

EMBASSY OF INDIA

MUSCAT

Indian Food Festival in Oman

(Grand Hyatt from 15-19 March 2017)



The first ever 'Festival of India' in Oman is being organized by Embassy of India, Muscat, with support of Ministry of Culture of India, from November 2016 to March 2017. It was launched by H.E Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, on 15 November 2016, at Al-Bustan Palace Auditorium, wherein an Indian ballet dance troupe 'Hritaal' presented a mesmerizing performance. Hritaal troupe had, thereafter, performed in Suhar, Sur and Salalah. As part of Festival of India in Oman, the Embassy had, thereafter, organized an Indian Calligraphy Exhibition from 21st November to 3rd December 2016 at Promenade of Oman Avenues Mall, Muscat. The Exhibition was followed by performances of an Indian semi-classical music troupe, led by Padmashree Dr. Soma Ghosh, in Muscat, Salalah, Suhar and Sur in January 2017. Thereafter, a folk music and dance troupe from Jammu and Kashmir State of India visited Oman in February 2017, as part of Festival of India, and gave scintillating performances in Muscat, Salalah, Suhar and Sur.

As the last event under the Festival of India in Oman, the Embassy will hold an Indian Food Festival at Grand Hyatt Muscat, which will commence on 15th March 2017 and conclude on 19th March, 2017. Given historical contacts between India and Oman, leading to intermingling of various cultural, including culinary, traditions of the two countries and presence of hundreds of Indian restaurants, in Muscat and other cities of Oman, both the people of Oman and expatriate community in Oman are familiar with various facets of Indian cuisine. The purpose of Indian food Festival in Muscat, therefore, is to delight people of Muscat with

some lesser-known culinary traditions of India like Kashmiri, Bengali, Rajasthani, Gujarati cuisine. The Food Festival will, therefore, provide Indian food connoisseurs in Muscat an opportunity to enjoy those Indian cuisines which are not readily available in Muscat.

Two Chefs, selected by India Tourism Development Cooperation, will be visiting Muscat and will be working during the period of Food Festival with chefs of Grand Hyatt to prepare special Indian dishes. Chef Vikram Shokeen is presently working as Chef at 'The Ashok' and caters at Hyderabad House for events hosted by Ministry of External Affairs and Prime Minister of India. He has earlier worked at Hotel Jammu Ashok. He has contributed to culinary success of several prestigious conferences and events held at Ashok Hotel. He participated at Indian Food Festival in Harare, Zimbabwe. He is proficient in Mughlai Cuisine and has working knowledge of Indian regional cuisines like Rajasthani, Gujarati and Bengali cuisines. Chef Mohd. Imran has been working at Hotel Samrat since 1982 and is a master chef with excellent skills in Indian curries and Tandoori Food. He also has a working knowledge of regional cuisines like Bengali and Rajasthani cuisines. He has earlier participated in Indian Food Festival in Argentina. With Grand Hyatt chefs and visiting Indian chefs working together, the Indian Food Festival in Muscat is likely to become the most memorable and talked about culinary event of 2017. A write up on Indian cuisine is attached for further information.

The Indian Food Festival will be inaugurated in a grand ceremony on 15th March 2017 at 1930hrs at Grand Hyatt. It will be the concluding grand event of the first ever Festival of India in Oman. The Festival of India in Oman will be long remembered as an important milestone in development of friendly relations between the two countries. It has strengthened the bonds of friendship between the people of India and Oman. It has also created awareness in Oman about the diverse and unique culture of India.

Muscat, 06 March 2017