



MEDIA RELEASE:

BIGGER & BETTER GOLD PLATE AWARDS SERVED UP

The 2022 Gold Plate Awards were held at the Darwin Festival's Sunset Stage with 500 people enjoying the very best in NT's hospitality with a bit of festival fun thrown in.

This year's Gold Plate Awards were the biggest in the Awards 17-year history with over 330 nominations received from 70 hospitality businesses located right across the Territory.

New categories were introduced this year in order to showcase and promote more areas of the hospitality industry and staff, including;

- Best Barista won by **Thiam Seng Chew** from **Kopi Stop**
- Best Bar Food won by **Hanky Panky Lounge**
- Best Burger won by **Besser Kitchen & Brew Bar**
- Service Excellence won by **Paul Dhiver** from **Stonehouse Wine Bar & Kitchen**
- Minister's Award for Sustainability won by **Charlie's of Darwin**
- Seafood Restaurant won by **Phat Mango by Martin the Chef**

The top Award of the evening, the Gold Plate for Restaurant of the Year went to **Pee Wees by the Point**, who also won Best Standalone Restaurant.

"Pee Wees by the Point continues to showcase the very best of the NT's dining scene. Simon, Lily and their team have maintained Pee Wee's very high standards despite the workforce challenges plaguing our industry," said Hospitality NT CEO, Alex Bruce.

"This year's Gold Plate Awards were more inclusive, and it was great to see new faces and new businesses taking home prestigious Gold Plates."

"Best Asian is always a very competitive Gold Plate category which was won for the first time by **Bannsang Darwin**.

"The Bartender category and Barista category were very popular with amazing talent shown across both of these aspects of the industry, with **Declan Coffee – Hanky**

Panky Lounge taking out the Best Bartender Award and the venue **Hanky Panky** winning the Gold Plate Award for Best Cocktail List.

Well known barista **Thiam Seng Chew, form Kopi Stop** won the inaugural Best Barista title.

The use and promotion of local produce was rewarded by the City of Darwin's Local Produce Champion won by **Saffron**.

Since opening Saffron 14 years ago, Selvan and his team have led with using local producers, focusing on sustainability and the environment. More recently, Saffron has introduced cooking classes and to date 500 members of the community have engaged with local ingredients, thinking about supporting local farmers and fishers for local communities and future food security.

Best Breakfast was won for the second year in a row by **Sweet Brew & Co** and there were joint winners for Chef of the Year, with **Fiona Weir** Head Chef of **PepperBerry** Restaurant and Head Chef at the **Darwin Trailer Boat Club Fusang Sherpa** unable to be split by the judges.

The Gold Plate Award for Best New Establishment was hotly contested with a number of new and exciting venues opening up over the past 12 months, with **Ella by Minoli** taking out the gong.

“The evening was fun and festival and it was great to see hard working venues and their teams enjoying a well-earned night off,” Mr Bruce said.

“Our local industry is chock-a-block full of passionate, driven venues and their staff ensuring we will continue to reach new heights in Territory dining and hospitality.”

Category	Award Sponsor	Winner
Minister's Awards for Sustainability	<i>Tourism NT</i>	Charlie's of Darwin
Service Excellence	<i>HOSTPLUS</i>	Paul Dhiver – Stonehouse Wine Bar & Kitchen
Chef of the Year	<i>HOSTPLUS</i>	Fiona Weir – PepperBerry Restaurant Fusang Sherpa – Darwin Trailer Boat Club
Public Hotel Dining	<i>Carlton & United Breweries</i>	The Cavenagh Hotel
Wayside Inn Dining	<i>Tourism Top End</i>	Devils Marbles Hotel
Contemporary Restaurant	<i>LION</i>	Phat Mango by Martin the Chef
Tourism Restaurant	<i>Tourism NT</i>	Tali Wiru

Family Restaurant	<i>Channel 9 Darwin</i>	Darwin Trailer Boat Club
International Cuisine	<i>Simon George & Son</i>	Meraki Greek Taverna
Casual Dining	<i>In2Food</i>	Snapper Rocks
Club Restaurant	<i>ClubsNT</i>	1690 Restaurant & Bar – Alice Springs Turf Club
Breakfast Restaurant	<i>Australian Radio Network</i>	Sweet Brew & Co
Best Barista	<i>DTown Coffee Roasters</i>	Thiam Seng Chew – Kopi Stop
Bartender of the Year	<i>Hospitality NT</i>	Declan Coffee – Hanky Panky Lounge
Best Bar Food	<i>Good Drinks</i>	Hanky Panky Lounge
Best Burger	<i>Coopers Brewery</i>	Besser Kitchen & Brew Bar
Best Steak	<i>ThomasFoods</i>	The Cavenagh Hotel
City of Darwin Local Produce/Production Champion	<i>City of Darwin</i>	Saffron
Asian Restaurant	<i>CUB Premium Beverages</i>	Bannsang Darwin
Best Restaurant Wine List	<i>Treasury Premium Brands</i>	Pee Wee's at the Point
Best Pub/Club Wine List	<i>Treasury Premium Brands</i>	The Cavenagh Hotel
Best Small Bar Wine List	<i>Samuel Smith & Son</i>	StoneHouse Wine Bar & Kitchen

Best Cocktail List	<i>Coca Cola Europacific Partners</i>	Hanky Panky Lounge
New Establishment	<i>Arafura Catering</i>	Ella by Mionli
Seafood Restaurant	<i>NT Seafood Council</i>	Phat Mango by Martin the Chef
Hotel Restaurant	<i>Dreamedia</i>	PepperBerry Restaurant
Stand Alone Restaurant	<i>H&L POS</i>	Pee Wee's at the Point
Events Caterer	<i>Darwin Festival</i>	Doubletree by Hilton Esplanade Darwin
Restaurant of the Year	<i>Australian Liquor Marketers</i>	Pee Wee's at the Point