
MEDIA RELEASE

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Hilton Sydney checks in as top overall hotel

Hotel industry also recognises outstanding contribution by John Haddad AO

The Hilton Sydney has been recognised as Australia's best overall accommodation hotel by Tourism Accommodation Australia at its national awards dinner in Hobart last night.

The award for Hilton Sydney comes in addition to winning the award for Best Restaurant (Glass Brasserie) and Best Meetings/Events Hotel. Hilton Sydney's Joe Pavlovich also took out the award for Best Chef to cap off a sensational night for the hotel.

TAA Managing Director Rodger Powell said the awards were a fitting reward for continued excellence.

"Hilton Sydney is an outstanding hotel in so many areas and deserves this recognition. With 23 function rooms, world-class food and beverage options and outstanding guest facilities, the Hilton Sydney caters for conference, holiday and business travellers.

"Sydney did very well out of tonight's awards, with the Park Hyatt Sydney taking out the hotly contested award for Best Deluxe Accommodation from a strong field of contenders featuring the winners of each TAA state and territory awards program.

"Other winners included the Parmelia Hilton (Best Training Initiative), Saffire Freycinet (Best Resort) and Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort (Best Environmental Initiative).

John Haddad AO inducted into Hall of Fame

The industry also took the opportunity presented by holding its awards dinner at Wrest Point Hotel and Casino in Hobart to recognise the contribution to the industry of John M. Haddad AO by inducting him into its Hall of Fame.

Mr Haddad is remembered as the influential face of the fledgling Australian accommodation industry from the 1970s through the 1990s. As General Manager of the Federal Hotels Group in 1973, he opened Australia's first licensed casino at Wrest Point and would go on to play a critical role in the opening of Crown Casino in Melbourne in the 1990s.

"John Haddad is an icon of the Australian accommodation industry. As President of the AHA Accommodation Division for 23 years, he established a focus on accommodation and tourism issues which has continued to this day with the establishment of TAA as a dedicated voice for the sector", Mr Powell said.

"John was probably Australia's most influential hotelier for many years and it is fitting that he be recognised with the industry's highest individual honour."

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***Full list of winners and finalists attached**