

Kinross-shire chef Tom scoops top UK restaurant award

Jenny Wood

A BIG County superchef has been served with yet another top award, paying testament to his phenomenal climb up the culinary ladder of success.

The prestigious honour of being named the UK's top new restaurant of the year went to the tasty spot run by Kinross-shire's Tom Kitchin and his wife Michaela, The Kitchin.

This week the couple attended the glitzy Caterer and Hotelkeeper Award (Catey) ceremony in London to pick up the honour.

Making this win even more significant, the winner is nominated and voted for by their peers and past names to pick up the accolade include Gordon Ramsay, Marco Pierre White and Andrew Fairlie.

Bowled over with the triumph, Tom Kitchin said: "It's such an honour to be recognised by the industry. We're really proud of what we have achieved over the last two years and the whole team is thrilled.

"To be associated with the impressive list of previous winners is a huge privilege," he added.



PROUD COUPLE: Tom and Michaela Kitchin's restaurant picked up UK Newcomer of the year award.

In true fairy-tale style, Tom famously started on his road to cheffdom as a teenager scrubbing pots at his local pub, the Lomond County Inn in Kinness-

wood, before heading off to work in some of the world's top kitchens.

Then two years ago he opened his own restaurant The Kitchin, which has

already attracted huge attention and emerged as one of Edinburgh's top eateries.

Just months after opening, the restaurant on Leith's waterfront racked up a Michelin star when Tom, then just 29, became the youngest Scottish Chef to scoop one.

And also dished up for The Kitchin has been three AA Rosettes, a windfall of prestigious awards including Scottish Chef of the Year and a taste of success getting through to the final of BBC's Great British Menu alongside other top names in the UK's kitchens.

Tom Kitchin's trademark is his marriage of seasonal Scottish produce with the classical French technique he mastered through his experience gathered alongside some of the world's greatest chefs.

While the front-of-house attention to detail by Tom's Swedish wife Michaela, who herself trained with the Savoy Group in London and worked at the super luxurious seven-star Burj Al Arab in Dubai, has firmly placed the couple's Kitchin on the UK's culinary map.