

The *Stella* Awards
2018 ★

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HONORING EXCELLENCE IN
THE MEETINGS INDUSTRY

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If you are a Stella award winner, congratulations! If you are a non-supplier reader of this special Stellas supplement, kudos to you, too, because you have come to the place to find superior destinations, venues and services for your business events, each vetted and approved by your peers and a panel of esteemed industry judges.

The gold, silver and bronze winners showcased within these pages — whether a hotel, cruise line, city, DMC or other service provider — have demonstrated their commitment to helping you pull off a flawless event. To be a Stella winner indicates that a provider's product is the best of the best, a shining star in the meetings industry. In short, you can refer with confidence to the Stella list when choosing services and locations for your upcoming meetings. Our honorees are standouts all, and you will be, too, when you partner with a Stella award winner.

Beyond the winners' circle, in these pages we also look at how hotels are reinventing their meeting spaces to set the stage for inspirational gatherings; ways planners can create a sense of luxury in their programs regardless of destination; the perk-heavy means by which hotel consortiums are courting the meetings market; and finally, why golf schools are great places to teach leadership skills.

Enjoy this special supplement — and don't forget to nominate your favorite suppliers for a 2019 Stella award now at www.stella-awards.com.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Croff". The signature is fluid and cursive, positioned above the printed name and title.

Senior Vice President/Chief Content Director
Northstar Meetings Group

SILVER Atlantis, Paradise Island, The Bahamas, Paradise Island, Bahamas

BRONZE Hilton Los Cabos Beach & Golf Resort, Los Cabos, Mexico

FINALIST Live Aqua Beach Resort Cancún Cancún, MexicoPage 44

FINALIST Grand Velas Los Cabos Los Cabos, Mexico

BEST BOUTIQUE PROPERTY > NORTHEAST

GOLD Kimpton Hotel Monaco Baltimore Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD

SILVER The Columbia Inn at Peralynna Columbia, MD

FINALIST Foxfire, Mt. Tremper, NY

BEST BOUTIQUE PROPERTY > SOUTHEAST

GOLD The Reach, A Waldorf Astoria Resort, Key West, FL

SILVER The Brazilian Court Hotel Palm Beach, FL

BRONZE Hotel Colonnade Coral Gables, FL

BEST BOUTIQUE PROPERTY > MIDWEST

GOLD Ironworks Hotel Indy Indianapolis, IN

SILVER The Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, WI

BRONZE dana hotel and spa, Chicago, IL

FINALIST Hotel Ivy, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Minneapolis Minneapolis, MN

BEST BOUTIQUE PROPERTY > SOUTHWEST

GOLD Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, AZ

SILVER The Sebastian – Vail, Vail, CO

BRONZE The Driskill, Austin, TX

BEST BOUTIQUE PROPERTY > FAR WEST

GOLD The Ranch 4.0 Westlake Village Westlake Village, CA

SILVER Argonaut Hotel San Francisco, CA

BRONZE The Inn at Laguna Beach Laguna Beach, CA

FINALIST Laguna Beach House Laguna Beach, CA

FINALIST La Playa Carmel, Carmel, CA

BEST BOUTIQUE PROPERTY > INTERNATIONAL AND U.S. TERRITORIES

GOLD UNICO 20°87° Hotel Riviera Maya Riviera Maya, Mexico.....Page 28

SILVER The Europe Hotel & Resort – Ireland Killarney, Ireland

BRONZE Live Aqua Boutique Resort Playa Del Carmen, Playa del Carmen, Mexico.....Page 44

BEST DÉCOR/DESIGN > NORTHEAST

GOLD Kimpton Hotel Monaco Washington D.C., Washington, D.C.

SILVER InterContinental Washington D.C. – The Wharf, Washington, D.C.

FINALIST Foxfire Mountain House Mt. Tremper, NY

BEST DÉCOR/DESIGN > SOUTHWEST

GOLD W Fort Lauderdale Fort Lauderdale, FL

SILVER The Guest House at Graceland Memphis, TN

BRONZE Rosen Single Creek Hotel Orlando Orlando, FL

BEST DÉCOR/DESIGN > MIDWEST

GOLD Marriott Marquis Chicago Chicago, IL

SILVER MotorCity Casino Hotel Detroit, MIPage 40

BRONZE The Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, WI

BEST DÉCOR/DESIGN > SOUTHWEST

GOLD Andaz Scottsdale Resort & Spa Scottsdale, AZ

SILVER the ART, a hotel, Denver, CO

BRONZE The Broadmoor Colorado Springs, CO.....Page 32

FINALIST Grand Hyatt Denver Denver, CO

FINALIST The Sebastian – Vail Vail, CO

BEST DÉCOR/DESIGN > FAR WEST

GOLD The Venetian and The Palazzo Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

SILVER The Ranch 4.0 Westlake Village Westlake Village, CA

BRONZE Teton Mountain Lodge & Spa Teton Village, WY

FINALIST Argonaut Hotel San Francisco, CA

FINALIST The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas Las Vegas, NV

BEST DÉCOR/DESIGN > INTERNATIONAL AND U.S. TERRITORIES

- GOLD** Kerry Hotel, Hong Kong
Kowloon, Hong Kong
- SILVER** Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah
Resort & Spa, Sultanate of
Oman, Muscat, Oman
- BRONZE** Shangri-La Hotel, Paris, Paris, France
- FINALIST** UNICO 20°87° Hotel Riviera Maya
Riviera Maya, Mexico.....Page 28
- FINALIST** Live Aqua Boutique Resort
Playa Del Carmen, Playa del
Carmen, Mexico.....Page 44

BEST FOOD AND BEVERAGE > NORTHEAST

- GOLD** Kimpton Mason & Rook Hotel
Washington, D.C.
- SILVER** The Baltimore Marriott
Waterfront, Baltimore, MD
- BRONZE** Skytop Lodge, Skytop, PA

BEST FOOD AND BEVERAGE > SOUTHEAST

- GOLD** Hilton Orlando, Orlando, FL
- SILVER** Naples Grande Beach Resort
Naples, FL
- BRONZE** Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island
Resort & Spa, Palm Beach, FL
- FINALIST** W Fort Lauderdale
Fort Lauderdale, FL
- FINALIST** Marriott Harbor Beach
Resort & Spa
Fort Lauderdale, FL

BEST FOOD AND BEVERAGE > MIDWEST

- GOLD** The Lismore Hotel Eau Claire
Eau Claire, WI

- SILVER** MotorCity Casino Hotel
Detroit, MIPage 40
- BRONZE** JW Marriott Minneapolis Mall of
America, Minneapolis, MN
- FINALIST** JW Marriott Chicago, Chicago, IL
- FINALIST** JW Marriott Indianapolis
Indianapolis, IN

BEST FOOD AND BEVERAGE > SOUTHWEST

- GOLD** Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain
Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, AZ
- SILVER** Andaz Scottsdale Resort & Spa
Scottsdale, AZ
- BRONZE** The Broadmoor
Colorado Springs, CO.....Page 32
- FINALIST** JW Marriott Austin
Austin, TX
- FINALIST** AT&T Hotel and Conference
Center, Austin, TX

BEST FOOD AND BEVERAGE > FAR WEST

- GOLD** The Venetian and The Palazzo
Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV
- SILVER** Anaheim Marriott,
Anaheim, CA
- BRONZE** The Ranch 4.0 Westlake Village
Westlake Village, CA

- FINALIST** Fairmont Kea Lani, Maui
Wailea, HI
- FINALIST** The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas
Las Vegas, NV

BEST FOOD AND BEVERAGE > INTERNATIONAL AND U.S. TERRITORIES

- GOLD** Shangri-La Hotel, Paris
Paris, France

- SILVER** Hilton Los Cabos Beach
& Golf Resort,
Los Cabos, Mexico

- BRONZE** UNICO 20°87° Hotel
Riviera Maya, Riviera Maya,
MexicoPage 28

- FINALIST** Grand Fiesta Americana
Los Cabos, All Inclusive
Golf & Spa, Los Cabos,
Mexico.....Page 44

- FINALIST** Live Aqua Beach Resort Cancún
Cancún, MexicoPage 44

BEST GAMING PROPERTY > NORTHEAST

- GOLD** Resorts Casino Hotel
Atlantic City, NJ.....Page 36
- SILVER** Harrah's Atlantic City
Waterfront Conference Center
Atlantic City, NJ

BEST GAMING PROPERTY > MIDWEST

- GOLD** MotorCity Casino Hotel
Detroit, MIPage 40

BEST GAMING PROPERTY > FAR WEST

- GOLD** The Venetian and The Palazzo
Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV
- SILVER** The Cosmopolitan of
Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV
- BRONZE** Peppermill Resort Spa Casino
Reno, NV
- FINALIST** Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
Reno, NVPage 24
- FINALIST** Tropicana Las Vegas – A
DoubleTree By Hilton
Las Vegas, NV

FINALIST Trump International Beach Resort
Sunny Isles Beach, FL

FINALIST Marriott Harbor Beach Resort
and Spa, Fort Lauderdale, FL

BEST ON-SITE SUPPORT STAFF > MIDWEST

GOLD Hilton Milwaukee City Center
Milwaukee, MN

GOLD Grand Geneva Resort & Spa
Lake Geneva, WI

SILVER MotorCity Casino Hotel
Detroit, MIPage 40

BEST ON-SITE SUPPORT STAFF > SOUTHWEST

GOLD The Broadmoor
Colorado Springs, CO.....Page 32

SILVER AT&T Hotel and Conference
Center, Austin, TX

BRONZE The Scott Resort & Spa
Scottsdale, AZ

BEST ON-SITE SUPPORT STAFF > FAR WEST

GOLD The Venetian and The Palazzo
Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

SILVER Anaheim Marriott, Anaheim, CA

BRONZE The Ranch 4.0 Westlake Village
Westlake Village, CA

FINALIST Peppermill Resort Spa Casino
Reno, NV

FINALIST Argonaut Hotel, San Francisco, CA

BEST ON-SITE SUPPORT STAFF > INTERNATIONAL AND U.S. TERRITORIES

GOLD Hilton Los Cabos Beach &
Golf Resort, Los Cabos, Mexico

SILVER Shangri-La's Sanya Resort
& Spa, Hainan Island
Hainan Cheng, China

BRONZE Grand Fiesta Americana
Puerto Vallarta All Inclusive
Adults Only, Puerto Vallarta,
MexicoPage 44

BEST ON-SITE TECH/WI-FI > NORTHEAST

GOLD The Baltimore Marriott Waterfront
Baltimore, MD

SILVER Gaylord National Resort &
Convention Center, National
Harbor, MD

BEST ON-SITE TECH/WI-FI > SOUTHEAST

GOLD Marriott Harbor Beach Resort
and Spa, Fort Lauderdale, FL

SILVER Gaylord Palms Resort &
Convention Center, Kissimmee, FL

BRONZE Gaylord Opryland Resort &
Convention Center, Nashville, TN

BEST ON-SITE TECH/WI-FI > MIDWEST

GOLD MotorCity Casino Hotel
Detroit, MIPage 40

BEST ON-SITE TECH/WI-FI > SOUTHWEST

GOLD AT&T Hotel and Conference
Center, Austin, TX

SILVER Gaylord Texan Resort &
Convention Center, Grapevine, TX

BRONZE The Scott Resort & Spa
Scottsdale, AZ

THE ONLINE STELLA AWARDS SOURCE

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and finalists, articles, photos and
2019 submissions!

www.stella-awards.com

★ SILVER WINNER

Best Boutique Property 📍 SOUTHWEST

THE SEBASTIAN – VAIL



Hip, warm, social and playfully sophisticated: The Sebastian is Vail, Colorado's vibrant work of art. The hotel is renowned for its service, amenities and museum-quality art

collection that surrounds and delights guests throughout their entire stay. Located in the heart of Vail Village, The Sebastian offers more than 8,500 square feet of flexible event space, including two ballrooms and an executive boardroom. With custom options and accommodations, The Sebastian is the perfect venue for both intimate and large-scale events.



★ BRONZE WINNER

Best Boutique Property 📍 SOUTHWEST

THE DRISKILL



For more than 130 years, The Driskill has elegantly stood in the heart of downtown Austin, Texas. With more than 18,000 square feet of meeting space, each function room lends

privacy, elegance and a sense of place to each event. Attendees walk away knowing they are part of a larger story, ones that feature some of our most iconic figures, like Louis Armstrong, Elvis Presley and President Lyndon B. Johnson. Steps from the State Capitol and the famous live music on 6th Street, The Driskill is an ideal destination for intimate retreats and small groups.



★ GOLD WINNER

Best Boutique Property 📍 FAR WEST

THE RANCH 4.0 WESTLAKE VILLAGE



The Ranch works with corporate groups to create custom programming that truly transforms guests, through a combination of the signature program's core element—hiking, strength

training, massages, yoga and clean eating. The dedicated staff assess each group's key goals to ensure they're met on this journey. Utilizing their philosophy on balanced living, The Ranch offers three carefully designed meetings packages aimed at the various needs of corporate guests to promote wellness and build strong relationships between employees and employers.



★ SILVER WINNER

Best Boutique Property 📍 FAR WEST

ARGONAUT HOTEL



Located in the heart of Fisherman's Wharf, in the historic Haslett Warehouse in the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, the nautical-inspired Argonaut Hotel

is one of San Francisco's most unique and iconic hotels. Upon entering the hotel, the lobby provides a high-ceilinged sitting room that gives the feeling of stepping onto a luxury ship, complete with wide wood-plank floors and a central fireplace. Blue Mermaid Restaurant & Bar offers quintessential San Francisco seafood dishes, including award-winning homemade chowders.



★ SILVER WINNER

Best Décor/Design 📍 FAR WEST

THE RANCH 4.0 WESTLAKE VILLAGE



Regarded as one of the top wellness retreats in the world, The Ranch has emerged as a leader in the growing trend of corporate wellness programming. Located at the Four Seasons

Hotel Westlake Village near Los Angeles, The Ranch 4.0 offers endless possibilities for groups of 10 to 250. Corporate groups have the capabilities of a full-service hotel and access to multiple meeting rooms, including a tranquil greenhouse where meals are served, while also receiving the health benefits of the unique wellness program.

THE RANCH 4.0
WESTLAKE VILLAGE

★ BRONZE WINNER

Best Décor/Design 📍 FAR WEST

TETON MOUNTAIN LODGE & SPA



Located slopeside to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Teton Mountain Lodge & Spa offers access to the resort's world-class terrain. A luxurious choice for those seeking rustic elegance of a

grand mountain lodge combined with modern décor, the hotel offers authentic Western hospitality and full amenities with spa, on-site restaurant and over 2,600 square feet of meeting space. The AAA Four Diamond hotel's location in the heart of Teton Village offers easy access to area recreation on the Snake River and Wildlife Safaris in Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks.

TETON MOUNTAIN
LODGE & SPA

★ GOLD WINNER

Best Décor/Design

📍 INTERNATIONAL & U.S. TERRITORIES

KERRY HOTEL, HONG KONG



Built as the first "Urban Resort" in Hong Kong, the new Kerry Hotel Hong Kong makes the most of its idyllic waterfront location, showcasing unobstructed views and abundant meeting

and event space. The hotel's distinct design experience is characterized by its strong interplay with the outdoor landscape and fluid architecture. The hotel features Hong Kong's largest pillarless ballroom, which can host over 1,000 guests for a banquet dinner. All 546 guest rooms were designed with today's modern traveler in mind.

KERRY HOTEL
Hong Kong
香港麗晶酒店

★ SILVER WINNER

Best Décor/Design

📍 INTERNATIONAL & U.S. TERRITORIES

SHANGRI-LA BARR AL JISSAH RESORT & SPA, SULTANATE OF OMAN



The stunning resort comprises two hotel wings: Al Bandar Hotel (The Town) and the family-oriented Al Waha Hotel (The Oasis). All 460 rooms and suites overlook the Sea of Oman. Throughout the resort, guests can find a mix of gorgeous cultural elements like paintings and art pieces curated by Omani artists, as well as elegantly styled linens and furniture.

Highlights include the Barr Al Jissah Ballroom chandelier with 46,656 Swarovski crystals, the unique arabesque carpet designs and the thoughtfully maintained Turtle Beach, where endangered turtles lay their eggs.

Shangri-La
Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa
SULTANATE OF OMAN

★ BRONZE WINNER

Best Food and Beverage 📍 SOUTHWEST

THE BROADMOOR



From the day The Broadmoor first opened in 1918, founder Spencer Penrose set out to create a dining experience that celebrates modern innovation while honoring the culinary traditions of the American West. A century later, that passion for inspired cuisine continues at The Broadmoor's award-winning restaurants and lounges. Eateries range from Colorado's only Forbes Five Star, AAA Five Diamond restaurant, Penrose Room, to the newest casual dining option, Café Julie's. The award-winning culinary staff from around the world creates a moment with each meal that exceeds expectations.

★ SILVER WINNER

Best Food and Beverage 📍 FAR WEST

ANAHEIM MARRIOTT



Today's attendees are foodies—and they expect a “wow” factor at mealtimes and breaks. Anaheim Marriott continually sets the bar higher. Coffee service goes beyond basic with Coffee Nitro on draft with two syrups and a Pour Over Drip. Interactive customer engagement stations include detailed food themes like a French Fry Station with various salts, sauces and ketchups; handmade mozzarella stations; and even veggie-driven cocktails. Guests get closer to the action as team-building programs venture into the hotel's cold and training kitchens. Food is always at the forefront of group experiences here.

★ GOLD WINNER

Best Food and Beverage 📍 FAR WEST

THE VENETIAN AND THE PALAZZO LAS VEGAS



The Venetian's Honest Food program reflects and addresses key culinary and banquet trends, including sustainable sourcing and resource management, creative hybrid and ethnic menu options and elimination of processed and GMO ingredients. Executive Banquet Chef Stefan Peroutka has devised innovative ways to address the changing needs of meeting guests and attendees. For smaller groups, The Venetian offers a series of interactive culinary experiences in partnership with its array of restaurants and lounges, such as sushi preparation, mixology sessions and dessert creation.

★ BRONZE WINNER

Best Food and Beverage 📍 FAR WEST

THE RANCH 4.0 WESTLAKE VILLAGE



Located at Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village, The Ranch has emerged as a leader in the growing trend of corporate wellness programming. The Ranch's exercise and nutrition program helps attain measurable results in a short amount of time, gaining endurance, shedding fat and detoxifying in a healthy way. With Leading & Clean Eating, guests explore the signature plant-based cuisine with Ranch 4.0 Chef Meredith Haaz. Haaz leads guests on a culinary adventure with daily activities that include cooking demonstrations and a field trip to The Ranch Malibu's certified organic garden.

★ BRONZE WINNER

Best On-Site Support Staff 📍 FAR WEST

THE RANCH 4.0 WESTLAKE VILLAGE



The Ranch 4.0 Westlake Village works with corporate groups to create custom programming that truly transforms guests, through a combination of the signature program's core

elements—hiking, strength training, massages, yoga and clean eating. The dedicated staff assess each group's key goals to ensure they're met on this journey. Utilizing their philosophy on balanced living, The Ranch offers three carefully designed meetings packages aimed at the various needs of corporate guests to promote wellness and build strong relationships between employees and employers.

THE RANCH 4.0
WESTLAKE VILLAGE

★ GOLD WINNER

Best On-Site Support Staff

📍 INTERNATIONAL & U.S. TERRITORIES

HILTON LOS CABOS BEACH & GOLF RESORT



With over 500 employees, the team at Hilton Los Cabos goes above and beyond with impactful service standards and excellence in training programs. Constantly striving to implement

innovative programming for guests, the hotel recently launched wellness activations including an art class, Shaman Ritual and more, to focus on the wellbeing and individuality of each guest. The team also co-founded Los Cabos Turtle Protection Network, which allows the property to protect and monitor a 10-mile stretch of beach to facilitate adult turtles laying eggs.



★ SILVER WINNER

Best On-Site Support Staff

📍 INTERNATIONAL & U.S. TERRITORIES

SHANGRI-LA'S SANYA RESORT & SPA, HAINAN ISLAND



Shangri-La's Sanya Resort & Spa, Hainan is the official partner of the Jack Ma Rural Teacher Award Ceremony. In January 2018, the resort hosted the award ceremony for the third consecutive

year and welcomed over 100 teachers from different rural areas of the country and provided full reception service and entertainment like fire dancers. The resort specifically recruited volunteers from the same regions as the teachers to effectively communicate in their dialects and introduce the hotel's facilities, helping the teachers feel right at home.



★ BRONZE WINNER

Best On-Site Support Staff

📍 INTERNATIONAL & U.S. TERRITORIES

GRAND FIESTA AMERICANA PUERTO VALLARTA ALL INCLUSIVE ADULTS ONLY



The Grand Fiesta Americana Puerto Vallarta All Inclusive Adults Only is part of the Hotelera Posadas, Mexico's largest and most internationally renowned hotel company. Grand Fiesta

Americana Puerto Vallarta is dedicated to creating unforgettable experiences and successful programs through its commitment to unparalleled service standards. At this AAA Four Diamond Award-winning property, it's easy to find comfort in the dedicated, efficient, and credentialed conference staff who strive to provide practical and creative solutions customized to every event's needs and also exceed every expectation.

