

Evelin Ilves has been invited to join an international panel of experts to select the world's top 50 restaurants in 2012.

"It wasn't hard nominating fantastic restaurants here in Estonia or in other countries – I would have suggested more if I could have!" said Mrs. Ilves. "And it was lovely to see that some of the restaurants I nominated had already been suggested by other experts on the panel. It's a small world!"

The list is being compiled by The World's 50 Best Restaurants Academy, a group of more than 900 experts from 26 regions around the globe. Each region has its own 36-member panel of experts, including chefs, food critics, restaurant owners and food and nutrition professionals. Every member has seven votes, at least three of which must be given to restaurants outside of their own region. Some regions cover more than one country, with the distribution of regions being reviewed annually. At least 10 members of each regional panel change each year.

The main criteria in voting are that it remain confidential prior to the announcement of official results; that seven different restaurants must be nominated, at least three of which are located outside of the panel member's region; that the panel member must have eaten at the restaurants they are voting for within the last 18 months; and that nominations cannot be submitted for restaurants which the panel members themselves own.

The results will be published online at www.theworlds50best.com as soon as they are announced in London in April 2013.

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