



AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

*****EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30PM (EST), 17 JULY, 2009**

17 July, 2009

AUSTRALIA'S BEST HOTELS

Australia's finest hotels have tonight been honoured at the 2009 AHA National Hotel Awards for Excellence.

The winners of the awards were announced during a gala dinner at Conrad Jupiters on Queensland's Gold Coast, which was attended by the Federal Minister for Tourism, Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP.

"Australian hotels have a lot to be proud of if our national award winners are any guide," said the AHA's National Chief Executive Officer, Bill Healey.

"Given the financial downturn, it is particularly pleasing to see that high standards have once again been set.

"The AHA congratulates all hotels which have won national awards."

Major award-winners were:

- Overall Hotel of the Year (General Division): Coolangatta Hotel (Coolangatta, QLD); and
- Overall Hotel of the Year (Accommodation Division): Park Hyatt Melbourne (East Melbourne, VIC).

Other award-winners included:

- Best Bar Presentation & Service – Metropolitan: Ravesi's on Bondi (Bondi Beach, NSW)/The Langham Melbourne, Aria Bar & Lounge (Southbank, VIC) – joint winners;
- Best Bar Presentation & Service – Country: Zedbar (Albury, NSW);
- Best Restaurant (Accommodation Division): Radisson Plaza Hotel Sydney, Bilson's Restaurant (Sydney, NSW);
- Best Restaurant (General Division – Metropolitan): Cruise (Sydney, NSW);
- Best Restaurant (General Division – Country): Royal Mail Hotel (Dunkeld, VIC);
- Hotel Industry Rising Star: Liza Gadd, Spring Bay Hotel (Triabunna, TAS); and
- Outstanding Community Service & Achievement: Hillside Hotel (Castle Hill, NSW).

Also tonight, four people were inducted into the Johnnie Walker Hall of Fame:

- Margaret and Cyril Maloney (NSW);
- Jim Stewart (QLD); and
- Darryl Washington (VIC).

A complete list of winners follows.

Please do not attempt to contact any winners before 11.30pm (EST) on 17 July, 2009

For further information:

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The Australian Hotels Association (AHA) is the pre-eminent tourism and hospitality industry organisation in Australia. It has around 5000 members operating general and accommodation hotels. It has a national office and branches in each State and Territory. It also has a discrete branch to represent the interests of its accommodation members that covers four and five-star properties.

2009 AHA National Hotel Awards for Excellence

OVERALL HOTEL OF THE YEAR (GENERAL DIVISION)

(sponsored by Lion Nathan)

Coolangatta Hotel (Coolangatta, QLD)

OVERALL HOTEL OF THE YEAR (ACCOMMODATION DIVISION)

(sponsored by Tabcorp/Sky Channel)

Park Hyatt Melbourne (East Melbourne, VIC)

HALL OF FAME

(sponsored by Johnnie Walker)

2009 Inductees

Margaret and Cyril Maloney (NSW)

Jim Stewart (QLD)

Darryl Washington (VIC)

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE & ACHIEVEMENT

(sponsored by Penfolds)

Hillside Hotel (Castle Hill, NSW)

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN TRAINING

(sponsored by Wolf Blass)

Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel (Sydney, NSW)

BEST ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE

(sponsored by Arctic Green)

Crowne Plaza Alice Springs (Alice Springs, NT)/Rydges Lakeside Canberra (Canberra, ACT)
– joint winners

BEST TOURISM INITIATIVE

(sponsored by Tourism Australia)

Barnbogle Dunes Golf Links (Bridport, TAS)

BEST BISTRO/CASUAL/FAMILY DINING – COUNTRY

(sponsored by Schweppes)

Buderim Tavern (Buderim, QLD)

BEST BISTRO/CASUAL/FAMILY DINING – METROPOLITAN

(sponsored by Coca-Cola)

The Winston (Winston Hills, NSW)

BEST RESTAURANT, GENERAL DIVISION – COUNTRY

(sponsored by Crown Commercial)

Royal Mail Hotel (Dunkeld, VIC)

BEST RESTAURANT, GENERAL DIVISION – METROPOLITAN

(sponsored by Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia)

Cruise (Sydney, NSW)

BEST RESTAURANT, ACCOMMODATION DIVISION

(sponsored by Diageo)

Radisson Plaza Hotel Sydney, Bilson's Restaurant (Sydney, NSW)

BEST RETAIL LIQUOR OUTLET

(sponsored by Diageo)

Edinburgh Hotel & Cellars (Mitcham, SA)

BEST BAR PRESENTATION & SERVICE – COUNTRY

(sponsored by Carlton Draught)

Zedbar (Albury, NSW)

BEST BAR PRESENTATION & SERVICE – METROPOLITAN

(sponsored by VB)

Ravesi's on Bondi (Bondi Beach, NSW)/The Langham Melbourne, Aria Bar & Lounge (Southbank, VIC) – joint winners

BEST SPORTING ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

(sponsored by Austar & Fox Sports)

Shoreline Hotel (Howrah, TAS)

BEST ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

(sponsored by Australasian Performing Right Association)

Governor Hindmarsh Hotel (Hindmarsh, SA)

BEST OUTDOOR OR NON-ENCLOSED FACILITY

(sponsored by British American Tobacco)

The Highway (Plympton, SA)

BEST GAMING VENUE – COUNTRY

(sponsored by IGT)

Grand Hotel (Mornington, VIC)

BEST GAMING VENUE – METROPOLITAN

(sponsored by IGT)

Golden Grove Tavern (Surrey Downs, SA)

BEST REDEVELOPED HOTEL, GENERAL DIVISION

(sponsored by Tabcorp/Sky Channel)

Goulburn Valley Hotel (Shepparton, VIC)

BEST REDEVELOPED HOTEL, ACCOMMODATION DIVISION

(sponsored by Schweppes)

Grand Hyatt Melbourne (Melbourne, VIC)

BEST MARKETED HOTEL, GENERAL DIVISION

(sponsored by Aon)

Hallam Hotel (Hallam, VIC)

BEST MARKETED HOTEL, ACCOMMODATION DIVISION

(sponsored by Aon)

Emporium Hotel (Fortitude Valley, QLD)/The Westin Melbourne (Melbourne, VIC) – joint winners

BARTENDER OF THE YEAR

(sponsored by HOSTPLUS)

Luis Bruce, Cruise (Sydney, NSW)

CHEF OF THE YEAR

(sponsored by HOSTPLUS)

Daniel Fountain, The Watershed Hotel (Darling Harbour, NSW)

FRONT OF HOUSE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

(sponsored by HOSTPLUS)

Cameron Cundle, Sheraton on the Park (Sydney, NSW)

EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

(sponsored by HOSTPLUS)

Derrick Buckley, The Shed (Northbridge, WA)

HOTEL INDUSTRY RISING STAR

(sponsored by Mint Group)

Liza Gadd, Spring Bay Hotel (Triabunna, TAS)

BEST PUB-STYLE ACCOMMODATION

(sponsored by Lion Nathan)

Coogee Bay Hotel (Coogee, NSW)

BEST MID-RANGE ACCOMMODATION

(sponsored by Coopers Brewery)

Largs Pier Hotel (Largs Bay, SA)/Tall Timbers Tasmania (Smithton, TAS) – joint winners

BEST APARTMENT/SUITE HOTEL

(sponsored by Qantas)

Quay Grand Suites Sydney (Sydney, NSW)

BEST RESORT STYLE ACCOMMODATION

(sponsored by Members Equity)

Lake House (Daylesford, VIC)

BEST SUPERIOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

(sponsored by Staging Connections)

SKYCITY Darwin (Mindil Beach, NT)

BEST DELUXE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

(sponsored by HOSTPLUS)

Hyatt Hotel Canberra (Yarralumla, ACT)