

Media release



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NSW PUBS AND ACCOMMODATION HOTELS WIN BIG AT NATIONAL AWARDS

A host of NSW pubs and accommodation providers were named best of the best at this year's AHA National Awards for Excellence, held on Monday, 28 November 2022 at Sydney's Campbell's Cove.

Speakers and presenters at the event included Order of Australia recipient Dylan Alcott who introduced the new Accessibility Award for 2023, Australian Hotels Association National CEO Stephen Ferguson, host AHA NSW President Scott Leach and a host of leading industry partners.

AHA NSW CEO John Whelan said the event showcased the best in the business, at the start of what looks set to be a busy summer season.

"It was great to welcome hundreds of hoteliers, staff, sponsors and associates to such an iconic venue in Sydney for the national awards," Mr Whelan said.

"NSW hotels really are second to none and I congratulate all finalists and winners on setting the standard not only nationally, but internationally."

NSW pubs from across the state took home silverware in a number of categories.

The Oriental Hotel at Mudgee took out the award for Best Draught Beer Quality,

The Gem Hotel, Griffith's Anthony Fullerton was named dual winner for Chef of the Year (along with the QT Melbourne's Paul Griffiths), while **Flower Hotels** at Port Macquarie won the prestigious Best Hotel Group Operator.

The **Beach Hotel Byron Bay** took the gong for Best Entertainment Venue and Sydney South-West pub **El Cortez Hotel** was named dual winner for Outstanding Community Service & Achievement along with Victoria's Barmah Hotel.

NSW pubs were also recognised for the quality of their accommodation with South Coast venue **Bermagui Beach Hotel** winning Best Deluxe Pub Accommodation and **Spicers Sangoma Retreat** in the Blue Mountains named Best Superior Accommodation.

The award for Best Deluxe Accommodation was shared by **Crown Towers Sydney**

and The Ritz Carlton, Perth.

NSW members of staff were also winners at the awards with **Sharni Aird from Verandah Bar, Sydney** named dual winner of Hotel Industry Rising Star - along with Meg Anderson from Eos by SkyCity, South Australia.

Shaun O'Brien from Cyprus Lakes, Hunter Valley and **Lauren Carinci from Crown Towers, Sydney** were named as two of four recipients for Employee Excellence in Service in the Accommodation Division - along with Amy Moylan from Ovolo South Yarra and Brad Francis from Crown Hotels Melbourne, both in Victoria.

Also in the Accommodation Division, **Mister Percy, The Woolstore 1888** by Ovolo in Sydney was named Best Restaurant (Mid-Range Superior), while **Amara, Spicers Sangoma Retreat** took the award for Best Restaurant (Deluxe).

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