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ISRAEL TRAVEL NEWS

# It's all about the numbers

Tourists are pouring into Israel and hotel room occupancy is up, giving the industry much-needed hope



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## 6 Israeli restaurants receive World Luxury Restaurant Awards



Herbert Samuel, Chef Mor Cohen. (Courtesy)

Israeli cuisine is already known to be among the best in the Mediterranean, if not in the world, so it is no surprise that six Israeli restaurants were recognized for excellence. Aria, Chloélys, Herbert Samuel, Hola Restaurant & Bar, Milgo Milbar and Nomi received World Luxury Restaurant Awards for 2019 at a ceremony

held recently at The State Hermitage Museum Official Hotel in St. Petersburg, Russia.

As published on israel21c.org, "Aria, a contemporary chef bistro in Tel Aviv offering a menu created by Chef Guy Gamzu, won in three categories: best luxury restaurant bar (global), fine dining cuisine (Middle East) and interior design (Middle East).

Herbert Samuel, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Herzliya, won the global award for luxury kosher cuisine. The fine-dining establishment specializes in Mediterranean ingredients, primarily fish, meat, local fresh vegetables and olive oil. Tel Aviv's Milgo Milbar won the award for best head chef in the Middle East – Moti Titman – who has created a modern Israeli menu that incorporates his unique interpretation of international cuisines. Milgo Milbar also won a regional award for best food styling/presentation.

Nomi, the new fine-dining kosher restaurant at InterContinental David Tel Aviv, was voted as the top luxury hotel restaurant in the Middle East. Opened in January 2019, Nomi serves meat, poultry and fish and is the latest venture by acclaimed Israeli chef Yoram Nitzan.

Middle East awards also went to Chloélys in Tel Aviv for its kosher cuisine; and to Hola Restaurant & Bar as best luxury brasserie – both headed by Chef Victor Gloger.

## Tel Aviv buildings featured in major architecture magazine

ArchDaily, the self-acclaimed world's most-read architecture website, highlighted some of Tel Aviv's most iconic buildings in an article titled, "Grey vs. White: 5 Brutalist Buildings in Tel Aviv."



(Wikimedia)

Andrew Wasserstein writes, "Tel Aviv's architectural heritage has achieved global attention through the UNESCO recognition of the city's British Mandate-era International style and Bauhaus-influenced buildings. Less known is the city's Brutalist heritage and historic builds designed in the succeeding decades. Brutalism played a significant role in the Israeli design sphere of the post-World War II-era. Concrete's inexpensive availability and fast construction capabilities were adopted into the early Socialist mentality of the state to accommodate its rapidly expanding population and willingness to portray a muscular exterior.

"The exposed raw concrete of Brutalism came to define new builds during the era from governmental buildings, cultural institutions, sports stadiums to large-scale housing projects. In recent years, many of Tel Aviv's Brutalist buildings have been given a new lease on life for cultural and hospitality use as luxury hotels and world-class museums. Below are five examples of significant Brutalist transformations and restorations from sanitariums and office buildings into top hospitality and culture destinations."

Some of the buildings mentioned in the article include the Migdalor building, the Mivtachim Sanitarium, Carlton Tel Aviv, the Tel Aviv Museum of Art and the Shalom Meir Tower.