

RETAIL THOUGHTS
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YOUNG & ENTERPRISING
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INTERNATIONAL VIEW
CROCS

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CELEBRATING RETAILING EXCELLENCE



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VOL 9 ISSUE 1



October marks the beginning of the last quarter of the year, and ushers in an auspicious period of celebrations of every kind around the world. Images, too, is geared-up to mark two important events. RetailME magazine, founded originally in 2004, is now in its 15th year while Images RetailME enters its 9th year this month. Its also time for the 7th Middle East Retail Forum and 8th RetailME Awards, scheduled on October 8th & 9th at Palazzo Versace Hotel in Dubai – a celebration of retail in the Middle East.



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Dear reader

Time to celebrate!

October, which marks the beginning of the last quarter of the year, ushers in an auspicious period of celebrations of every kind around the world.

We, at Images, too are geared-up to mark two important events. RetailME magazine, founded originally in 2004, is now in its 15th year while Images RetailME enters its ninth year this month.

The seventh Middle East Retail Forum (MRF) is the second event that flags off next week, October 8 & 9 at Palazzo Versace Hotel in Dubai, with a celebration of retail in the Middle East.

MRF, our annual conference is an independent, dedicated and knowledge-focused retail event for the Middle East. We are proud that this two-day forum is a powerful aggregator of entrepreneurs, leaders and innovators to create the future of retail's blueprint.

The underlying theme of this year's conference is "Physical meets Digital: Rethinking retail with the online-offline convergence." In keeping with our tradition of putting together some of the best speakers and sessions, we have surpassed our previous records this year too! This year we have introduced new sessions such as Up Close with CEOs: Future-proofing retail, which complements our signature Retail Business Owners and CEOs Conclave. Our Saudi Arabia-focused session brings together experts from the Kingdom for an engaging discussion on the on-going changes that will have a far-reaching impact on retail, leisure and entertainment, real estate and consumer behaviour.

On day two, we have put together two brand new conclaves. The F&B Conclave will focus on how the operators are making food business 'smart' and at the end, an industry jury will vote for the most interesting concept that will be conferred with the RetailME Award.

The Start-up conclave: Building an entrepreneurial nation will focus on encouraging individuals to turn their dreams into reality. And again, the best start-up will be honoured with the RetailME Award. Turn to page 23 for a detailed agenda and the line-up of our stellar speakers and reserve your seats.

Also, don't miss out on the RetailME Awards gala celebrations on October 9, at the same venue. Look forward to seeing you there!



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Grove Village



Northern Emirate's first boutique lifestyle mall

The Northern Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah offers many natural attractions to the residents, tourists and inter-emirate visitors. In the recent past, the emirate has also witnessed the emergence of several luxury hotel resorts and shopping malls complementing its rising popularity as a tourist destination.

Over the next couple of months, the emirate is set to see the opening of Grove Village, a boutique lifestyle mall positioned as a community destination, not only for the people living in Ras Al Khaimah but also a growing number of tourists and visitors from other emirates who come to soak in the serene beauty of the emirate.

Located in the heart of the emirate, in Al Qawasim Corniche area, Grove Village overlooks the creek and the mountains with easy accessibility. The project, promoted by Master Investment Group, benefits from the proximity to historical and cultural attractions, with the excellent support of options of 4-star and 5-star hotels.

Captivating backdrop

Other destinations include the Tower Links Golf Club and RAK Water Ski Club, located within 2-5km distance. Besides infusing a breath of fresh air, Grove Village combines a plethora of spirited vibes, encompassing outdoor terrace viewing, overlooking the lush green mangroves of Ras Al Khaimah. The captivating backdrop of Jebel Jais Mountains and the delightful sites of the pink flamingos that home within the mangroves are set to make the shoppers' journey memorable.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohamed Al Qassimi, managing director of Master Investment Group, says, «Many of the tourists who come to Ras al Khaimah tend to stay in the resorts alongside the beach. However, when we decided to launch the Grove Village project, we visualised it as

a new aspirational lifestyle destination which offers a variety of dining, services and entertainment options.” As a community “Lifestyle Boutique” mall, Grove Village brings the retail to an urban style in the heart of the beautiful emirate as a shopping and F&B destination. “I believe the future of the malls in the country is the community centres, not only to serve surrounding communities with the accessible and convenient location but also to attract the tourist and the visitors with many brands new to Ras al Khaimah,” adds Sheikh Abdullah.

Key anchors

The two-level shopping centre, with a gross leasable area of 56,000 sqft, will host Organic Foods and Cafe as its 8,400 sqft anchor store – the first organic supermarket in Ras al Khaimah. The mall also hosts the first Drive Through

Starbucks in Ras Al Khaimah, along with ‘Yamanote Atelier’, the Japanese bakery, ‘Cupagahwa’, a local Arabian flavour café, ‘Sugar Beauty’, a full-service boutique nail and beauty lounge and ‘ART 276’, the first Art Gallery in town. One of the critical aspects of this project is the ambience created within the development and the opportunity to explore the culture of Ras Al Khaimah. The project will also host children's entertainment activities and a variety of exciting events throughout the year.

A touch of New Zealand

The story behind the mall's design and development dates to a couple of years when one of the founders of Master Investment Group travelled to New Zealand where he had the chance to visit the Re:start Contemporary shopping mall



Sheikh Abdullah

in Christchurch. The idea to build a similar mall in Ras Al Khaimah with an urban, industrial look and feel using containers originated from there.

RAK Corniche, Ras Al Khaimah's most desirable neighbourhood, is set to become the prime hotspot destination in RAK City, with upcoming hotel destinations, in a catchment area of local schools, universities, colleges, and government buildings, Grove Village community mall is set to bring a new horizon to the shorelines of RAK.

The mall housed adjacent to the oldest hotel in RAK ‘Ras Al Khaimah Hotel’, enjoys a sizeable catchment area which is expected to generate high footfall, given its prime location at the entrance of Ras al Khaimah Corniche, overlooking the creek and the mountains, surrounded by about 85,000 people living within the 6-km radius. ■



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Palazzo Versace Hotel, Dubai

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Commemorating retailing excellence in the Middle East



9 October 2018
PALAZZO VERSACE HOTEL
D U B A I

The annual Images RetailME Awards, held along with MRF, recognises top performing retailers and best retail practices in the industry and rewards excellence across a range of retail categories.

We are proud to announce the Images RetailME Awards 2018 Nominees:

Most Admired Brand Campaign of the Year - Aldo • Ardene • Carter's • Dubai Duty Free • Dune London • Levis Maghrabi • Nayomi • New Balance • RedTag • Rituals Cosmetics • Skechers • THE One • Tryano • ZOOM

Most Admired Retail Launch of the Year - Threads • Vr Park • Enoc • Retold

Most Admired Store Design of the Year - E-City • Ajmal Perfumes • Bally • Marina Home Interiors • Mikyajy Threads • Vr Park • Fabyland • Xtreme Zone • Enoc • Beverly Hills Polo Club • Charles & Keith • Dune London Rituals Cosmetics • Tommy Hilfiger • Virgin Megastore • 2XL Furniture & Home Décor

Most Admired Online Retailer of the Year - Mumzworld • Wadi.com • 6thstreet.com • Glamazle.com

Most Admired Store Manager of the Year - Jonathan Kent - Marina Home Interiors
Ritnesh Dang - Life Pharmacy • Yasmine Samy Manna - Life Pharmacy

Most Admired Responsible Retailer of the Year - THE One • Freedom Pizza • Fabyland • Aldo • TOMS

Most Admired Retailer of the Year – Fashion - RedTag • Beverly Hills Polo Club • Tommy Hilfiger
Sacoor Brothers • GAP • Marks & Spencer

Most Admired Retailer of the Year – Lingerie & Nightwear - Etam • Nayomi • TKD Lingerie

Most Admired Retailer of the Year – Footwear & Accessories - Aldo • Charles & Keith • Dune London • Nine West

Most Admired Retailer of the Year – Children's wear - Character & Kids • RedTag • SYMK • The Children's Place

Most Admired Retailer of the Year – Beauty & Personal Care Products - Mikyajy • Golden Scent • Rituals Cosmetics

Most Admired Retailer of the Year – Pharmacy & Healthcare - BinSina • Life Pharmacy • Nahdi Pharmacy

Most Admired Retailer of the Year – Home & Housewares - Marina Home Interiors • Safat Home
THE One • 2XL Furniture & Home Décor

Most Admired Retailer of the Year – Consumer Electronics - Axiom • E-City • Jacky's

Most Admired Retailer of the Year – Food and Grocery - Aljazera • Aswaaq • ZOOM

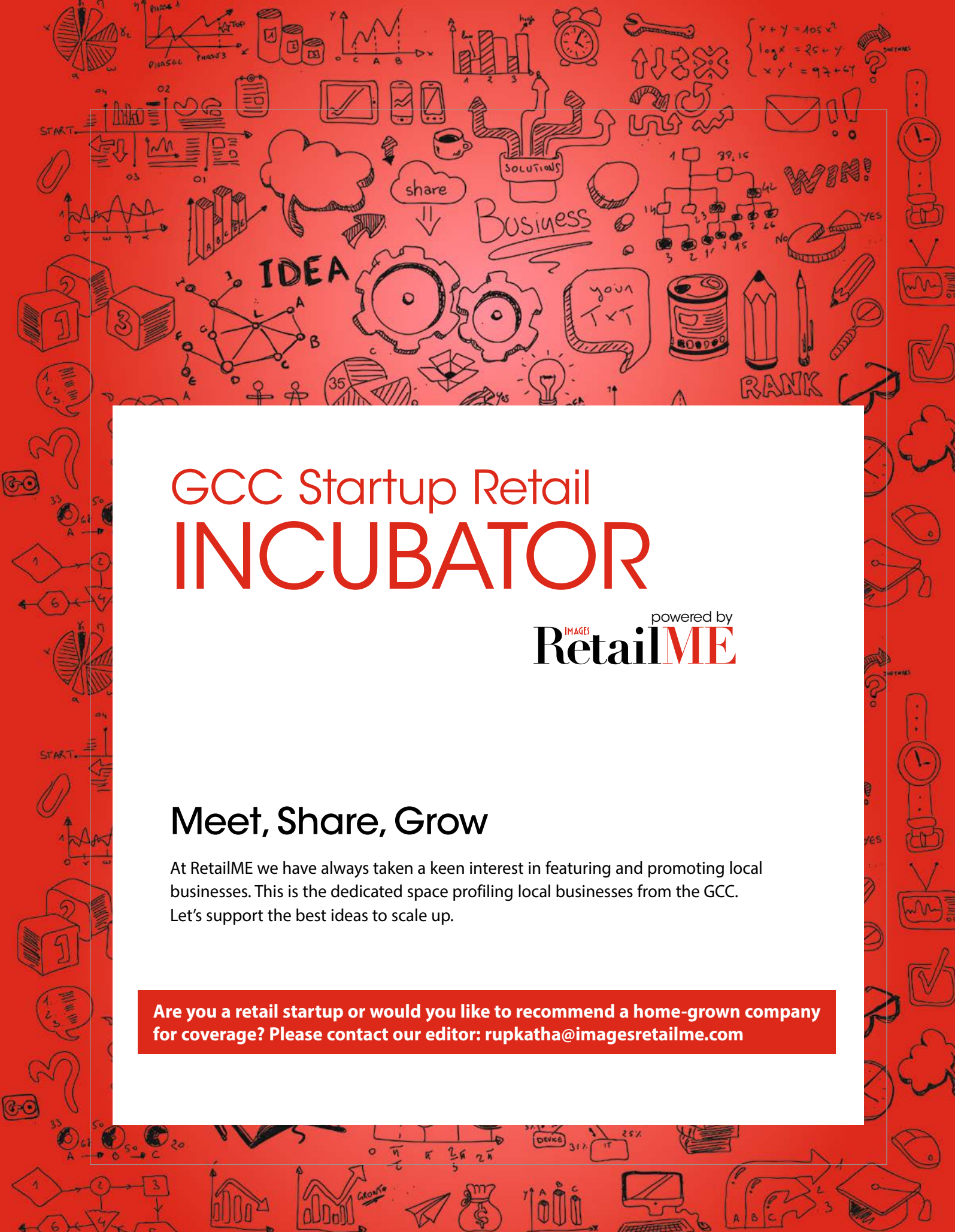
Most Admired Retailer of the Year – Food Service - Reform Social & Grill • Sumo Sushi & Bento • Wagamama • Tribes

Most Admired Retailer of the Year – Leisure & Entertainment - Billy Beez • Cheeky Monkeys • Saffori Land

Most Admired Retailer of the Year – Luxury - Paris Gallery • TheLuxuryCloset • Tryano

Most Admired Rising Star Retailer of the Year - Ardene • Five Little Ducks • Herschel • Threads • 6thStreet.com • Retold

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