

PRESS RELEASE

2026 MIXOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARDED TO CO-FOUNDER OF MOBILE BAR CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Johannesburg, April 2026 – South Africa's most credible hospitality industry body named Themba Moyo its Beverage Professional of the Year: Mixologist of the Year. The co-founder of Blue Wave Mobile Bar, a leading Joburg-based mobile cocktail bar, was recognised at the 2nd FEDHASA Hospitality Awards ceremony held at the Mount Nelson Hotel in Cape Town, 15 April 2026.

A former bar manager at a popular Midrand restaurant, with 15 years trained mixology experience, Themba built Blue Wave Mobile Bar with craft, consistency, and a belief that every South African celebration deserved a professional bar. What's more, 2026 marks the 10th year of Blue Wave as a formal business, with 750+ events under its belt, and 110 events in last 12 months, located all over Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West.

And while Themba was behind the bar in Joburg, a recently published global market research report was confirming what he had always known: mobile bars are a \$1.8 billion global industry growing at 8.9% per year, and South Africa is one of the primary growth markets on the continent. With World Cocktail Day on 13 May, the award win demonstrates that premium mixology is no longer exclusive to brick-and-mortar venues and proves that a mobile bar service can deliver the same, or better, skill and sophistication as top hotel or restaurant bars.

"This award validates ten years of quiet, consistent work. Blue Wave has been building the South African mobile bar category since before it had a name. The industry has now formally recognised that." - Themba Moyo, Sales & Operations Manager.



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