



Embargoed until May 15 at 9:15 p.m.

Calgary White Hat Awards celebrate tourism industry excellence

23 ultimate hosts recognized for customer service excellence, leadership and performance

Embargoed - May 15, 2019 – Tonight, Tourism Calgary will host the 57th annual Calgary White Hat Awards to celebrate the individuals and organizations in Calgary’s tourism industry that perpetuate our reputation for western hospitality.

Calgary welcomes over 7.7 million visitors who contribute \$2 billion in visitor spending annually. As ultimate hosts, this year’s Calgary White Hat Award winners have contributed to the success of Calgary’s growing tourism industry by empowering visitors and residents to unlock the best version of our city.

“For over half a century, the Calgary White Hat Awards have celebrated remarkable members of Calgary’s tourism industry who demonstrate what it means to be ultimate hosts,” says Cindy Ady, CEO Tourism Calgary. “The positive stories and compelling experiences they share have ripple effects that extend throughout the city, and outwardly across the country and world. Their collective enthusiasm, civic pride and commitment is infectious and contributes significantly to Calgary’s visitor economy and growing reputation as the ultimate host city.”

A complete list of all Calgary White Hat Award winners follows.

For more information about Tourism Calgary:

Web: visitcalgary.com

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Event hashtag: #whitehatyyc

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57th annual Calgary White Hat Award winners

Honourary awards:

Mayor’s White Hat Award: Ellen Gasser, Heritage Park Historical Village

Doug Johnson Service Award: Roma Selemon, The Westin Calgary

Calgary White Hat Legacy Award: Central Library

White Hat of the Year: Restaurant: Teatro

Calgary White Hat Ultimate Host City Builder Award: CMLC

Complete list of Calgary White Hat Award winners:

CATEGORY	WINNER/EMPLOYER
Lead by Example	Moe Eissa, Best Western Plus Port O’Call Hotel
Exceptional Server: Centre City	Julie McNeil, The Fairmont Palliser
Exceptional Service: Shopping	Marta Bronkowski, Calgary Co-op
Exceptional Server: North	Jenny Gulaga, Best Western Plus Port O’Call Hotel
Exceptional Service: Airport Airline	Keirstyn Secord, WestJet-Airports YYC
Exceptional Service: Heart of House	Fred Saunders, Calgary Stampede
Exceptional Service: Volunteer Tourism Hospitality	Taylor Eveleigh, TELUS Spark
Exceptional Service: Housekeeping	Bozena Andryka, Azuridge Estate Hotel
Exceptional Server: South	Leilani Marcelo, Residence Inn by Marriott Calgary South
Exceptional Customer Service: Driver	Jass Tatla, The Checker Transportation Group
Exceptional Service: Concierge	Shane Hoof, Grey Eagle Resort and Casino
Exceptional Service: GSA Reservations	Samantha Tabak, Calgary Marriott Downtown Hotel
Exceptional Service: Accommodation Reception	Jeannette Mortensen, Hotel Alma at The University of Calgary
Exceptional Server: Banquets Events	Yanglu Lin, Sheraton Suites Calgary Eau Claire
Exceptional Service: Beverage Specialist	Mihail Stalianof, Marriott Calgary Airport In-Terminal Hotel
Exceptional Service: Attraction	Donna Kipta, TELUS Spark
Exceptional Service: Tour Escort Guide	Rebecca Dryden, Calgary Zoo
Exceptional Service: Culinary	Jeff Diesmos, Courtyard & Residence Inn by Marriott Calgary Airport