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Long Beach Hospitality Industry Honors Its Own

Harry Saltzgaver Sep 29, 2017 (0)



Michael Dene, right, crosses the stage Wednesday to receive his best restaurant award from Third District Councilwoman Suzie Price.
—Gazette photo by Harry Saltzgaver



About 250 people turned out last Wednesday to celebrate the best of the best when it comes to welcoming visitors to Long Beach.

Put on by the new Long Beach Hospitality Alliance, the awards dinner at the Hotel Maya was the culmination of a several-month process. More than 160 nominations were made in late summer for honors in 13 categories.

On Sept. 27, the alliance handed out the awards during an Emmy-style dinner, complete with envelopes and celebrity presenters.

"I would call this a great success," Pam Ryan told the crowd. Ryan is president of the alliance and general manager of the Renaissance Long Beach hotel. "I think we can expect to do it again. Don't you?"

She was answered with applause.

Winners of the inaugural awards are:

Rising Star — Taylor Roll of Hotel Maya.

Unsung Hero — Rafael Sanchez, Hyatt Regency.

Beyond the Call of Duty — Jackie Melin, Hotel Maya.

Lifetime Achievement — John Morris

Community Spirit — Visoth Ouk, "Chef T," The Federal Bar.

Sustainability —Restauration, Restauration.

Hotel — Courtyard, CY Marriott Long Beach downtown.

Entrepreneur — Kimberly Gros, SteelCraft founder.



Special Event — Stroll and Savor, Belmont Shore Business Association.

Innovation in Hospitality — Carrie Arnold, Schwag.

Supplier — Lorena Ruiz, Stephanie's Linens.

Housekeeping — Elizabeth Miguel, Hilton.

Restaurant — Michael's On Naples, Michael's Restaurant Group.

For more information or to participate in next year's contest, go to www.lbhospitality.com.

—Harry Saltzgaver

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Harry Saltzgaver

Harry has been executive editor of Gazette Newspapers for more than 20 years. He has been in the newspaper business for more than 30 years, with experience on both weekly and metropolitan daily papers in Colorado and California.



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