

A Shropshire curry chef has been given a top recognition for showcasing the best of British curry at an international food festival held in Europe. Chef Mohammad Azad, from the Cafe Saffron, 25 Hill's lane, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1QU, was jetted out to Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia last month after being selected from hundreds of chefs across the UK, to showcase his special talents at the Taste of Britain Curry Festival.

After successfully completing ambitious task of winning the hearts and minds of gourmets in Ljubljana, where curry lovers from 10 European countries attended the event, Chef Mohammad was presented with special certificate for his achievements by the HM Ambassador of Great Britain to Slovenia, Mr Andrew Page.

The event organised by the UK based trade magazine Curry Life, British Embassy and Hotel Park, Slovenia, promotes the skills of British curry chefs abroad and introduced diners to the unique phenomenon of British curry, which has replaced fish and chips as the country's favourite food.

To date, the Taste of Britain Curry Festival has had huge success in countries such as Spain, Italy and Sweden where curry is not well known, while on the Indian sub-continent where curry originated, customers have been bowled over by the British adaptation of the dish.

Shah and a team of six other chefs from the UK were asked to create a mouth-watering menu of over fifty different fusion dishes for diners at the festival to sample. And British favourites such as the Birmingham invention of Balti and the ever popular Chicken Tikka Masala went down a treat.

Throughout the festival, Mohammad impressed the diners with his signature dish 'Shorisha Chicken.' And the overall verdict? "Feedback from customers was very positive," said Mohammad. "All the customers seemed to have enjoyed my dish," he added.

British Ambassador to Slovenia, Andrew Page said: "I am delighted that our Embassy, with support from UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) colleagues in London and the region, has been able to initiate this Taste of Britain Curry Festival in Ljubljana, together with our partners from Curry Life and Hotel Park.

"Sixty years ago, when HM Queen Elizabeth came to the throne, the British people had their first taste of "Coronation Chicken". Today, two thirds of British people who go out for a meal go

for a curry. That's why we came up with the idea of bringing over British exhibitors and putting them into contact with buyers and distributors not only from Slovenia but from nine other countries in Central and Eastern Europe, to spread the delights of the curry industry more widely," he added.

Ends

Photo Caption:

(l-r) Syed Ahmed, Editor - Curry Life, Chef Mohammad Azad from Cafe Saffron and Andrew Page, HM Ambassador to Slovenia.

<http://ukinslovenia.fco.gov.uk/en/news/?view=News&id=858922982>

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