

# ARTA 2025 National Chef of the Year Cooking Competition – Finalists Announced

Tuesday 9 September, 2025

## In Partnership with Cambridge Regional College

The race to crown the UK's finest Asian chef has reached boiling point as the [Asian Restaurant and Takeaway Awards \(ARTA\) 2025](#) — the nation's most prestigious celebration of Pan Asian cuisine — today announced the finalists for the hotly contested **National Chef of the Year** award.

The thrilling cook-off took place at [Cambridge Regional College](#) on Monday 8th September, where shortlisted chefs from across the UK competed under intense pressure to impress a panel of culinary experts. Each contestant was tasked with creating a signature dish that blended traditional heritage with contemporary innovation, showcasing complex flavours, precision techniques, and bold creativity.

This annual competition goes beyond awards — it is part of ARTA's mission to elevate the Asian restaurant sector, which contributes **over £5 billion annually to the UK economy and supports more than 100,000 jobs**. By working closely with Cambridge Regional College, ARTA is helping to upskill chefs in the Indian and Bangladeshi communities, nurturing the next generation of culinary leaders.

**Graham Taylor, Management Curriculum & Lead Commercial Operations at Cambridge Regional College**, said:

*"We've seen remarkable dedication and talent, and it's exciting to help shape the future of this vibrant industry."*

**Chef Chad Rahman, senior member of the Craft Guild of Chefs, Chaîne des Rôtisseurs and ARTA judging panel**, added:

*"An incredible display of culinary excellence and technical dexterity was exhibited by the competing chefs. Exceptional standards of complex flavour combinations, creativity, innovation and originality truly tantalised the taste buds. A true celebration of multiculturalism here in Britain via the medium of food. This only reaffirms how the Asian culinary landscape is evolving from strength to strength."*

**Mohammad Mujibur Rahman, former Mayor of Corby and ARTA judging panel member**, said:

*"ARTA cooking competitions are about more than taste — they are about growth. Judging since the organisation's inception, I have seen how events like this inspire creativity, sharpen technical skill, and give chefs a vital platform to showcase their talent. They also provide career-boosting exposure and invaluable networking within the hospitality sector. I congratulate every participant and look forward to celebrating the finalists at the Grand Finale on 6th October 2025."*

The finalists will now go head-to-head for the coveted **National Chef of the Year 2025** title at the **ARTA Grand Finale and Gala Dinner** on **Monday 6th October at the London Hilton Park Lane**, where they will be crowned before an audience of industry leaders, VIPs, MPs, and celebrity guests.

## ARTA 2025 National Chef of the Year Finalists

- Jalpari of Woodley, Woodley
- Spice Village, Longfield
- Alessi Indian Restaurant & Bar, Stoke-on-Trent
- Raj Kitchen, Swansea
- Jolsha, Stockton-on-Tees
- Junoon, Helsby
- Mowglis, Milton Keynes

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## Company Contact:

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**ARTA Awards Ltd.**

T. +443303801000

E. [info@artauk.com](mailto:info@artauk.com)

W. <https://www.artauk.com>

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