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Etisalat Beach Canteen brings families together with food and film

Cooking classes by Al Islami and Food & Film Night among the highlights today

The Etisalat Beach Canteen, the central hub of the ongoing Dubai Food Festival, will be offering families some exciting food-related and entertainment activities today (Sunday 28 February) including cooking classes by Al Islami and the Film and Food Night featuring the classic movie Casablanca.

Whether it was to savour healthy food by home-grown food vendors, take part in free-to-attend fitness activities, live cooking demonstrations or enjoy the Food and Film Night, a large number of families have been carrying home memorable moments of their visit to this popular DFF destination located on Kite Beach.

Meanwhile, Friday (26 February) witnessed four chefs from top restaurants around Dubai dishing out a remarkable display during their live cooking demonstrations at the Etisalat Beach Canteen. Foodies and food aficionados crowded around the open kitchen space at the main stage as the chefs created easy and healthy dishes.

The event received a wonderful response due to the well-selected menus that focussed on the 'healthy eating' concept of Etisalat Beach Canteen, the star attraction of DFF 2016 organised by the Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment (DFRE), an agency of the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing. DFF 2016 runs until 12 March under the theme 'Celebrate Taste'.

Chef de Cuisine Fabio Genghini from Vivaldi by Alfredo Russo demonstrated how to make paccheri pasta dish heaped with porcini mushrooms. He rolled the dough made of semolina flour and water in order to prepare the pasta. He then used a thyme and garlic base for the sauce before adding in sliced porcini mushrooms and the cooked paccheri pasta. He finished the dish by making a mousse out of parmesan cheese and cream. Dozens of people lined up to get a rich taste of the dish which was topped with the frothy savoury mousse.

Next in line was the Mint Leaf of London. Interested foodies were given a flyer that had the recipe of the Fisherman's Prawns dish, so that they could replicate the dish at home. Chef Vivek Kashiwari emphasised that they used low fat coconut milk so that the dish was light and healthy. Natural ingredients took inspiration from Indian and Thai cuisines and included garlic, onion, freshly prepared tomato paste, various Indian spices, lime leaves and the lemongrass stalks. Romero peppers were also used to add a sharp bite of heat to the palate. They were first blanched along with the seeds and the flesh before being blended in with the garlic and the vinegar.

As the crowd gathered to take a peek at the various ingredients, the Chef passed around lemongrass stalks so that they could detect the freshness of the ingredient. He tipped the jumbo prawns into the finished sauce and served portions of the dish in little 'boat' plates which were handed to the crowd.

Third in the series of promoting healthy food and living was Executive Chef Rabah Samra from Seven Sands, a restaurant that serves Emirati Cuisine. The chef prepared a beetroot Hommous & Kibbeh Al Bezar dish which included a variety of herbs and Arabic spices. Freshly made hommous were sandwiched between beetroot slices and refrigerated before he piled a side salad of Rocca leaves. For the kibbeh, he not only prepared the kibbeh stuffing that included lamb minced meat and Arabic spices, he also demonstrated how the kibbeh shell was made, using top-side beef minced meat, brown bulgur and herbs. He ensured that the kibbeh were baked and not fried for the purpose of enjoying healthy living. He then created various sauces such as the tarator sauce and walnut chilli sauce for the final touches to the dish. Leaflets of the recipe were handed out and the crowd took time to appreciate the amazing number of dishes that he created from scratch.

The final demonstration was by Chef Vipin Kala from Ashiana by Vineet, a restaurant created by Michelin-star-chef Vineet Bhatia that serves a delectable twist to Indian cuisine. Chef Vipin gave a powerful talk about preparing a healthy meal comprising baked chicken breast, pureed lentil dressing and a tomato and onion base. While he described the ingredients that were used, Chef de Partie, Bishnu Bhandhari prepared the actual dishes. Generous servings of the dish helped the crowds to grasp the possibility of cooking easy and healthy dishes that needed not more than 30 minutes.



Etisalat Beach Canteen is also the ticketing hub for all the major Dubai Food Festival events. Other highlights of the 2016 Dubai Food Festival include: Dubai Restaurant Week, 'Local Greats Masterclass Series presented by Al Islami'; Street Nights; Taste of Dubai; The Big Grill and a range of signature restaurant-led events

Etisalat Beach Canteen, also serves as the official ticket booking hub for DFF 2016, which is organised by the Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment (DFRE), an agency of the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing. DFF 2016 runs until 12 March under the theme 'Celebrate Taste'.

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Notes to editors:

About Dubai Food Festival

Dubai Food Festival is a citywide culinary celebration that showcases the Emirate's emergence as a gastronomy destination through a 17-day programme of food-related consumer and trade events, activities, promotions and appearances by food celebrities. The Festival promotes the diversity, creativity and multicultural nature of Dubai's culinary offering – from five-star gourmet dining to everyday restaurants and cafés for all budgets; international brands to a burgeoning scene of home-grown concepts influenced by traditional Emirati cuisine and the flavours of the 200 nationalities that live in Dubai.

For more information visit www.dubaifoodfestival.com or find DFF on social media, using the hashtag **#DubaiFoodFest**:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dubaifoodfest>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/dubaifoodfest>
- Instagram: <http://instagram.com/dubaifoodfest>



About Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment

The Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment (DFRE), an agency of the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, Government of Dubai, was established in 1996 with the objective of positioning Dubai as a world-class tourism destination offering unique and enriching shopping experiences. DFRE is responsible for developing the festivals and retail sectors based on the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai to position Dubai as a year-round family tourism, leisure, shopping and events destination.

DFRE is a pioneer organizer of world class festivals and events, and annually organizes the internationally renowned **Dubai Shopping Festival**, the **Dubai Summer Surprises**, which is a festival aimed at promoting Dubai as a Family holiday destination during the summer, **Dubai Comedy Festival**, one of the biggest annual comedy events in Dubai that brings the world's local comedians in the city, **Ramadan in Dubai**, a campaign that includes unique cultural events during this important month in the Islamic calendar, showcases Emirati hospitality and traditions, and the Islamic values of giving and sharing, **Eid in Dubai**, which aims to promote Dubai as a destination for celebrations covering the Eid al Fitr and Eid Al Adha, **Dubai Motor Festival**, which promotes Dubai as the motoring capital of the region, **Dubai Food Festival** that focusses on the great gastronomy experience that Dubai offers, and **Modhesh World**, an in-door edutainment and entertainment park for the entire family that becomes operational every year during the summer months.

About Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing

With the ultimate vision of positioning Dubai as the world's leading tourism destination and commercial hub, Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing's (DTCM) mission is to increase the awareness of Dubai to global audiences and to attract tourists and inward investment into the Emirate.

DTCM is the principal authority for the planning, supervision, development and marketing of Dubai's tourism sector; markets and promotes the Emirate's commerce sector; and is responsible for the licencing and classification of all tourism services, including hotels, tour operators and travel agents. Brands and departments within the DTCM portfolio include Dubai Convention and Events Bureau, Dubai Calendar, and Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment (formerly known as Dubai Events and Promotions Establishment).