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**Gaggenau announces finalists and judges for its international Sommelier Awards 2018.**

**Chinese viniculture comes full circle.**

**Munich, September 2018: Gaggenau, the luxury brand for professional-grade home appliances, is proud to present the six finalists due to compete in the international Gaggenau Sommelier Awards, 2018. Founded from the bedrock of the brand's dedication to culinary culture and its consensus with wine culture, the Gaggenau Sommelier Awards will take place from the 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> October, in the capital of one of the most exciting wine producing countries in the world – Beijing, Mainland China.**

Following a series of national heats, the international awards welcomes six finalists, who will soon convene in the capital of China. These finalists have been officially confirmed as the following: Kai Wen Lu, Taipei Marriott Hotel Sommelier and Beverage Assistant Manager, representing the Region of Greater China; Mikaël Grou from France, Assistant Chef Sommelier at Alain Ducasse, The Dorchester in London; Joakim Hansi Blackadder, Managing Partner of Somm Hospitality Enterprises from South Africa; Emma Ziemann, Sommelier and Head Waitress of Thörnströms Kök, representing Sweden; Davide Dellago, Head Sommelier of Wunderbrunnen Restaurant, from Switzerland; and Zareh Mesrobyan, Head Sommelier of two Michelin star restaurant Andrew Fairlie, representing the UK.

Marking the brand's third biennial international Sommelier Awards, Gaggenau demonstrates its unrivalled affinity for the education and development of the many facets of culinary culture. Initially inspired by presenting a platform for rising young stars within the sommelier landscape, this year's awards takes form as both a celebration of hidden talent, complemented further by a passionate interest in the progress and recognition of China's emerging sommelier culture.

The finalists will be observed by a globally recognised judging panel including Annemarie Foidl, the President of the Austrian Sommelier Association and judge of

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'Best Sommelier in the World' for the Association de la Sommellerie Internationale (ASI); Sarah Abbott, Master of Wine, internationally recognised wine consultant, judge, writer, and speaker; Mr Yang Lu, the world's first and only Chinese Master Sommelier, Corporate Director of Wine for Shangri-La Group, and founder of Grapea & Co Institute and last but not least; Sven Schnee, Head of Global Brand Gaggenau.

Sven Schnee, Head of Global Brand Gaggenau commented: "We will bring together six incredibly talented young sommeliers who have already established themselves within their respective countries. Their zeal and prominent capabilities have been further confirmed throughout the first stage of the competition, whereby we received a plethora of positive feedback from their local judging panel and sommelier experts.

"In light of this, we are delighted to have been offered such an incredible opportunity to host our awards in Beijing. This unique experience will see Gaggenau's devotion to culinary culture materialise as contributee to the future of Chinese viniculture, and close association with this spectacular heritage in wine making."

The international Gaggenau Sommelier awards 2018, will take place over two days whereby each guest including judges, finalists, press and VIPs will enjoy a day of cultural activities – showcasing the very best of what Beijing has to offer including a tour of the Forbidden City and a visit to the National Grand Theatre. The second day will focus on the competition and culminates with an illustrious gala dinner at Beijing's architectural treasure, the Red Brick Art Museum. Guests will enjoy a six course menu, beautifully crafted by the esteemed Michelin starred chef, André Chiang.

### **Notes to editors**

Gaggenau is a manufacturer of high-quality home appliances and acknowledged as an innovation leader in design and technology "Made in Germany". The company, with a history dating back to 1683, has revolutionised the domestic kitchen with its internationally acclaimed products. Gaggenau's success is founded on technological innovation and a clear design language combined with high functionality. Gaggenau has been a subsidiary of BSH Hausgeräte GmbH in Munich since 1995 and is

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currently represented in more than 50 countries with 22 flagship showrooms in major cities around the world.

The difference is Gaggenau.

[www.gaggenau.com](http://www.gaggenau.com)

Instagram (@gaggenauofficial)

Pinterest (/gaggenau\_)

Vimeo (/gaggenauofficial)

## **Gaggenau announces finalists and judges for the international Sommelier Awards 2018 – captions.**

### **01 The international Gaggenau Sommelier Awards 2018 Finalists.**

Following a series of national heats, the international awards welcomes six finalists, who will soon convene in the capital of China.

### **02 Chinese viniculture comes full circle.**

The Gaggenau Sommelier Awards will take place from the 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> October, in the capital of one of the most exciting wine producing countries in the world – Beijing, Mainland China.

### **03 Gaggenau Sommelier Awards Finalist from the Region of Greater China.**

Kai Wen Lu, Taipei Marriott Hotel Sommelier and Beverage Assistant Manager, representing the Region of Greater China.

### **04 Gaggenau Sommelier Awards Finalist from France.**

Mikaël Grou from France, Assistant Chef Sommelier at Alain Ducasse, The Dorchester in London.

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**05 Gaggenau Sommelier Awards Finalist from South Africa.**

Joakim Hansi Blackadder, Managing Partner of Somm Hospitality Enterprises from South Africa.

**06 Gaggenau Sommelier Awards Finalist from Sweden.**

Emma Ziemann, Sommelier and Head Waitress of Thörnströms Kök, representing Sweden.

**07 Gaggenau Sommelier Awards Finalist from Switzerland.**

Davide Dellago, Head Sommelier of Wunderbrunnen Restaurant, from Switzerland.

**08 Gaggenau Sommelier Awards Finalist from UK.**

Zareh Mesrobyan Head Sommelier of two Michelin star restaurant Andrew Fairlie, representing the UK.

**09 Gaggenau Sommelier Awards Judge.**

Annemarie Foidl, the President of the Austrian Sommelier Association and judge of 'Best Sommelier in the World' for the Association de la Sommellerie Internationale (ASI).

**10 Gaggenau Sommelier Awards Judge.**

Sarah Abbott, Master of Wine, internationally recognised wine consultant, judge, writer, and speaker.

**11 Gaggenau Sommelier Awards Judge.**

Mr Yang Lu, the world's first and only Chinese Master Sommelier, Corporate Director of Wine for Shangri-La Group, and founder of Grapea & Co Institute.

**12 Gaggenau Sommelier Awards Judge.**

Sven Schnee, Head of Global Brand Gaggenau.

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