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2018 VRLTA Ordinary Awards Winners Announced

VRLTA Announces 16 Honorees at the Third Annual Dinner held at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump

Richmond, Va. – October 3, 2018 - The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association (VRLTA) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 VRLTA Ordinary Awards. Recipients were honored at a special dinner at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump in Richmond, Virginia. The winners were announced in front of a sold out audience of more than 160 hospitality and travel industry peers and leaders from across the state.

This was VRLTA's third consecutive year hosting the Ordinary Awards, which were sponsored by Visit Fairfax, Virginia Business, UnitedHealthcare, Firehouse Graphics, E & J Gallo Winery and Old Forester, which was the evening's exclusive bourbon sponsor.

The following individuals and businesses were selected from the more than 100 nominees:

Bartender of the Year

- Rob Asbury, Todd Jurich's Bistro, Norfolk

***Charlie Buser Award* for Attraction Employee of the Year**

- Tracey Childress, The Birthplace of Country Music Museum, Bristol

Hotel Employee of the Year

- Stephanie Hall, Gold Key|PHR, Virginia Beach

Restaurant Employee of the Year

- Ashly Steele, Burger Bar, Bristol

Chef of the Year

- Fabio Capparelli, Hilton Norfolk – The Main, Norfolk

Supplier of the Year

- Jenny Dorsey, LeisureMedia360, Roanoke

***Rising Pineapple Award* for Hospitality & Tourism Student of the Year**

- Lauren Hicks, James Madison University/Hotel Laurance, Luray

Brewery of the Year

- Black Narrows Brewing Company, Chincoteague Island

Distillery of the Year

- MurLarkey Distilled Spirits, Bristow

Winery of the Year

- The Winery at Bull Run, Centreville

Hotelier of the Year

- Heidi Stone, Mountain Lake Lodge, Pembroke

Jim Ricketts Award for DMO/CVB Employee of the Year

- Rosa Lee Jude, Wytheville Convention & Visitors Bureau

Jim Wordsworth Award for Restaurateur of the Year

- Gary Cohen, Glory Days Grill

Attraction of the Year

- Farm Brew Live/2 Silos Brewing Company, Manassas

Restaurant of the Year

- Glory Days Grill of Burke

Hotel of the Year

- Mountain Lake Lodge, Pembroke

“The winners of the 2018 Ordinary Awards represent all the extraordinary people and companies that make up Virginia’s hospitality and tourism industry,” said Eric Terry President of the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association. “On behalf of the VRLTA, our staff, and board, we applaud the efforts of this individuals for the exemplary work they have done and will continue to do.”

The **Ordinary Awards** celebrate and honor all of Virginia’s restaurants, lodging establishments and hotels, DMOs, attractions, and more. Chinn’s *Ordinary*, considered “the oldest original inn in America” ([Baltimore Sun](#)), was built around 1728 in Chinn’s Crossroads, now Middleburg, Virginia. The building was uniquely situated half-way between Alexandria and Winchester, Virginia, making it an ideal location for an inn and tavern catering to travelers. Later, around 1890 it became the Middleburg Inn. Known as “America’s oldest continuously running inn” ([Thrillist](#)), since 1937 it has operated as the Red Fox Inn & Tavern.

So, why Ordinary? Well, on one hand, it simply fits. This history of Chinn’s Ordinary speaks to all facets of VRLTA’s membership—restaurants, lodging, and travel. And, on the other hand, the term ordinary is just the opposite of the hospitality and travel industry. It truly is anything but *ordinary*. A juxtaposition that is almost too good to pass up.

The true goal of these Awards is to honor those in our industry, be they individuals or companies, that are truly *extraordinary*.

For more information about VRLTA’s Ordinary Awards, visit [OrdinaryAwards.com](#) or [VRLTA.org](#)

About the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association (VRLTA)

The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association is the only unified voice for the restaurant, lodging, travel and hospitality suppliers associations. VRLTA creates value for members by promoting the legislative interests of the industry, networking, educational opportunities, and protecting free enterprise. Inquiries about membership and VRLTA services should be directed to VRLTA at (804) 288-3065 or [VRLTA.org](#).

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