



2025 AHA National Awards for Excellence Honour the Heart of Hospitality

A Celebration of the Places where Australians Gather and Belong

Venue: RACV Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast.

Date: Monday, 17 November, 2025

Australia's best hotels and hospitality professionals were honoured tonight at the 2025 AHA National Awards for Excellence - held at the RACV Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast - a celebration of the places where Australians gather and belong.

More than 600 industry leaders and VIP guests came together to recognise the venues and individuals who embody the true spirit of Australian hospitality — creating safe, welcoming spaces for locals and visitors to celebrate milestones, share stories and support one another.

AHA National President David Basheer said the awards highlight the role hotels play at the centre of community life.

"Hotels are more than venues — they are the beating hearts of their communities," Mr Basheer said.

"From the smallest regional pub to the largest city property, our hotels bring people together in good times and tough times. Tonight's winners show why Australian hospitality is the benchmark: welcoming, hardworking and deeply community-minded venues."

2025 MAJOR AWARD WINNERS

- Overall Hotel of the Year - Remote: Lockington Community Hotel, Lockington, Victoria
- Overall Hotel of the Year - Regional: Loxton Hotel, Loxton, South Australia
- Overall Hotel of the Year - Metropolitan: Arkaba Hotel, Fullarton, South Australia
- Overall Hotel of the Year - Accommodation Division: The Ritz-Carlton, Melbourne , Melbourne, Victoria
- Best Hotel Group Operator: JBS Hospitality

SPECIAL INDUSTRY HONOURS

- Johnnie Walker Hall of Fame: Paul O'Brien — Red Rock Leisure

2025 FULL CATEGORY WINNERS – GROUPED BY THEME

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Hotel Industry Rising Star - Accommodation Division: Sade Vasquez – Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour, Sydney, New South Wales
- Hotel Industry Rising Star - General Division: Matthew Bomford – St Albi, Moonah, Tasmania
- Chef of the Year - General: Brendan Boothroyd – Duxton Pubs, Adelaide, South Australia
- Chef of the Year - Accommodation: Pawan Dutta – The Royce, Melbourne, Victoria
- Employee Excellence in Service - General Division: Morgan Gall – Sawyers Arms Tavern, Newtown, Victoria
- Employee Excellence in Service - Accommodation Division – Commercial & Guest Experiences: Montana Daly – W Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales
- Employee Excellence in Service - Accommodation Division – Leadership & Culture – Jennifer Brown, InterContinental Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales
- Employee Excellence in Service - Accommodation Division – Operations & Support Services: Louise Nicdao – Batman's Hill on Collins, Melbourne, Victoria
- Front of House Employee of the Year - General Division: Soumi Tannous – Bar Beirut, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory
- Front of House Employee of the Year - Accommodation Division: Duncan Morrison – Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park, Sydney, New South Wales

FOOD, BEVERAGE & DINING EXCELLENCE

- Best Hotel Bar - Accommodation Division: McRae Bar – Capella Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales
- Best Restaurant - Accommodation Division (Deluxe): Oncore by Clare Smyth – Crown Towers Sydney, Barangaroo, New South Wales
- Best Restaurant - Accommodation Division (Mid-Range - Superior): Yamagen – QT Gold Coast, Surfers Paradise, Queensland
- Best Bistro - Regional: Froth Craft Bunbrewery, Bunbury, Western Australia
- Best Bistro - Metropolitan: The Prince, Kirrawee, New South Wales
- Best Bar Presentation & Service - Regional: Loxton Hotel, Loxton, South Australia
- Best Bar Presentation & Service - Metropolitan: Belgian Beer Cafe Melbourne, Southbank, Victoria
- Best Family Dining: The Doonan, Doonan, Queensland
- Best Restaurant - Regional: Penobscot Restaurant – Watervale Hotel, Watervale, South Australia
- Best Restaurant - Metropolitan: St Andrews Hotel - Fitzroy, Victoria
- Draught Beer Quality Award - Metropolitan: Bridie O'Reilly's, South Yarra, Victoria
- Draught Beer Quality Award - Regional: Nyngan Hotel, Nyngan, NSW

ACCOMMODATION EXCELLENCE

- Best Mid-Range Accommodation: PARKROYAL Parramatta, Parramatta, New South Wales
- Best Superior Accommodation: Oval Hotel, North Adelaide, South Australia
- Best Deluxe Accommodation: The Ritz-Carlton, Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria
- Best Luxury Accommodation: Saffire Freycinet, Coles Bay, Tasmania
- Best Lifestyle/Resort Style Accommodation: Mitchelton Hotel, Nagambie, Victoria
- Best Hotel Accommodation - General Division: Hotel Sorrento, Sorrento, Victoria
- Best Suite/Apartment Hotel: The Langham, Gold Coast, Surfers Paradise, Queensland

INVESTMENT, INNOVATION, SUSTAINABILITY & MARKETING

- Best Redeveloped Hotel - General Division: The Oxford Bathurst, Bathurst, New South Wales
- Best Redeveloped Hotel - Accommodation Division: Song Hotel Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales
- Excellence in Innovation, Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Practice: Iron Creek Bay Estate, Sorell, Tasmania
- Best Marketed Hotel - Accommodation Division: Novotel, Mercure & Ibis Darwin Airport, Eaton, Northern Territory
- Best Marketed Hotel - General Division: Shoreline Hotel, Howrah, Tasmania

COMMUNITY, TRAINING & ACCESSIBILITY

- Outstanding Community Service and Achievement: Coogee Bay Hotel, Coogee, New South Wales
- Outstanding Achievement in Training: Paradox Sydney, Seven Hills, New South Wales
- All Abilities Hotel - Accommodation Division: MACq01, Hobart, Tasmania
- All Abilities Hotel - General Division: The Plough Inn, Launceston, Tasmania

ENTERTAINMENT, TOURISM & FACILITIES

- Best Entertainment Venue: Arkaba Hotel, Fullarton, South Australia
- Best Sporting Entertainment Venue: Burleigh Town Hotel, Burleigh, Queensland
- Best Tourism Initiative: Sandstone Point Holiday Resort, Sandstone Point, Queensland
- Best Outdoor/Non-Enclosed Facility: American Hotel Echuca, Echuca, Victoria
- Best Meeting and Events Venue: Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort Port Douglas, Port Douglas, Queensland
- Best Retail Liquor Outlet: Eatons Hill Hotel, Eatons Hill, Queensland

GAMING, TAB & WAGERING

- Best Gaming Venue Regional: Beach House Hotel, Scarness, Queensland
- Best Gaming Venue Metropolitan: Mail Exchange Hotel, Melbourne, Victoria
- Best TAB Licensed Venue: Cremorne Hotel, Unley, South Australia

The AHA thanks its valued corporate partners for their ongoing support of the AHA National Awards for Excellence. These awards continue to recognise the venues and individuals who define the Australian hospitality experience — where people, community, and connection take centre stage.

Images from the event & full category listings will be uploaded on the night of Monday 17 November:



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