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MEDIA RELEASE

ACCOMMODATION INDUSTRY'S BEST HONOURED AT TAA (NSW) CEREMONY

The best in the NSW accommodation industry were honoured at a glittering awards ceremony in Sydney last night with 600 political, business and industry leaders attending the 2013 Tourism Accommodation Australia (NSW) Awards for Excellence.

The 16th annual Awards for Excellence was opened by the NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell, who acknowledged the important role of accommodation and service to the tourism industry.

The NSW Minister for Tourism and Major Events, George Souris presented the coveted *Deluxe Hotel Accommodation of the Year Award* to The Park Hyatt Sydney.

Lilianfels Resort and Spa won the *Regional Deluxe Hotel Accommodation of the Year Award*.

The Sydney Boulevard Hotel took out the *Outstanding Community Achievement Award* while *Function Venue of the Year* went to the Hilton Sydney.

The popular *People Awards* categories were again a highlight.

David Patt of the Intercontinental won *Concierge of the Year*.

Andrea Donaghy of the Fairmont Resort MGallery was named *Front of House Employee of the Year* while Maria Macri-Nosari from the Sydney Harbour Marriott won *Employee Excellence in Service*.

There were two special Hall of Fame recipients this year Hilton Hotel Sydney (Outstanding Achievement in Training) and Sheraton on the Park (Workplace Health and Safety Hotel of the Year).

TAA (NSW) chair Nigel Greenaway said the quality of all Award winners highlighted the current strength of the accommodation industry and was a testament to the considerable investment of the past few years

"The high quality of the customer service finalists in particular bodes well for the future of the accommodation sector in this state," he said.

"I think everyone there last night would agree our hotels are world-class – the strong field of finalists and the quality of the winners spoke volumes.

"I would like to congratulate all winners and indeed all finalists on the hard work they do for the industry."

Other 2013 TAA (NSW) Awards for Excellence winners include:

- Hotel Industry Rising Star: Timothy Hunt (Park Hyatt Sydney)
- Housekeeper of the Year: Shirley Delaberbis (Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley)
- Bar of the Year: Grain (Four Seasons Hotel Sydney)



- Metro Restaurant of the Year: Altitude Restaurant (Shangri-La Hotel Sydney)
- Chef of the Year: Bo Ip Sorenson (Shangri-La Hotel Sydney)
- Apprentice/Trainee of the Year: Gabrielle Fitzsimmons (Mercure Resort Hunter Valley Gardens)
- Best Environmental Practice: Novotel Sydney Olympic Park
- Metro Brasserie/Café of the Year: Feast-a world of flavours (Sheraton on the Park)
- Sydney Superior Hotel Accommodation of the Year: Four Points by Sheraton, Darling Harbour
- Regional Superior Hotel Accommodation of the Year: Fairmont Resort MGallery

Media Contact: Carol Giuseppi 0403 452 177 *Full list of winners attached*