

INTERNATIONAL  
**THE NEWS**

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**Pakistani wins NY food vendor award**

NEW YORK: In the end it came down to the secret of his spices. Samiul Haque Noor, 36, took the top prize at the 2nd annual Vendy Awards for city street food vendors on Sunday, beating out three other finalists with his sizzling spice-filled Halal dishes.

Noor, who usually holds culinary court at his food cart in the South Asian community of Jackson Heights in the borough of Queens, spices up his simple chicken, lamb and beef concoctions with the flavours of his native Pakistan.

Here is what some of Noor's fans had to say about his aromatic, flavourful dishes, according to the Street Vendor Project Web site: "The cart is like a community centre for the neighbourhood's Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani residents. ... The spices on the chicken explode in your mouth and leave you coming back for more.

The red sauce will clear your sinuses. ... Sammy's chicken and rice is fabulously tasty, uniquely spiced and out of this world." A panel of judges, all of them food experts, evaluated the contestants who had been nominated by regular food-cart buffs.