

The best chef cooks at the Grandhotel in Starý Smokovec

STARÝ SMOKOVEC (22nd May 2014) – The chef at the Grandhotel in Starý Smokovec**, Peter Pikovský, won the famous cooking contest “HoReCa cooks with professionals”, that has been organised by the Association of Hotels and Restaurants of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Horeca magazine for the past four years.**

The contest was organised within a special Horeca conference – Spring meeting of hoteliers 2014 at Grand Hotel Jasná. This year’s theme of the live cooking show was regional seasonal food in bistro style. Six cooks had sent their own recipes to the contest and could thus attract the attention of a professional jury with their original meals. The recipes sent by the cooks are always authentic and guarantee their origin. Three cooks qualified for the finals, where they had to prepare meals from ingredients that hadn’t been specified before – using the so called “black box“. The chef of the Grandhotel in the High Tatras won the contest thanks to his Lamb rib with rosemary and cream spinach. Each of the contestants had 45 minutes to prepare, serve and present their meals. *“I didn’t take part in the contest to win but to put my skills on a test. If you don’t plan things, you usually succeed. I wasn’t afraid of the competition around, I felt good, it was my domestic environment of the Tatras. Stress and tension faded away and I was doing really fine. I am happy that my own recipe of Pork sirloin wrapped in herbs and white bread, served with yellow carrot puree and decorated with spring vegetables attracted the attention of the jury and qualified me for the finals,”* commented Peter Pikovský on his success in the first round of the contest.

“Successful recipes in bistro style prepared by our chef, Peter Pikovský, will be part of the seasonal menu at the Grandhotel Starý Smokovec this year, for sure. The bistro style is very popular these days and we plan to introduce an example of it in June – the so called express lunch,” added Marek Koumal, general manager of Grandhotel Starý Smokovec****.

“We care about progress in Slovak gastronomy and this contest is one of activities that should present current trends and successful people who are really skilled at what they do. This contest is mainly about quality and introduces the best of the best on the scene these days. The main idea is to prefer quality to quantity. It should also motivate all those who are about to decide about their future job,” said Marek Harbulák, general secretary of the Association of Hotels and Restaurants of the Slovak Republic.

“HoReCa cooks with professionals” is a national contest of cooks – professionals working at Slovak gastronomy facilities focused on innovating traditional meals and using ingredients typical for regional cuisines. Seasonal ingredients typical for individual regions must form the basic part of meals being prepared at the contest. A professional jury evaluates authenticity and originality of recipes and chooses 6 of them for the contest itself. Authors of 6 recipes prepare main course meals in the place where the Horeca conference takes place. Cooks work individually, without teams. The 3-member jury evaluates served meals with 1-5 points according to the following criteria: taste, technology, presentation and general impression.

Tatry mountain resorts, a.s. (TMR) is the leader in tourism in the Central and Eastern Europe; it owns and operates attractive mountain resorts and hotels. In the Low Tatras TMR owns and operates the resort Jasná Nízke Tatry and hotels Wellness hotel Grand Jasná, Boutique Hotel Tri Studničky, Chalets Jasná De Luxe, Hotel Srdiečko, and Million Star Hotel. TMR is also the owner of Aquapark Tatralandia, the largest Slovak aquapark with year-round operation, which besides water entertainment includes Tropical Paradise, a special tropical indoor hall with sea water, as well as accommodation in bungalows and apartments of Holiday Village Tatralandia. In the High Tatras TMR owns and operates the resort Vysoké Tatry with mountain areas of Tatranská Lomnica, Starý Smokovec and Štrbské Pleso, which TMR co-manages. In the High Tatras TMR also owns hotels Grandhotel Praha Tatranská Lomnica, Grandhotel Starý Smokovec, and Hotel FIS Štrbské Pleso. TMR also owns 19% in Melida, a.s., which leases and operates the resort Špindlerův Mlýn in the Czech Republic. In Poland TMR owns the Szczyrk resort. TMR also owns and leases to third parties hotels Slovakia, Kosodrevina, Liptov and Ski&Fun Záhradky a Bungalovy. By the end of 2013 nearly EUR 190 mil. have been invested into development and modernization of TMR's resorts. TMR shares are traded on three European stock exchanges – in Bratislava, Prague, and Warsaw.