeaGlass Carousel is unlike any merry-go-round you've ever ridden. No toothy wooden horses and vintage organ music here. Instead, the glowing, pastel seats are shaped like seashells that spin and weave while a

soaring, dreamlike soundtrack plays. The attraction is located in Battery Park at the tip of Lower Manhattan, a short walk from the boats to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The Staten Island Ferry terminal is nearby as well, with free trips across New York Harbor 24 hours a day. The carousel is open Sunday-Thursday, 10 am-8 pm; Friday, Saturday and holidays until 10 pm, \$5 a ride, <http://www.seaglass-carousel.nyc/>.

Pier A Not far from the carousel heading west along the waterfront is Pier A Harbor House, a landmark building that dates to 1886. It now houses several dining options, with lovely views of the water on one side and on the other side, the skyscraper canyons of the financial district — increasingly known as FiDi — highlighted by One

World Trade. Menus range from fun pub fare to oysters, lobster and other seafood; 22 Battery Place, <http://www.piera.com>. A plaza surrounding the building entrance is dotted with 12 large, colorful Cool Globes. The globes are a public art installation on view until April, designed to raise awareness about global warming.

World Financial Center/Brookfield Place/Winter Garden

This building just west of One World Trade on the Hudson River offers shopping, food and a respite from the hustle and bustle of the streets outside. Enter at Brookfield Place, 200 Vesey St, <http://brookfieldplaceny.com/>, and check out the upscale retailers, from Gucci and Ferragamo to Diane von Furstenberg and Michael Kors. Then make your

way to the Winter Garden, a vaulted glass atrium 10 stories high, with lots of places to sit. It's a nice place to catch your breath, with an atmosphere that manages to feel simultaneously tranquil and vibrant. New for the holiday season is Luminaries, a free, colorful, hypnotic light installation that bathes the atrium in a choreographed palette of moody blues, lavenders and other hues from 650 hanging lanterns, 8 am-8 pm through Jan 10, <http://brookfieldplaceny.com/events/luminaries>.

Also onsite is Le District, <http://ledistrict.com/>, a French food hall where you'll find crepes, coffee, cheese, sandwiches, fresh produce, flowers and more. And until Dec 15, just outside Brookfield on the waterfront is a free interactive exhibit called the Museum of Feelings, billed

as a "mood ring of the city" that changes colors based on visitors' emotions; Monday-Saturday, 11 am-9 pm and Sundays until 7 pm, <http://www.themuseumoffeelings.com>. Be prepared for long lines to enter the museum.

One World Trade A visit to the serene and moving 9/11 Memorial park adjacent to One World Trade is a must for any trip to New York City. Other options for visitors include the 9/11 museum and the tower observatory.

But even if you're just admiring the sparkling, soaring skyscraper from a distance, it's worth remembering how the area has been transformed in 14 years from the smoking wreckage of the destroyed twin towers to a vibrant, beautiful neighborhood that lights up the tip of Manhattan. (AP)

former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court and Head of Sachar Committee. Padmashri Dr Kiran Bedi, Dr M.K. Munir, Minister of Kerala, Father Davis Chiramal, Chairman, Kidney Foundation of India are some of the patrons of IKFS.

In a press release, AKS Abdul Nazar,

IKFS General Secretary announced conducting of competitions in public speech. Both Arabic and or English can be chosen by the participant. Also calligraphy competitions in Hindi and Arabic languages. Students of 10th, 11th and 12th class of any nationality can participate in these contests. The last date of registration is set

on Dec 15, 2015.

The competition will be held on Jan 8, 2016 at 3:00 pm.

Program venue: Paragon Hotel Auditorium, Mirgah, Kuwait city. Darshana TV Malayalam Channel has consented as being the co-sponsor of the program, and their TV crew will be pres-

ent on the day. In addition to several distinguished Kuwaitis and Indian community leaders will attend during the award ceremony and the time is expected at 8:00 pm on the same day, in order to hand over the cash prizes as well as encrypted memento to the winners. Students are requested to register thru email with the

consent of their parents. Attention: Program convenor, ikfsociety@gmail.com (www.indo-kwtfriendshipsociety.com)

Dec 16

DAI announces Story Time: We need your help. Over the summer, the DAI **Continued on Page 28**