

THE COFFEE CLUB®

Thai Barista named international champion by The Coffee Club

Thai coffee genius 27-year-old Dan Moonyong has beaten competitors from Thailand, Australia and New Zealand to be declared *The Coffee Club's* international champion Barista*.

The Coffee Club's six top baristas competed in Brisbane in a fast-paced brewing competition to pour the perfect coffee. Nine judges critiqued each coffee on its sensory experience and the Barista's technical skills.

Mr Moonyong, who works at *The Coffee Club* Turtle Village, took out the title in a close contest, also winning the 'Signature Drink' challenge with his original, Thai-inspired 'Chilli Kiss' coffee containing hints of lemongrass, lime and spice.

Mr Moonyong, who as the winner collected a prize of \$3,000 cash, said he was very excited and honoured.

"I'm so glad I had the opportunity to compete in Australia with such talented Baristas," Mr Moonyong said.

The Coffee Club Director John Lazarou, who was in Thailand visiting Mr Moonyong, said the champion's passion for making Excellent Coffee is infectious.

"The Coffee Club's move into Thailand has produced so many fantastic results. Having Dan as part of our team, with his flair for inventing new coffee, is one of the most important ones," Mr Lazarou said.

"Dan shares the same love of coffee that I have. And he's used this love to perfect the art of making coffee," he said.

Mr Moonyong said the inspiration for his signature drink was his homeland and its culture, particularly the herbs and spices used in everyday cooking.

"I used some of our favourite ingredients, chilli and lemongrass, and blended them with an espresso to create a memorable and unique drink," he said.

Mr Moonyong's secrets to making coffee include using your hands, mind and heart; he believes this is how you make a very special cup of coffee.

"I truly love making coffee for people. It's great to see customers smiling and enjoying the experience.

"My dream is to one day go back to Australia and do a management training program," he said.

*A Barista is a coffee-making specialist who is specially trained in espresso coffee and espresso-based coffees such as Cappuccino.

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