



Victoria's Finest Accommodation Hotels and Venue Staff Recognised

Victoria's top accommodation hotels and venue staff have been honoured at the 2019 Tourism Accommodation Australia (Victoria) Awards for Excellence.

The winners were announced at a gala dinner at the Grand Hyatt Melbourne tonight attended by almost 500 hospitality, business and political leaders including Victorian Minister for Consumer Affairs Marlene Kairouz.

A highlight was the presentation of the prestigious "*Outstanding Contribution to the Industry*" award, which recognises the sustained influence of an hotelier or industry leader who has made a significant contribution to Victoria's tourism and accommodation sectors.

This year's worthy recipient was Karen Bolinger. In her role as Chief Executive Officer, Melbourne Convention Bureau, Ms Bolinger was central in delivering over \$2.4b in economic contribution to the Victorian economy and more than 570,000 meeting delegate days.

Tourism Accommodation Australia National CEO Michael Johnson attended the gala where he said Victoria's accommodation sector continues to grow in stature.

"Accommodation hotels in Victoria really are among the best in the business and this was on display again here at the Awards," he said.

"From Melbourne to the regions, Victoria sets a high standard when it comes to accommodation - I would like to congratulate all winners for providing high quality venues and service each and every day of the year."

TAA (Vic) Deputy Chair, Tracy Atherton, praised the finalists, award-winners and individuals who were honoured, noting their achievements reflected "a year of hard work and dedication to providing superior standards of venue and service excellence to guests."

The 2019 TAA (Victoria) Awards for Excellence winners are:

- 1 Apartment Accommodation of the Year - The Sebel Melbourne Docklands
- 2 Hotel Restaurant of the Year - Bankvale Run, Marnong Estate & Locanda Restaurant, Rydges Melbourne
- 3 Engineer and Maintenance Employee of the Year - Peter Nesbit - Hyatt Place Melbourne, Essendon Fields
- 4 Hotel Club Lounge of the Year - The Langham Melbourne
- 5 Outstanding Community Service and Achievement - Grand Hyatt Melbourne
- 6 Mid-Range Accommodation Hotel of the Year - Holiday Inn Melbourne on Flinders
- 7 Regional Hotel Restaurant of the Year - Wickens at Royal Mail Dunkeld, Royal Mail Hotel Dunkeld
- 8 Deluxe Restaurant of the Year - Pascale Bar & Grill, QT Melbourne
- 9 Revenue Manager Employee of the Year - Yvonne Qian - Sheraton Melbourne Hotel
- 10 Boutique Style Accommodation of the Year - The Provincial Hotel, Ballarat
- 11 Concierge of the Year James Spielvogel – InterContinental Melbourne The Rialto



- 12 Best Marketed Accommodation Provider - Ovolo Laneways, Melbourne
- 13 Outstanding Achievement in Training - Grand Hyatt Melbourne & Melbourne Marriott Hotel
- 14 Hotel Industry Rising Star Award - Tim Deeks - Crown Towers Melbourne
- 15 Outstanding Contribution to the Industry - Karen Bolinger, in her capacity as Chief Executive Officer – Melbourne Convention Bureau
- 16 Front Office Services Employee of the Year - Laurent Johnson - Melbourne Marriott Hotel
- 17 Best Environmental and Energy Efficiency Practice - Amora Hotel Riverwalk Melbourne
- 18 Regional Accommodation of the Year - Quality Hotel - Wangaratta Gateway
- 19 Excellence in Innovation - Grand Hyatt Melbourne
- 20 Sales Employee of the Year - Maya Gray - Grand Hyatt Melbourne
- 21 Marketing Employee of the Year - Elissa Hayes - Balgownie Estate Vineyard Resort and Spa, Yarra Glen
- 22 Food and Beverage Services Employee of the Year - Annie Crowe - InterContinental Melbourne The Rialto
- 23 Back of House Employee of the Year - Keith Wilson - Grand Hyatt Melbourne
- 24 Hotel Bar of the Year - Market Lane - InterContinental Melbourne The Rialto
- 25 Chef of the Year - Grant Flack - Balgownie Estate Vineyard Resort and Spa, Yarra Glen
- 26 Resort Style Accommodation of the Year - Balgownie Estate Vineyard Resort and Spa, Yarra Glen
- 27 Housekeeper Employee of the Year - Rebecca Bruhn- Rydges Melbourne
- 28 Superior Accommodation Hotel of the Year - Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens Melbourne
- 29 Deluxe Accommodation Hotel of the Year - Crown Towers Melbourne

Other key industry leaders who attended the Awards for Excellence included senior representatives from the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, Arts Centre Melbourne, City of Melbourne, Melbourne Convention Bureau, Natalie O'Brien & Co, Marriner Group and Visit Victoria.

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