



Northern Territory Branch AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION



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MEDIA RELEASE: Gold Plates Served Up to Territory Restaurants

Restaurateurs and hospitality staff from around the Territory gathered at SKYCITY Darwin for the highly anticipated AHA (NT) ALM Gold Plate Awards.

The 2016 ALM Gold Plate Award for 'Restaurant of the Year' went to a long time favourite of locals and travelers to Alice Springs – Hanuman Restaurant Alice Springs, with Jimmy Shu's restaurant receiving the highest overall score from the Gold Plate Judges.

Other highlights of the 2016 AHA (NT) ALM Gold Plate Awards included:

- For the second year in a row, **The Pearl** won the 'Best Informal Dining' Gold Plate Award, as well as taking out the Gold Plate Award for 'Best Standalone Restaurant';
- Newcomer on the scene, **PM Eat & Drink** won through a very competitive field in the 'Best New Establishment' category;
- Excellence in Catering went to **Event Solutions** ('Best Function/Event Caterer'), the first Gold Plate for Kristie Foreman and her catering team;
- Popular rural staple **Humpty Doo Tavern** took out the Awards for 'Best Casual Dining' and 'Best Family Restaurant';
- **Devils Marbles Hotel** won the 'Best Wayside Inn Dining' Award for the second consecutive year;
- SKYCITY Darwin's restaurants performed exceptionally well, with **Dragon Court** winning the Gold Plate for 'Best Asian Restaurant' and **il Piatto** winning the 'Best Specialty Cuisine' Gold Plate;
- The new attraction by internationally acclaimed artist, Bruce Munro to **Ayers Rock Resort – 'A Night at Field of Light'** won the best Tourism/Themed Gold Plate. This incredible display of more than 50,000 glass spheres continues until 31 March 2017;
- The 2014 Gold Plate Restaurant of the Year, **Cicada Lodge** in Katherine won 'Best Hotel Restaurant'; and
- The Arnhem Club's restaurant, **Maccassans Restaurant** took out the Award for Best Club Restaurant.

"The Gold Plate achievements recognised tonight highlight the great diversity of dining experiences awaiting Territorians and visitors alike. Both finalists and winners continue to make significant contributions to the hospitality industry and its growing reputation for great food, service and wine," said Mr. Crowe.

Mr. Crowe highlighted the achievements of remote venues, who work extremely hard to serve high quality and fresh produce, "It was great to see The Arnhem Club, Devils Marbles Hotel and Cicada Lodge win their respective categories. Having these types of restaurants out in remote locations is a fantastic achievement and a great asset for the Territory's tourism industry moving forward."

"Ayers Rock Resort also continues to feature in the Gold Plate Awards, with the incredible Field of Light display amazing visitors from around the world," said Mr. Crowe.

Venues that enter the Gold Plate Awards are judged objectively and anonymously by independent judges. The quality of food receives the most attention by the judges, however the whole dining experience is evaluated, including ambience, service and the presentation of the premise and staff.

Please find below a complete list of all the 2016 winners.

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2016 AHA (NT) ALM GOLD PLATE WINNERS LIST

'Restaurant of the Year' - Hanuman Restaurant Alice Springs

'Best Stand Alone Restaurant' - The Pearl

'Best Fine Dining' - Hanuman Restaurant Alice Springs

'Best New Establishment' - PM Eat & Drink

'Best Club Restaurant' - Maccassans Restaurant – The Arnhem Club

'Best Public Hotel' - Dollys Bar - Hibiscus Tavern

'Best Casual Dining' - Humpty Doo Tavern

'Best Informal Dining / Cafe Restaurant' – The Pearl

'Best Family Restaurant' - Humpty Doo Tavern

'Best Wayside Inn Dining' - Devils Marbles Hotel

'Best Asian Restaurant' – Dragon Court- SKYCITY Darwin

'Best Specialty Cuisine Restaurant' - il Piatto – SKYCITY Darwin

'Best Hotel Restaurant' - Cicada Lodge

'Best Steak Restaurant' - Char Restaurant at Admiralty House

'Best Tourism/Themed Restaurant' - A Night at Field of Light, Voyages Ayers Rock Resort

'Best Function/Event Caterer' - Event Solutions

'Best Select Wine List' - Moorish Café

'Best Extensive Wine List' - Char Restaurant at Admiralty House

'Best Cocktail List' - Hot Tamale

'Minister for Trade, Business & Innovation Encouragement Award' – Little Miss Korea