



CHEF AND SPICE

■ **Fund-raising eatery has recipe for success in contest**

Victory tastes sweet for restaurant owner

A RESTAURANT with a reputation for fine food and fund-raising is celebrating after winning this year's Leicester Mercury Restaurant Awards.

Chef and Spice, in Andrewes Street, in the West End, offers a choice of Indian, Indo-Chinese and British food.

Owner Syed Rahman, who opened the restaurant two years ago and also owns Cuisine of India, in Wigston, is using both his restaurants to help raise cash for charity, recently passing the £220,000 mark. He hopes to reach £500,000 by 2020.

Restaurants which enter the competition are voted on by readers via forms printed in the Leicester Mercury.

A shortlist of three is drawn

BY **ALAN THOMPSON**

up based on the number of votes cast.

Undercover judges then visit each of the shortlisted restaurants, assessing them on attributes including quality of food, service, presentation, hygiene, cleanliness and community involvement.

Chef and Spice was chosen over Everest Dine, in Belgrave Gate, a double winner of the award, and Spice Bazaar, in Welford Road.

Mr Rahman said: "This award means a lot because the people who voted are the very customers who dine out week in and week out and are best placed to judge what makes a great restaurant."

"We are truly blessed in our great city to have so many ex-

cellent restaurants, which has seen us win the Curry Capital award in the past.

"The presence of such strong competition means that Chef and Spice has to be at its absolute best in delivering a first-class dining experience in order to flourish."

Leicester Mercury publisher David Simms, who presented the award, said: "Now in its fourth year, these awards continue to go from strength to strength."

"This year, we had a record number of restaurants taking part in the competition and a record number of people voting to shortlist their favourite restaurant."

"I was absolutely delighted to present the award to this year's winner – Chef and Spice."



PICTURE: MATT SHORT LEMA20150827B-001_C

AWARD: Syed Rahman with David Simms, of the Mercury