

Mornington Peninsula Regional Awards for Excellence

The night of nights for the Mornington Peninsula hospitality industry was held last night at the Mornington Peninsula Regional Awards for Excellence presentation night, held at the Peninsula Community Theatre, Mornington.

Brodie Harper from Channel Nine kicked off the formalities, following a fantastic set by live act Dash & Will. Over 220 people consisting of restaurants, wineries, celebrities, sponsors, state government representatives and media celebrated in style at the announcement of the finalists and winners in the 2010 Mornington Peninsula Regional Awards for Excellence, presented by Mornington Peninsula Gourmet and Restaurant & Catering Victoria. Guests dined on exquisite regional food presented around the room at six food stations, hosted by some of the prior year's winners. Local wine was supplied by MPVA, and Red Hill Brewery served their famous beer.

Salix Restaurant of Merricks North was the overall winner, taking out an incredible four awards, including *Clamms Seafood Restaurant in a Winery*, *Bendigo Bank Excellence in Coffee*, *MPVA Excellence in Local Wine or Beverage* (together with **Montalto Vineyard & Olive Grove** who were joint winners of this award) and *Tully's Excellence in Local Produce*.

This is the second year Salix Restaurant has taken out the Restaurant in a Winery category in these Awards, and in 2008 they also went on to win the Victorian award for Best Restaurant in a Winery statewide. Winners and finalists announced last night progress to compete in the Victorian Awards for Excellence presented by Restaurant & Catering Victoria on 2 August 2010. We will wait and see whether Salix Restaurant can again take out this year's Victorian award for Restaurant in a Winery.

Tusli Indian Restaurant of Somerville was awarded *MP Gourmet Asian Restaurant* last night. Tusli Indian Restaurant was also awarded both the regional and Victorian winner in the *Asian Restaurant* category in 2009, so this is another very high quality Mornington Peninsula restaurant to watch at the Victorian Restaurant & Catering Awards next month.

Two Buoys of Dromana was awarded *Denor Hospitality Café Restaurant* for the second year in a row. Two Buoys was last year awarded the Regional, Victorian and National winner of Café Restaurant – Regional in the Restaurant & Catering Awards for Excellence. The Mornington Peninsula really does have some incredible restaurants in its midst – some of the best in the country. Congratulations Two Buoys.

La Petanque of Main Ridge was presented with two awards - *MP Gourmet European Restaurant* for the second year in a row, as well as *Chisholm Institute Excellence in Front of House* (together with **Montalto Vineyard & Olive Grove** who was a joint winner of this award).

Loquat of Sorrento took home the *MP Shire Modern Australian Restaurant* for the second time.

Some newer restaurants on the Peninsula were also celebrating last night, with **Ciao Bella Pizza** of Balnarring awarded *Galaxy Print & Design Pizza Restaurant* and **Rye Pier Restaurant & Bar** awarded *Nepean Waste Informal Dining Restaurant*. **D.O.C. Mornington** took out *MPG Gourmet Retail Outlet*.

Mornington Peninsula Gourmet together with Restaurant & Catering Victoria have been delighted with the response to these Awards. This is the third year the two associations have joined forces to present the Awards, utilizing the knowledge and experience of Restaurant & Catering who have been running these Awards for 12 years.

“It is important to recognise the work that goes on in the regional food scene” said Kevin Wyatt, President of MP Gourmet. “These awards recognise excellence across a broad range of dining experiences – restaurants, cafes, bistros and more. We are also recognising the individual elements that go into creating a great dining experience; such as good coffee, front of house service, local wine lists, etc.” Venues are judged by high calibre judges who dined anonymously as paying guests over the past few months. This means the assessment reflects exactly the experience of judges.

Each venue receives a confidential feedback report to be used for training and improvement purposes – one of the most valuable tools to any business.

The winners and finalists announced last night will now represent the region at the Victorian Restaurant & Catering Awards for Excellence on 2 August 2010.

WINNERS AND FINALISTS BY CATEGORY

MP Gourmet Asian Restaurant

Tulsi Indian Restaurant – winner

Restaurant Soy - finalist

Denor Hospitality Café Restaurant

Two Buoys – winner

Tucks Ridge Café – finalist

Old Bank Café – finalist

Trims Restaurant - finalist

MP Gourmet European Restaurant

La Petanque Restaurant – winner

Acquolina Ristorante Sorrento – Finalist

MPG Gourmet Retail Outlet

D.O.C. Mornington – winner

Red Hill Cellars – finalist

Somers General Store – finalist

Nepean Waste Informal Dining

Rye Pier Restaurant & Bar – winner

Onde Fine Food Café – finalist

The Boyz 4 Breakie – finalist

Bamboo at Rye - finalist

MP Shire Modern Australian

Loquat – winner

The Long Table – finalist

The Rocks Mornington – finalist

Peppers at Moonah Links Golf Course - finalist

Galaxy Print & Design Pizza Restaurant

Ciao Bella Pizza – winner

D.O.C. Mornington Pizzeria Mozzarella Bar – finalist

Get Down Dog Pizza - finalist

Clamms Seafood Restaurant in a Winery

Salix Restaurant – winner

Port Phillip Dining – finalist

Ten Minutes By Tractor – finalist

Paringa Estate - finalist

Tully's Excellence in Local Produce

Salix Restaurant – winner

MPVA Excellence in Local Wine or Beverage

Salix Restaurant AND Montalto Vineyard & Olive Grove – joint winners

Bendigo Bank Excellence in Coffee

Salix Restaurant - winner

Chisholm Institute Excellence in Front of House

La Petanque Restaurant AND Montalto Vineyard & Olive Grove – joint winners

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ISSUED ON BEHALF OF MORNINGTON PENINSULA GOURMET BY:

Hollie Hick

Footprint Marketing and Business Development

0423 242 464

FURTHER COMMENT:

Kevin Wyatt

President

Mornington Peninsula Gourmet

5989 6189

Restaurant & Catering Victoria

(03) 9654 5866