

Hotels hailed at AHA National Awards

2013 AHA National Awards for Excellence applaud outstanding achievement in the hotel industry

Australia's leading licensed venues, accommodation hotels and outstanding employees have been applauded at the Australian Hotels Association (AHA) 2013 National Awards for Excellence in Canberra tonight.

Held in the nation's capital for the first time to celebrate Canberra's Centenary, more than 450 hotel industry leaders, hoteliers, special guests, diplomats and parliamentarians attended the annual Awards event at Hotel Realm to celebrate all aspects of Australia's vibrant hotel and hospitality sector.

Top honours this year went to the following venues:

- **The Lion Hotel (North Adelaide SA)** – *Overall Hotel of the Year – Metropolitan,*
- **Park Hyatt Sydney (Sydney NSW)** – *Overall Hotel of the Year – Accommodation Division*
- **Park Avenue Hotel Motel (North Rockhampton QLD)** – *Overall Hotel of the Year – Regional.*
- **Emerald Springs Roadhouse (NT)** – *Outstanding Community Service & Achievement*
- **Parmelia Hilton Perth (WA)** – *Outstanding Achievement in Training.*

AHA National Chief Executive Officer Des Crowe said the prestigious Awards hailed hotels and restaurants that demonstrated outstanding services, accommodation, entertainment, food and beverage.

"The 162 national finalists were winners of their respective AHA State and Territory awards level. Winning a national AHA award is an outstanding achievement – and a tribute to the hard work and dedication of these hotels and restaurants," Mr Crowe said.

"**Richard Deery** from the **Story Bridge Hotel** in Brisbane was inducted into the AHA Hall of Fame, which was another major highlight recognising the contribution of an industry leader.

The AHA also recognised the contributions made to the hotel industry by hard working employees including:

- Joint Winners 2013 Hotel Industry Rising Star Award – **Justin Twartz** from the Morphet Arms Hotel in Adelaide and **Timothy Hunt** at Park Hyatt Sydney.
- Local Canberra employee **Dixie Addison-Rolfe** from the Diamant Hotel was a popular winner of the Front of House Employee of the Year.
- **Jason Williams** from **The Loft** was named Bartender of the Year.

To see all the winners, see below or visit <http://www.aha.org.au>

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MEDIA RELEASE



EMBARGOED until 10.30PM on October 2, 2013

A full list of the 2013 AHA National Award winners

| 2013 AHA National Award | Winner |
|--|--|
| Best Tourism Initiative | Sandalford Wines |
| Best Gaming Venue - Metropolitan | The Highway Hotel |
| Best Bistro - Metropolitan | The Shelter Bar at The Story Bridge Hotel |
| Best Stand-Alone Restaurant | Sage Dining Rooms |
| Best Restaurant - Metropolitan | The Lion Hotel Restaurant |
| Best Bar Presentation & Service - Metropolitan | The Loft |
| Best Restaurant - Accommodation Division | Altitude Restaurant at Shangri-La Hotel Sydney |
| Best Redeveloped Hotel - Accommodation Division | SKYCITY Darwin |
| Best Marketed Hotel - Accommodation Division | Hotel Realm |
| Best Pub-Style Accommodation | Victoria Hotel |
| Best Pub-Style Accommodation | Daly Waters Historic Pub |
| Best Mid-Range Accommodation | Holiday Inn Sydney Airport |
| Best Resort-Style Accommodation | Saffire Freycinet |
| Best Suite/Apartment Hotel | East Hotel |
| Best Superior Accommodation | The Blackman - Art Series Hotels |
| Best Deluxe Accommodation | Park Hyatt Sydney |
| Bartender of the Year | Jason Williams at The Loft |
| Chef of the Year | Bo Sorensen at Shangri-La Hotel Sydney |
| Front of House Employee of the Year | Dixie Addison-Rolfe at the Diamant Hotel |
| Employee Excellence in Service | Maria Macri-Nosari at the Sydney Harbour Marriott Brett Lubicz at Universal Bar |
| Outstanding Achievement in Training | Parmelia Hilton Perth |
| Best Meeting and Events Venue | Hotel Realm |
| Best Retail Liquor Outlet | Cellars & Patisserie at the Stirling Hotel |
| Johnnie Walker Hall of Fame | Richard Deery at The Story Bridge Hotel |
| Best Bistro - Regional | The Rising Sun Hotel |
| Best Restaurant - Regional | Tinamba Hotel |
| Best Bar Presentation & Service - Regional | Grape Bar & Bottleshop |
| Best Gaming Venue - Regional | Grand Hotel Mornington |
| Best Entertainment Venue | Eatons Hill Hotel & Function Centre |
| Best Outdoor/Non-enclosed Facility | Gilligan's Backpackers Hotel & Resort |
| Best Sporting Entertainment Venue | Arkaba Hotel |
| Best Marketed Hotel - General Division | Matso's Broome Brewery |
| Best Redeveloped Hotel - General Division | The Royal Hotel Queanbeyan |
| Best Keno Venue | The Fairfield Hotel |
| Best TAB Licenced Venue | Coolibah Hotel |
| Hotel Industry Rising Star | Timothy Hunt at Park Hyatt Sydney |
| Hotel Industry Rising Star | Justin Twartz at the Morphett Arms Hotel |
| Best Environmental & Energy Efficiency Practice | Lakes Resort Hotel |
| Outstanding Community Service & Achievement | Emerald Springs Roadhouse |
| Overall Hotel of the Year - Regional | Park Avenue Hotel Motel |
| Overall Hotel of the Year - Accommodation Division | Park Hyatt Sydney |
| Overall Hotel of the Year - Metropolitan | The Lion Hotel |

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