

Join the Forefront of Change with The Pioneers of Food Business at MENA’s Premier Knowledge-Sharing Platform for Food & Grocery and HoReCa.

10:15 AM - 10:35 AM

#SettingTheStage

The Big Picture and  
Welcome Address by:

IMAGES  
RetailME

10:35 AM - 10:40 AM

#WelcomeNote

Where the food business industry stands, where it’s headed and why we’re gathering now.  
UAERG Welcome note by:



Amit  
Nayak

Vice Chairman / Vice President  
UAE Restaurants Group / HAMA MEA



Abdulla Habib  
AlMulla

Chairman of UAERG and Co-founder and  
Managing Director, Home Bakery



10:40 AM - 11:00 AM

#OpeningKeynote

The Evolving Role of Tourism

Shaping the food service sector, and the broader vision for Dubai’s hospitality landscape.



Ahmad  
Ahli

Director of Tourism Activities Monitoring  
Dubai Economy and Tourism



11:00 AM - 11:15 AM

#2025AndBeyond

Shaping the Future of Food Service in the Middle East



Maha  
Al Gargawi

Vice President, Business Advocacy



11:15 AM - 11:25 AM

#PlatesPoliciesProgress

Private enterprise. Public priorities. Shared potential.

This Fireside explores how collaboration between food service leaders and policymakers are shaping the region’s next phase of growth.



Bobby  
Krishna

Senior Food Safety Specialist  
Dubai Municipality  
(Food Safety Department)



Government Entity



Tapan  
Vaidya

Treasurer / CEO  
UAE Restaurants Group /  
PIP Investments Group



International Franchisee Partners

11:25 AM - 11:35 AM

#FeaturePresentation

Discover the all-in-one solution that helps restaurants and retail businesses streamline operations, from POS and inventory to accounting and manufacturing.



Misbah  
Al Khadem

Regional Manager - Mid Market &  
Corporate - F&B Expert  
Odoo



Open Source Integrated  
Business Application Suite

11:35 AM - 12:00 PM

#SpeedVsSatisfaction

Frictionless. Fast. Flavourful.

This panel unpacks the delicate balance between ultra-fast service, quality experience, and long-term loyalty in the food delivery space.



Maxim  
Haartsen

Co-founder and CEO  
elaby



e-Commerce Marketplace



Jaskaran  
Singh

VP of Product  
Careem



Quick Commerce Platform



Karim  
Chaanine

Chief Marketing Officer  
PIP Investments Group



International Franchisee  
Partners



12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

# #CEOPowerPanel

## 7 Extraordinary Gentlemen. 1 Masterclass in ROI of Reinvention.

This flagship food and grocery panel brings together top CEOs to unpack how brands are rewriting the playbook and transforming in a high-velocity, low-margin world.



**Bertrand Loumaye**

CEO Retail

Mair Group



Investment Group - Food Industry & Communities



**Majed Al Tahan**

Founder & CEO / Co-Founder & CEO

IACO / Danube Online



Ecommerce Grocery Platform



**Mark Mortimer Davies**

Chief Executive Officer

Choithrams



Supermarket Chain



**Mohamed Al Hashemi**

Chief Executive Officer

Union Coop



Supermarket Chain



**Mussaab Aboud**

Chief Executive Officer

Grandiose & Grandiose Catering



Supermarket Chain



**Sunil Kumar**

Chief Executive Officer

Spinneys



Supermarket Chain



**Bejoy Thomas Pulickel**

Ex COO

Abu Dhabi Cooperative Society



Supermarket Chain



**Makram Debbas**

Partner

Strategy&



Research Consultant

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

# #CoursesAndConversations

## NETWORKING LUNCHEON

Post-lunch, the conference splits into two tracks

## HALL 1

منتدى الصناعات الغذائية

**FOOD**  
BUSINESS FORUM

An initiative by  
RetailME

## HALL 2

UAE  
RESTAURANTS  
GROUP

**FOOD**  
Service Forum

In association with  
RetailME

2:00 PM - 2:40 PM

# #TheNextGroceryLeap

## Profitable. Scalable. Viable.

This panel explores what it really takes to turn grocery growth into public-market readiness— from governance and compliance to culture, cash flow and control.



**Ashutosh Chakradeo**

Chief Retail Officer

Choithrams



Supermarket Chain



**Iryna Nestsiarovich**

Co-founder

SCOOP Wholefoods



Middle East's first  
zero-waste Grocery brand



**Suhail Aryathodi**

Retail Head

TAYN Roastery (Better Grow)



Specialty Grocers



**Waleed AR. BinDawood**

Chief Commercial Officer

BinDawood Holding



Grocery Retail Operator



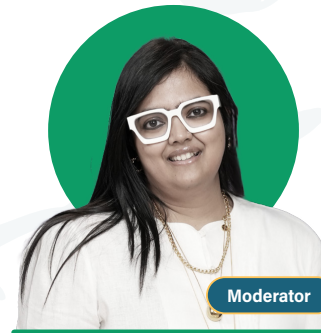
**Ulyana Vilkina**

Regional Marketing Lead - GCC

Fix Price UAE



Hypermarket Chain



**Anurima Das**

Executive Editor

IMAGES RetailME



RetailME

2:00 PM - 2:40 PM

# #TablesTurned

## Immersive. Intentional. Instagrammable.

This panel explores whether the growing investment in experiential dining is delivering real returns—for brands, guests and the bottom line.



**Ashok Kalra**

Chief / Entrepreneur

Lavang / Mughal Mahal General

Trading & Contracting Co



Specialty Restaurant /  
Hospitality Group



**Alexander Sanin**

Chief Executive Officer

White Rabbit Family Alliance (WRF)



Hospitality Group



**Fay Economides**

Executive Managing Director

M Management Company



F&B group



**Jitin Joshi**

Chef and Partner

Revolver (Culinary Arts Group)



Restaurant Chain



**Howard Lee Ko**

Creative Director

INKD



Specialty Restaurant Concept



**Ketaki Shah**

Head of Marketing

Foodmark & Citymax Hotels

(Landmark Hospitality)



Hospitality Division



2:40 PM - 3:20 PM

## #GutToGourmet

Clean labels. Cultured palates. Conscious consumerism.

This panel breaks down how the wellness wave is reshaping food & grocery retail—from product strategy to shopper psychology.



**Ashwinii Khataivate**

Founder & Chief Brand Officer  
Rootz organics



Ecommerce Grocery Platform



**Chang Sup Shin**

CEO and Founder  
1004 Gourmet



Specialty Grocery Chain



**Pravin Rai**

Co-founder & CEO  
QuickKart



Grocery Retailer - Online



**Thomas Burrett**

Head of Marketing  
Grandiose



Supermarket Chain



**Warwick Gird**

General Manager Marketing  
Spinneys



Supermarket Chain



**Ahmed Daaboul**

Senior Account Executive GCC  
Zebra Technologies



Payment Solutions Enabler

Moderator

2:40 PM - 3:20 PM

## #BeansBitesBeyond

Community. Culture. Commerce.

This panel explores how cafés are evolving into lifestyle ecosystems—shaping daily rituals, social behavior, and urban culture beyond just coffee.



**Amarinder Singh Daih**

Founder  
Lavash



Specialty Cafe



**Duncan Muir**

Senior Director - F&B and Retail  
Bateel International



Luxury Gourmet Food  
Retailer and Cafe



**Necip Camcigil**

CTFO

One Life Kitchen and Cafe



Specialty Cafe



**Ola Sinno**

Co-founder  
Spill the Bean

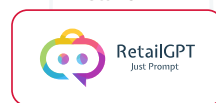


Specialty Cafe



**Peter Heijsteeg**

SVP Growth - Meta  
RetailGPT



Phygital AI Enabler



**Rania Saied**

Chief Executive Officer  
Arabian Hospitality  
(under Alrais Holding)



Hospitality Group



**Tania Lodi**

Founder and Owner  
Tania's Teahouse



Specialty Cafe



**Sukalp Tipre**

Principal - Consumer and Retail  
Strategy&



Research Consultant

Moderator

3:20 PM - 3:35 PM

## #FiresideChat

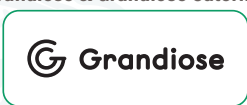
Reimagining Retail

Sustainability, Growth & Technology



**Mussaab About**

Chief Executive Officer  
Grandiose & Grandiose Catering



Supermarket Chain



**Mustafa Khanwala**

Founder & CEO  
MishiPay



Retail Payment Tech Enabler

3:20 PM - 4:00 PM

## #SmartKitchenPlaybook

Faster. Sharper. Smarter.

This panel explores how foodservice businesses are using AI, automation and intelligent systems to future-proof kitchens—from inventory to innovation.



**Anand Padmanabhan**

Senior Account Manager  
Zebra Technologies



Payment Solutions Enabler



**Belal Zahran**

International Managing Director  
FOODICS



POS and Restaurant Management  
Technology Enabler



**George Kunnappally**

Managing Director  
Nando's UAE



Restaurant Chain



**Rupam Bhattacharjee**

Co-Founder and CEO  
WaysAhead Global



Retailers' AI Agent



**Sheikha Almheiri**

Owner  
MAD Hospitality



Hospitality Group



**Tapan Vaidya**

Treasurer / CEO  
UAE Restaurants Group /  
PIP Investments Group



International Franchisee Partners

Moderator



3:35 PM - 4:15 PM

## #FeedingTheFuture

Big ideas. Bold bets. Smarter shelves.

This panel unpacks how retailers and investors are reshaping food's next chapter—through purpose, precision, and planet-first thinking.



**Abeer AlAmeeri**  
Director of Ecosystem Development  
Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center  
Sheraa



Civic & Government Entity  
facilitating Entrepreneurship



**Aryan Raj**

Investment Professional  
Aliph Capital



Investment Company



**Karolos Travassaros**

Chief Portfolio & Strategy Officer  
Emirates Growth Fund



The UAE's Flagship Growth  
Equity Platform



**Salvatore Caizzone**

Founder & CEO  
VIS MUNDI



Investment Company



**Umesh Chopra**

Market Intelligence Manager  
Sharjah Cooperative Society



Hypermarket Chain



**Nader Amiri**

General Partner  
Homegrown Ventures



Startup Investment Management

Moderator

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

## #BuiltToScale

Bootstrapped. Battle-tested. Breakout.

This panel explores how small F&B brands scale up—what it really takes to move from concept to chain, from cult following to commercial force.



**Andreas L Borgmann**

Founder & CEO  
Kcal



Healthy Eating Concept



**Naved Nasir**

Founder / Ex-Chief Director  
Khadak / Dishoom



Specialty Restaurant



**Prachi Praveen Shetty**

Executive Director  
Fortune Group



Hospitality Group



**Vidisha Bathwal**

Founder  
Paprika



Cloud Kitchen and  
Gourmet Catering Brand



**George Kunnappally**

Managing Director  
Nando's UAE



Restaurant Chain

Moderator

4:15 PM - 5:05 PM

## #TasteTrustBottomLine

Rising costs. Shifting tastes. Stricter rules.

Rising costs. Shifting tastes. Stricter rules. This panel unpacks how food businesses can stay compliant, stay profitable, and still stay loved.



**Amr Erabi Sabagh**

Chief Executive Officer  
ChocoZen



Viral Chocolate Brand



**Rashid Aramam**

Head of Buying  
Nesto Group



Hypermarket Network Chain



**Rashid Banihani**

Head of Growth  
Yango Tech



Full Stack E-Commerce Enabler



**Rupam Bhattacharjee**

Co-Founder and CEO  
WaysAhead Global



Retailers' AI Agent



**Teimur Bagirov**

Managing Director  
ROOTS Food



Specialty Grocery Chain



**Vishal Kapil**

Group CTO  
Mair Group



Investment Group - Food Industry  
& Communities



**Yuvraj Jadhav**

Chief Executive Officer  
xqsit.store (Sunmeet Group)



Grocery Retailer - Online



**Lito German**

Managing Director  
The Hub Trading  
(a member of the Sharjah Coop Group)



Hypermarket Chain

Moderator

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

UAE  
RESTAURANTS  
GROUP



## PARTNERSHIP Felicitation Ceremony

A moment to acknowledge the people who make the movement.  
UAERG will present certificates to recognize and appreciate its current members.

Champions of collaboration, contributors to progress and voices that keep the industry connected.

It's not just a gesture. It's a reminder, this community works because you show up.

## RetailME FOOD Service TOWNHALL

What's Now. What's Next. What We Need to Solve, Together

The Food Service TOWNHALL brings together UAERG members, advisory board and industry voices for an open exchange.

Grounded in reality, guided by relevance. An open session on what's working, what's breaking and what's brewing beneath the surface.

From operational pressures to customer shifts, from policy friction to partnership potential, everything's on the table.



Think **your Food Startup**  
is the next big thing?  
Here's your launchpad.

# RETAIL **STARTUP** Summit

IMAGES  
**RetailME**  
initiative

in collaboration with



**Pitch  
Session**

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
(Closed Door Live Judging)

**Awardees  
Announcement**

7:30 PM Onwards

## Our All-Star Jury

Powering the Retail Startup Summit 2025



**Aamer  
Sheikh**

Ex-CEO PepsiCo MEA  
& Angel Investor



**Nader  
Amiri**

General Partner  
Homegrown Ventures



**Mohammad  
Alawi**

Chairman of the Board - Azad Properties  
Member of the Board - Red Sea Markets Company



**Maryam  
Khorakiwala**

Retail Director and Board Member  
Switz Group



**Nadia  
Shah**

Convener/Founder  
The Food Connect



**Premanand  
Rajendran**

Director of Commercial  
CAREEM

## Startups Participating

BAMBUYU

LOAM

Maraqah

GOOD  
CANDY®

MORE.THAN

Vitallea  
GROUP



7:00 PM ONWARDS

Two awards to honour and celebrate excellence,  
innovation, best practices and marquee customer  
experience initiatives in the *Food & Grocery* and  
*Food Service Industries*.



IMAGES  
**RetailME**  
presents

**Golden  
Spoon** Awards 2025



**June 19, 2025**  
JW Marriott Hotel Marina, Dubai

[www.foodbusinessforum.me](http://www.foodbusinessforum.me)





*Awards for Excellence in MENA's Food & Grocery Retail*

IMAGES RetailME Most Admired  
**Marketing Campaign** of the year

تعاونية الشارقة  
SHARJAH CO-OP

لولو Lulu  
Where the world comes to shop  
حيث يأتي العالم للتسوق

**ZOOM**  
your neighbor

IMAGES RetailME Most Admired  
**Food & Grocery Innovation** of the year

لولو Lulu  
Where the world comes to shop  
حيث يأتي العالم للتسوق

أدنوك  
ADNOC

تعاونية الاتحاد  
UNION COOP

West Zone  
SUPERMARKET

IMAGES RetailME Most Admired  
**Employee Practices** of the year

تعاونية الاتحاد  
UNION COOP

Adil  
THE HOME OF INDIAN FOOD STUFF  
SUPERMARKETS • FLAVOR MILLS • SPICES INDUSTRIES  
UAE • SAUDI ARABIA • INDIA

مارك & سيلف  
MARK & SAVE  
VALUE RETAIL قيمة التجزئة

IMAGES RetailME Most Admired  
**Green Initiatives** of the year

لولو Lulu  
Where the world comes to shop  
حيث يأتي العالم للتسوق

Choithrams  
full of goodness

Grandiose

XQSIT.STORE  
Online store

IMAGES RetailME Most Admired  
**Customer Experience** of the year

تعاونية الاتحاد  
UNION COOP

Grandiose

أدنوك  
ADNOC

*Congratulations*  
**TO ALL OUR SHORTLISTED NOMINEES**



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired  
**Online Grocery Retailer** of the year



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired  
**Convenience Store** of the year



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired  
**Supermarket Chain** of the year



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired  
**Food & Grocery Store Launch** of the year



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired  
**Food & Grocery Retailer** of the year



*Congratulations*  
TO ALL OUR SHORTLISTED NOMINEES





*Awards for Excellence in MENA's Food Service*

IMAGES RetailME Most Admired Food Service  
**Innovation in Menu Design, Display & Presentation** of the year



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired Food Service  
**Marketing & Promotions** of the year



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired Food Service  
**Outlet Launch** of the year



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired Food Service  
**Green Initiative** of the year



*Congratulations*  
**TO ALL OUR SHORTLISTED NOMINEES**



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired Food Service  
**Customer Experience** of the year



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired Food Service  
**Corporate Social Responsibility** of the year



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired Food Service  
**Technology Implementation** of the year



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired Food Service  
**Market Expansion** of the year



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired Food Service  
**Restaurant of the Year: Cafes & Bakeries**



*Congratulations*  
**TO ALL OUR SHORTLISTED NOMINEES**



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired Food Service  
**Restaurant of the Year: Casual & Fast Casual**



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired Food Service  
**Restaurant of the Year: Fine Dining**



IMAGES RetailME Most Admired Food Service  
**Restaurant of the Year: Experiential Dining**



*Congratulations*  
**TO ALL OUR SHORTLISTED NOMINEES**

**BOOK YOUR GALA PASS**



# Our All Star Jury for 2025



**Andrea Gordon**

Retail Director  
**Dubai Design District (d3)**



**Anurag Bajpai**

Partner/ Head of Consumer & Retail  
**KPMG**



**Dareen Mukhaimer**

Chief Executive Officer  
**e-Arabization**



**Prof. Elsa Ashish Thomas**

Chairperson  
**Manipal Institute of Liberal Arts (MILA), MAHE Dubai**



**Hozefa Saylawala**

Director of Sales Middle East  
**Zebra Technologies**



**Mohammad Alawi**

Chairman of the Board - **Azad Properties**  
Member of the Board - **Red Sea Markets Company**



**Ravi Dhar**

George Rogers Clark Professor of Management and Marketing, **Yale School of Management**; Professor of Psychology, **Yale University**; Faculty Director **Center For Customer Insights**



**Tommaso Pavia**

Senior Manager - Middle East  
**Strategy&**



**Yana Kalwani**

Director of Marketing & Communications  
**SAFEER GROUP & SAFEER MALLS**





# OUR PARTNERS

PHYGITAL AI PARTNER



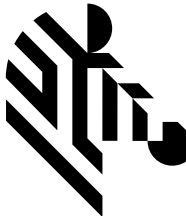
**RetailGPT**  
Just Prompt

GOLD PARTNER

**YANGO TECH**

Retail

RETAIL TECH PARTNER



**ZEBRA**

AI PARTNER



**WAYS AHEAD**

STRATEGIC AI  
LANGUAGE PARTNER



**eArabization**  
ARABIZING YOUR BUSINESS

SILVER PARTNER

**FOODICS**

SILVER PARTNER



**odoo**

ZERO QUEUE PARTNER



**MISHI PAY**

CHOCOLATE PARTNER

**CHOCO ZEN**

BRONZE PARTNER



**RATIONAL**

BRONZE PARTNER



**LP FLEX**  
THE CX COMPANY

BRONZE PARTNER



**HEADSTART**  
GLOBAL

EVENT ASSOCIATION  
PARTNER

UAE  
RESTAURANTS  
GROUP



SUPPORTING  
PARTNER



**SCLG**

MEDIA  
PARTNERS



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