



MEDIA RELEASE:

BIGGER & BETTER GOLD PLATE AWARDS SERVED UP

The 2023 Gold Plate Awards popped up in Darwin Festival Park with over 550 people enjoying the very best in NT's hospitality with a bit of festival fun thrown in.

The evening provided hospitality business owners and their staff with a well-deserved night off to celebrate excellence over 22 categories. The night was the culmination of 6 weeks of anonymous judging and several rounds of barista and bartender competitions.

A big congratulations to the Barista of the Year, **Sid Gurung from The 1995** and to the Bartender of the Year, **Riley Landini from Hanky Panky!** Both competitions were incredibly close and the standards very high.

Service is the cornerstone of our industry and this years' Service Excellence Gold Plate Award went to **Steven Ferrieria from the Mercure Darwin Airport Resort.**

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 lead in showcasing the very best of the NT's hospitality industry, with Simon and Lily and their team delivering excellence in food, drink and service in an iconic location," 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 Lord Mayor Local Produce Champion Awarded to **Snapper Rocks.**

With daily deliver of local produce, spread across many local suppliers, **Snapper Rocks** had a very successful night, also winning Gold Plates for Seafood Restaurant and Best Wine List.

Another champion of local produce is Charlie's of Darwin Head Chef, **Sufendi Bong**, who took out the prestigious Chef of the Year Award.

Our 'Best' Gold Plate Categories proved very popular with entrants and were also hotly contested.

- Best Steak was taken out by **Dolly's Bar & Restaurant**
- Best Burger is down at the **Alice Springs Brewing Co.**
- Best Breakfast was won by the team at **Besser Brew Bar**
- Best Cocktail List is found at **Dom's Bar and Lounge**

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 **Together & Co at the Hilton Garden Inn** winning the Award.

"While the evening was a fun and festival themed celebration, we acknowledge the hard work that each and every nominee has had to endure this year, and the passion and drive that continues to see our industry reach new levels", said Mr. Bruce.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Winner</i>
Ministers Awards for Sustainability	<i>Tourism NT</i>	Rydges Palmerston
Service Excellence	<i>HOSTPLUS</i>	Steven Ferreira, Mercure Darwin Airport Resort
Chef of the Year	<i>HOSTPLUS</i>	Sufendi Bong, Charlie's of Darwin
Best Wayside Inn Dining	<i>Tourism Top End</i>	Devils Marbles Hotel
Best Contemporary Restaurant	<i>LION</i>	Wharf One Food & Wine
Best Family Restaurant	<i>Bidfood</i>	Club Eastside
Best International Cuisine	<i>Simon George & Sons</i>	Moorish
Best Casual Dining	<i>Carlton & United Breweries</i>	Charlie's of Darwin
Best Breakfast Restaurant	<i>Australian Radio Network</i>	Besser Brew Bar
Barista of the Year	<i>DTown Coffee Roasters</i>	Siddartha Gurung, The 1995
Bartender of the Year	<i>Hospitality NT</i>	Riley Landini, Hanky Panky Lounge
Darwin Festival Inspired	<i>Darwin Festival</i>	AHL Group

City of Darwin Lord Mayor Local Produce Champion Award	<i>City of Darwin</i>	Snapper Rocks
Best Burger	<i>Coopers Brewery</i>	Alice Springs Brewing Co
Best Steak	<i>ThomasFoods</i>	Dolly's Bar & Restaurant
Best Dessert	<i>Nestle</i>	Contour Restaurant
Best Asian Restaurant	<i>Asian United Food Service</i>	Bannsang Darwin
Best Wine List	<i>Treasury Premium Brands</i>	Snapper Rocks
Best Cocktail List	<i>Coca Cola Europacific Partners</i>	Dom's Bar & Lounge
New Establishment	<i>Arafura Catering Equipment</i>	Together & Co - Hilton Garden Inn Darwin
Best Seafood Restaurant	<i>NT Seafood Council</i>	Snapper Rocks
Best Stand Alone Restaurant	<i>H&L POS</i>	Pee Wee's at the Point
Best Events Caterer	<i>All About Party Hire</i>	Mindil Beach Casino Resort
Restaurant of the Year	<i>Australian Liquor Marketers</i>	Pee Wee's at the Point

