

Champions of Hospitality 2025

Awards Gala | Thursday, November 20, 2025
Palm Springs Convention Center

The Champions of Hospitality Awards Gala celebrates the individuals and organizations that embody the resilient and innovative spirit of our local tourism and hospitality industry, uniting our travel community and highlighting the industry's positive impact on all who live and work in the Coachella Valley. All proceeds from the event support the Greater Palm Springs Tourism Foundation. Congratulations to all the incredible people and businesses nominated this year!

Hospitality Award Nominees

Awarded for enriching the overall visitor experience by providing exceptional customer service and hospitality.

Attractions | Tours Champion

Alexis Arellano
Children's Discovery Museum of the Desert

Janet Baker
Children's Discovery Museum of the Desert

Gene Calderon
The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens

Jackie Cameron
Drag & Fly Tours

Alfredo Garcia
BMW Performance Center West

Faith Garza
Children's Discovery Museum of the Desert

Tyler Grace
Escape Room Palm Springs

Kaitlyn Gray
Children's Discovery Museum of the Desert

Francisco Lopez
Palm Desert Visitor Center

José Marfori
The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens

Eric McLaughlin
Rancho Mirage Library & Observatory

Vicky Melton
Children's Discovery Museum of the Desert

Gilbert (Gil) Moreno
Palm Springs Aerial Tramway

David Paisley
Oswit Land Trust

Massey Pitts
Palm Springs Surf Club

Kolin Sorbello
Big Wheel Tours

Alex Wonder
Destination Sitters

Boutique or Hot Spring Hotel Champion

Deborah Bibeault
Ace Hotel and Swim Club Palm Springs

Nancy Chavez
Azure Palm Hot Springs Resort & Day Spa Oasis

Alison Fletcher
Casa Palma

Nadine Guerrero
Azure Palm Hot Springs Resort & Day Spa Oasis

Liz Hayward
Sands Hotel & Spa

Melanie Quinones
The Spring Resort & Spa

Full Service Hotel Champion

Pablo Aguiar
Hilton Palm Springs

Alyssa Bustos
Hilton Palm Springs

Margarita Clavel
Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs

Veronica Guzman
Triada Palm Springs

Paulina Lopez
The Dunes Palm Springs

Paola Martin
Hilton Palm Springs

Rosalina Mactezuma Cortes
The Dunes Palm Springs

José Rangel Rodriguez
Ingleside Estate – Melvyn's Restaurant

Alvaro Rodriguez
Hilton Palm Springs

José Salas
Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs

Ken Starr Jr.
The Dunes Palm Springs

Danielle Van Tatenhove
Triada Palm Springs

Resort Hotel Champion Front of House

José Betancourt
La Quinta Resort & Club

Yesica Caballero Lopez
Tommy Bahama Miramonte Resort & Spa

Armida Covarrubias
The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa

Karen Fuentes
Parker Palm Springs

Verenice Garza
Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

David Giraud
The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa

Alfredo Gonzalez
The Saguardo Palm Springs

Candice Griffin
Avalon Hotel & Bungalows Palm Springs

Joshua J. Hargett
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa, Indian Wells

Branden Joven
Parker Palm Springs

Monty Montana
Grand Hyatt Indian Wells Resort & Villas

Ernesto (Gio) Muñoz
The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage

Oscar Olivares
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa, Indian Wells

Amber Owens
The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage

Yesica Puga
Doubletree by Hilton Golf Resort Palm Springs

James (JP) Sackett
Agua Caliente Casino Rancho Mirage

Pamela Sandoval
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa, Indian Wells

Danae Sheehan
Thompson Palm Springs

Eric Suter
Agua Caliente Casino Rancho Mirage

Verne Thomas
Thompson Palm Springs

Resort Hotel Champion Heart of House

Eric Burdon-Young
Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa – Splash Grill

Yesenia Corona
JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa

Rosa Curbow
Parker Palm Springs

Guadalupe de la Cruz
JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa

Josef Escher
La Quinta Resort & Club

Erika Escobar Flores
Tommy Bahama Miramonte Resort & Spa

Belinda Espinoza
Thompson Palm Springs

Yessica Fuentes
The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage

Ashutosh Gairola
La Quinta Resort & Club

Maria Garcia
Grand Hyatt Indian Wells Resort & Villas

Angelina Garcia Guadian
Two Bunch Palms

Michael Gonzales
JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa

Norby Gonzalez
Avalon Hotel & Bungalows Palm Springs

Chantell Gordon
JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa

Maria Elena Gusman
Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa

Monica Gutierrez
The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa

Alias Halay-ay
Sensei Porcupine Creek

Leticia Hernandez
The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage

Juana Maravilla
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa, Indian Wells

Hermiña Montez
Fantasy Springs Resort Casino – Fresh Grill Buffet

Maria Nieves
The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage

Tasha Rucker
Tommy Bahama Miramonte Resort & Spa

Sergio Segovia
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa, Indian Wells

Morgan Siffleet
The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa

Sandra Simon
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa, Indian Wells

Giovanni Vicuna
Sensei Porcupine Creek

Manuel Villagomez
Agua Caliente Casino Rancho Mirage

Jesse Villanueva
The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa

Ismael Zazueta
Thompson Palm Springs

Maximiliano Zuniga
Marriott's Shadow Ridge

Restaurant | Bar Champion Front of House

Liza Anisov
The Copper Room

Mary Bongard
Hunters Palm Springs

Aleks Boongaling
Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs – High Bar

Juanita Cardova
Shields Date Garden – The Café

Francisco Castellanos
Chez Pierre

Oscar Cortes
Lulu California Bistro

Brian Ellis
Hotel Paseo – Larkspur Grill

Tom Emmett
Ruth's Chris Steak House

Andrew Franks
Agua Caliente Casino Rancho Mirage – The Steakhouse

Abraham Jimenez
La Quinta Resort & Club

Ron Hall
The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage – The Edge Steakhouse

Melissa Lizarraga
Agua Caliente Casino Cathedral City – Café One Eleven

Diana Muñoz
Café La Jefa

Nestor Olivos
Agua Caliente Casino Rancho Mirage – The Steakhouse

Isaiah Orduno
Dragon Lili Boba Bar

Joseph Pickering
Indio Taphouse

Alysa Valdez
Azure Palm Hot Springs Resort & Day Spa Oasis – The Café

Restaurant | Bar Champion Heart of House

Janna Suzanne Browne
Café La Jefa

Efrain Cabrera
Lulu California Bistro

Steven Hernandez
Agua Caliente Casino Rancho Mirage

Jacob Hughes
The Copper Room

Hugo Macias
Giuseppes Restaurant and Pizzeria Palm Springs

Cesar Melendrez
Brunch 101

Natalie Navarro
The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens

Bertha Oropeza
Agua Caliente Casino Rancho Mirage

Sarah Rodriguez
Agua Caliente Casino Cathedral City – Café One Eleven

Stephanie Ewing
Acisure Arena

Amanda Gravdahl
Acisure Arena

Joaquín Molina
Palm Springs Convention Center – Savoury's

Dawn Olson
Goldenvoice

Jack Roorda
Acisure Arena

Luis Rosas
Desert Champions, LLC

Raquel Suarez
Acisure Arena – Pritchard Sports and Entertainment Group

Erika Vega
Pickering Events

Ron Willison
Natural Retreats

Lilliann Flowe
Desert Hills Premium Outlets

Taryn Gemmill
Azure Palm Hot Springs Resort & Day Spa Oasis – The Boutique

Gwen Heredia
Jadabug's Kids Boutique

Denise Rogland
Trina Turk / Mr. Turk – Palm Desert & Palm Springs

Dana Rascon
Desert Wine Shop on 111

Paul Rupa
Palm Springs Visitor Center

Select Service Hotel Champion

Alfredo Bolanos
Hampton Inn & Suites Indio

Cecelia Connolly
The Paloma Resort – Sol Y Sombra

Maricris David
Hilton Garden Inn Palm Springs – Rancho Mirage

Juan Silvestre Espitia
Motel 6 East Palm Canyon

Michael Gerano
Homewood Suites by Hilton Cathedral City – Palm Springs

Christina King
Homewood Suites by Hilton Cathedral City – Palm Springs

Christina Martinez
Homewood Suites by Hilton Palm Desert

Rosa Resendiz de Cervantes
Courtyard by Marriott Palm Springs

Vacation Rental Champion

Ashley Bastardi
Palm Desert Vacation Properties

Amanda Benzra-Turner
Acme House Company

Ruby Garcia
Palm Desert Vacation Properties

Laura Heggie
Acme House Company

Mario Rios
Purveyors of Leisure

Venue Champion

Delores Alvarez
Acisure Arena

Angelica Ayala
Pickering Events

Stephanie Ewing
Acisure Arena

Amanda Gravdahl
Acisure Arena

Joaquín Molina
Palm Springs Convention Center – Savoury's

Dawn Olson
Goldenvoice

Jack Roorda
Acisure Arena

Luis Rosas
Desert Champions, LLC

Raquel Suarez
Acisure Arena – Pritchard Sports and Entertainment Group

Erika Vega
Pickering Events

Ron Willison
Natural Retreats

Wellness | Spa Champion

Brooke Damarel
Sensei Porcupine Creek

Alycia Evans
Azure Palm Hot Springs Resort & Day Spa Oasis

Mariah Garcia
The Spring Resort & Spa

Samija Heric
JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa

Brenda Julius
Two Bunch Palms

Amy Kuschel
Sensei Porcupine Creek

Amy Ruiz
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa, Indian Wells

Doris Shell
The Spa at Séc-he

Oasis Award Nominees

Honors an individual or organization that has led the way in integrating eco-friendly, green, or sustainable practices into their business or community.

Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians

Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs

Lizze Ferrari
The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens

Nikki Negrete
Acisure Arena

The Spa at Séc-he

Two Bunch Palms

Temalpakh Farm

Randy Villaseñor
Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa

Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs

Lizze Ferrari
The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens

Nikki Negrete
Acisure Arena

The Spa at Séc-he

Two Bunch Palms

Temalpakh Farm

Randy Villaseñor
Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa

Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs

Lizze Ferrari
The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens

Nikki Negrete
Acisure Arena

The Spa at Séc-he

Two Bunch Palms

Temalpakh Farm

Randy Villaseñor
Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa

Jim Germyn
Coachella Lakes RV Resort

Patrick Klein
The Gardens on El Paseo

Roman LaRose
The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa

Magic Cart Ride
NACE Greater Palm Springs Chapter

Armando Olvera
Delicias Mexican Cuisine

Rebekah Osborne
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa, Indian Wells

Palm Springs Air Museum

Brennan Pardee
Big Wheel Tours

Santos Perez
Indio Taphouse

Olivia Prescott
Sands Hotel & Spa

Pickering Events

Nick Pozo
SEEK Personnel Staffing

Elba Ramos
The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa

Tiffany Rivera
Indio Taphouse

Leanna Rodgers & Miguel Gamez
Palm Springs Events Company

Alexandra Salazar
Parker Palm Springs

Richard (Kip) Serafin
Locations 760

The Shops at Thirteen Forty-Five

David Skelley
Boomerang for Modern

The Spa at Séc-he

Susan Stauber
Grayseful

Ashley Stein
Saffron Restaurant & Lounge

San Jacinto Rising Star Nominees

Presented to an individual who has worked in hospitality or tourism less than 5 years, or is under 40 years of age, and has contributed to the promotion of travel, tourism, and hospitality in Greater Palm Springs.

David Arreguin
Tac/Quila

Hailey Chapman
The Reserve Club

Joseph Florez
Tommy Bahama Miramonte Resort & Spa

Raffi Frenley
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival

Trey Garcia
Ace Hotel and Swim Club Palm Springs

Andrew Glick
Desert Dexa

Justin Godfrey
The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage

Priscilla Hurtado
Hampton Inn & Suites Palm Desert

Katrina Jordyn
La Quinta Cliffhouse

Jasmin Lara
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa, Indian Wells

Richard Lu
Sensei Porcupine Creek

Linh Nguyen
Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs

Yokli Oktaviano
Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs

Stephanie Olivas
Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa

Maria Perez
JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa

Chris Pickering
Pickering Events

Annie Poy
Rancho Mirage Library & Observatory

Kayla Raffaeli
Acisure Arena

Edgar Ramirez
Grand Hyatt Indian Wells Resort & Villas

Jordan Romero
The Dunes Hotel

Emma Seitz
NACE Greater Palm Springs Chapter

Melissa Suarez
Acisure Arena

Jermiah Wilder
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa, Indian Wells

Jasmine Williams
The Nest

Santa Rosa Impact Award Nominees

Recognizes an individual or organization that has made a meaningful impact in advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and/or accessibility within the hospitality and tourism industry in Greater Palm Springs.

Grand Hyatt Indian Wells Resort & Villas

Pickering Events

Nick Pozo
SEEK Personnel Staffing

Kind Traveler

Friends of the Desert Mountains

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

