



**Monday 19 August**

## **MEDIA RELEASE:**

# **NT'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY SHINES AT GOLD PLATES AWARDS NIGHT**

In front of NT Parliament House on State Square lawns over 550 people attended this year's Hospitality NT ALM Gold Plate Awards.

With less than one week before the NT Election, both major parties addressed attendees, committing their support towards the NT's hospitality industry.

The evening provided hospitality business owners and their staff with a well-deserved night off to celebrate excellence over 24 categories. The night was the culmination of 8 weeks of anonymous judging and Barista, Chef and Bartender competitions.

A big congratulations to the Barista of the Year, to **Tricia Wong from Besser Kitchen & Brew Bar**, Bartender of the Year, **Declan Coffey from Hanky Panky Lounge** and Chef of the Year from **Pablo Stuardo from Bar Kokomo**. All three are outstanding members of our local industry, who continued to lift the standards across the board.

Service is the cornerstone of our industry and this years' Service Excellence Gold Plate Award went to **Matilda McCarthy from Willing Distillery**.

The top Award of the evening, the Gold Plate for Restaurant of the Year went for the first time to **Ella by Minoli**, who also won Best Standalone Restaurant and achieved the highest overall score by the Gold Plate judges

*“Ella by Minoli certainly has been a standout this year with the restaurant regularly booked out. Minoli De Silva and her team with their Sri Lankan inspired menu and excellent service are showcasing the very best of the NT’s culinary scene,”* said Hospitality NT CEO, Alex Bruce.

The use and promotion of local produce continues to grow from strength to strength, with the City of Darwin Local Produce Champion Awarded to **Snapper Rocks** for a second year in a row.

Their local produce includes the delivery of fresh seafood which they put to good use to win the Gold Plate for Best Seafood Restaurant.

Our ‘Best’ Gold Plate Categories proved very popular with entrants and were also hotly contested:

- Best Steak was taken out by **Arnguli Grill & Restaurant, Ayers Rock Resort**
- Best Burger is down at the **Besser Kitchen & Brew Bar**
- Best Breakfast was won by the team at **Laneway Coffee**
- Best Cocktail List is found at **Hanky Panky Lounge**
- Best Family Restaurant at **Palmerston Golf and Country Club**
- Best International Cuisine at **Moorish**
- Best Contemporary Restaurant at **Banjo Bar & Terrace Contour Hotel, Katherine**
- Best Outback Pub/Wayside Inn Dining at **Daly Waters Pub**
- Best Casual Dining at **Coolalinga Tavern**
- Best Dessert at **Meow Waffee**

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 **Pink Chopstix** at Darwin Waterfront winning the Award.

*“While the evening was a cracking good time, we certainly acknowledge the hard work and challenging trading conditions that cafes and restaurants have endured this year. In spite of everything their passion and drive is second to none”,* said Mr. Bruce.

(ENDS)

<b>Category</b>	<b>Proudly Sponsored by</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Ministers Awards for Sustainability	<i>Tourism NT</i>	Charlies of Darwin
Service Excellence	<i>HOSTPLUS</i>	Matilda McCarthy Willing Distillery
Chef of the Year	<i>Charles Darwin University</i>	Pablo Stuardo Bar Kokomo
Best Outback Pub/Wayside Inn Dining	<i>Tourism Top End</i>	Daly Waters Pub
Best Contemporary Restaurant	<i>LION</i>	Banjo Bar & Terrace Contour Hotel
Best Family Restaurant	<i>Bidfood</i>	Palmerston Golf & Country Club
Best International Cuisine	<i>Simon George &amp; Sons</i>	Moorish
Best Casual Dining	<i>Carlton &amp; United Breweries</i>	Coolalinga Tavern
Best Breakfast Restaurant	<i>Australian Radio Network</i>	Laneway Coffee
Barista of the Year	<i>DTown Coffee Roasters</i>	Tricia Wong, Besser Kitchen & Brew Bar
Bartender of the Year	<i>Hospitality NT</i>	Declan Coffey Hanky Panky Lounge
Darwin Festival Inspired	<i>Darwin Festival</i>	Mercure Darwin Airport Resort
City of Darwin Local Produce Champion Award	<i>City of Darwin</i>	Snapper Rocks
Best Burger	<i>Good Drinks</i>	Besser Kitchen & Brew Bar

Best Steak	<i>ThomasFoods</i>	Arnguli Grill & Restaurant, Ayers Rock Resort
Best Dessert	<i>Nestle</i>	Meow Waffee
Best Asian Restaurant	<i>Asian United Food Service</i>	Ella By Minoli
Best Wine List	<i>Treasury Premium Brands</i>	Meraki Greek Taverna
Best Cocktail List	<i>Coca Cola Europacific Partners</i>	Hanky Panky Lounge
New Establishment	<i>Arafura Catering Equipment</i>	Pink Chopstix
Best Seafood Restaurant	<i>NT Seafood Council</i>	Snapper Rocks
Best Stand Alone Restaurant	<i>H&amp;L POS</i>	Ella by Minoli
Best Events Caterer	<i>All About Party Hire</i>	Mindil Beach Casino Resort
Restaurant of the Year	<i>Australian Liquor Marketers</i>	Ella by Minoli