

The winning team from Cinnamon Grand with the hotel's General Manager, Rohan Karr

Cinnamon Grand associates created history at the 20th All Island Marie Brizard Bartenders Cocktail Competition and Flaring Finals 2011 by winning the top two coveted awards of Classical and Flaring Bar-tending in a display of skill and talent.

This is the first time in the history of the competition that one hotel has won both categories. Cinnamon Grand's E Cheshan Buddhika of Breeze Bar restaurant won first place in the Flaring Category for his creative cocktail and flaring abilities, while in the Classical Category A M D Sampath of Chutneys restaurant picked up the top spot. He also won the Friendliest Bartender Award. R A Thanushi Perera of the Courtyard restaurant of Cinnamon Grand secured third place in this category.

The Award for the 'Best Presented Cocktail' was won by Nisansala De Alwis of Taprobane restaurant. She also bagged second place for the 'Best Creative Cocktail' Award.

"It was non-stop training 24/7, even after we won the Colombo District Competition. It was really worth it," the team said.