



Tastefully done is why they won

Laguna named Echo's Restaurant of the Year

AN EATERY set in a city centre hotel has been crowned Restaurant of the Year in the coveted Echo Food and Drink Awards.

Laguna Kitchen and Bar, in the Park Plaza Hotel, picked up the award after impressing our judges with its first-class food, professional service and stylish interior. The restaurant was also commended on its ambience and value for money.

Manager Jordan Lewis said he was speechless when he discovered the restaurant had won the award.

He said: "It's absolutely fantastic. We've all had our

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fingers crossed hoping we would be getting good news. I am lost for words - we are really pleased."

He added that head chef Mark Freeman was currently on holiday but he was looking forward to breaking the good news on his return next week.

During the awards judges visited a number of restaurants in their selected category, where they were invited to critique two courses with a bottle of house wine.

Some of the 11 categories



■ Some of the tempting fare on offer PICTURE: Peter Bolter ©

in the awards included general restaurant, Indian restaurant, coffee shop, fish and chip shop, local pub and Italian.

Every venue was awarded points on various criteria including value for money, quality and presentation of food, ambience and decor. A winner was selected for each category, with other premises named as "highly commended" by judges.

Other successful eateries included Mowgli's on Crwys Road, Cardiff; New York Deli, High Street Arcade, Cardiff; Gemelli, Bridge Street, Newport; Topgun, Merthyr Road,

Whitchurch, Cardiff; and Farmers Daughter, Rhiwderin, Newport.

Thai House, Churchill Way, Cardiff; Coffee Barker, Castle Arcade, Cardiff; Zeera, St Iltyd Road, Church Village and the Boars Head, Coedcae Lane, near Pontyclun, were also named as winners.

To decide where to dine out next, you can read our full reviews of all the restaurants visited by the judges in our eagerly-anticipated special Food and Drink Awards 2012 supplement in today's paper.

■ See tonight's Food & Drink supplement inside



■ The Laguna's stylish interior