

Press release

January 16, 2014

“Accor Professions Challenge” The winners of the 2013 edition

76 talented young professionals representing all five continents and eight winners at the finish line!

Every year, the Human Resources Department organizes the “Accor Professions Challenge”, a competition for the Group’s young employees. The candidates, who are selected in regional and national heats between July and December, are divided into two age categories, 19-22 year olds and 23-25 year olds. They are currently either employed in a Group hotel or on a work-study contract. The finalists, who are assessed by a jury of hotel professionals and human resources managers, have to take part in timed contests in their fields: reception, table service, cooking or bartending.

Evelyne Chabrot, Accor’s Chief Human Resources Officer comments: *“The Accor Professions Challenge is an effective way of highlighting our young professionals and showcasing the four flagship hotel professions that they represent. Innovation, motivation and performance are our Group’s fundamental values and they are promoted through this contest, which is an enriching human adventure that incites bonding between our employees.”*

76 participants from 30 countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia Pacific and America* took part in this 11th edition of the competition. The Challenge allows the candidates, who work in hotels ranging from the economy to luxury segments, to assess their talents, give their utmost and of course experience intensive moments of sharing.

The day after the grand finale on January 14 at the Lycée des Métiers de l’Hôtellerie Santos Dumont in Saint-Cloud and at the Mercure Paris Centre Tour Eiffel, Sébastien Bazin, Chairman and CEO, Sven Boinet, Group Managing Director, Evelyne Chabrot, Chief Human Resources Officer, and Magali Laurent, International Mobility, Expatriation and Talents Director, awarded prizes to the competition’s **eight winners.**

The winners of the 2013 “Accor Professions Challenge”

The cooking contest: in two parts

- ✓ For a main course and its trimmings: *“Technical performance and inventiveness: create and cook a unique and personalized recipe using the list of ingredients you have been given”*
- ✓ For a starter: *“Creativity and speed: create your recipe using the contents of a basket of surprise ingredients”*

- 19-22 year old category: Eren AYBEK, from Novotel Munich Airport (Germany)

- 23-25 year old category: Samuel BILLSON, du Mercure Southgate Exeter (UK)

The table service contest:

“Set-up, service and advice: select the tableware items and lay your table. Welcome the customers, call attention to the products on the hotel restaurant’s menu and advise the customers regarding their choices.”

- 19-22 year old category: Joep SONDEIJKER, from Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

- 23-25 year old category: Charna SPINK, from Mercure Banbury Whately Hall (UK)

The bartending contest:

“Agility, speed and originality: make the cocktail you have drawn at random from a selection of recipes from the International Bartender Association. Afterwards, create and make your own cocktail recipe.”

- 19-22 year old category: Matthieu DEMAZURE, from Novotel London Tower Bridge (UK)

- 23-25 year old category: Primoz PROSEN, from Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

The reception contest:

“Sales and welcome: welcome the customer, proceed with the check-in, offer him/her the Group’s loyalty program and then present your hotel’s services and answer the concierge service requests.”

- 19-22 year old category: Olesya CHEREPAN , from ibis Moscow Paveletskaya (Russia)

- 23-25 year old category: Veronica May Alcantara MAYO, from Grand Mercure Roxy Singapore (Singapore)

**30 countries took part in the 2013 edition: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Morocco, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, the Netherlands, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.*

The brands represented: ibis, Mercure, Novotel, MGallery, Grand Mercure, Pullman and Sofitel



Accor, the world's leading hotel operator and market leader in Europe, is present in 92 countries with over 3,600 hotels and 460,000 rooms. Accor's broad portfolio of hotel brands – Sofitel, Pullman, MGallery, Grand Mercure, Novotel, Suite Novotel, Mercure, Adagio, ibis, ibis Styles, ibis budget and hotelF1 – provides an extensive offer from luxury to budget. With more than 160,000 employees in Accor brand hotels worldwide, the Group offers its clients and partners 45 years of know-how and expertise.

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