



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Inland Northwest Tourism Awards Category Finalists Announced

(Spokane, WA - April 14, 2009) - The judging is complete and the finalists have been determined in all 15 categories of the Inland Northwest Tourism Awards hosted by the Spokane Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The Event

- What: [Inland Northwest Tourism Awards](#)
Presented by the
Spokane Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau
- When: **Monday, May 11, 2009**
3: 30 p.m. Reception
4: 15 p.m. Program Begins
- Where: **The Davenport Hotel and Tower**
Grand Pennington Ballroom
10 S Post
- RSVP: VisitSpokane.com//meetings
- Questions: Contact [Natalie King](#), 509.742.9382.



The Judges

The Spokane Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau thanks the following panel of judges who volunteered hours of time pouring over stacks of nominations in order to select the very best.

The Business Awards Judges:

- Ken Belisle, Landmark Restaurants
- Frankie Dietz, Anthony's at Spokane Falls
- Marianne Guenther, Windermere Real Estate
- Oliver Jones, MOJO Reprographics
- Kim Plese, Plese Printing

- Jody Sander, Sterling Hospitality
- Rick Steltenpohl, Spokane Hoopfest

The Individual Service Awards Judges:

- John Bogensberger, Signs for Success
- Carrie Clanton, YMCA of the Inland Northwest
- Traci McGlathery, Spokane Public Facilities District
- Linda Hagen Miller, Travel Writer
- Elizabeth Mills, River Park Square
- Cheryl-Anne Millsap, Spokane Metro Magazine
- Tate White, Greater Spokane Incorporated

The Business Awards

Finalists in Alphabetical Order:

Festivals & Events Award:

- The Farm Chicks Antique Show
- First Night Spokane
- Spokane Lilac Festival

Attraction Award:

- Dry Fly Distilling
- Green Bluff Growers
- Riverfront Park

"Near nature. Near perfect." Award:

- Cat Tales Zoological Park
- Circling Raven Golf Course
- Green Bluff Growers

Spirit of the Inland Northwest Award:

- The Davenport Hotel and Tower
- The Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox
- Rockin' B Ranch Cowboy Supper Show

In the Bag Award:

- Auntie's Bookstore
- Coeur d'Alene Olive Oil Co.
- Finders Keepers

Top Table Award:

- Clinkerdagger
- Dutch Bros Coffee
- Wild Sage American Bistro

The Individual Service Awards

Finalists in Alphabetical Order By Last Name:

The White Glove Award:

- Sahbaz Alickovic, The Davenport Hotel and Tower
- Robert (Bo) Bohannon, Northern Quest Resort & Casino
- Lucie Nelson, Quality Inn Oakwood

The Silver Spoon Award:

- David Klenda, The Davenport Hotel and Tower
- Gage Lee, Frank's Diner
- Yong Yudt, Holiday Inn Express Spokane Valley

First Impression Hotel Award:

- Karrie Hess, Pheasant Hill Inn & Suites
- Curt Krijns, Quality Inn Valley Suites
- Adrienne McCoy, Red Lion Hotel Corporation

First Impression Retail Sales Award:

- Ally Hammond, Jigsaw
- Kyra Morelli, Finders Keepers
- Jan St. George, Whiz Kids

First Impression Sales Award:

- Cynthia Clark, Courtyard by Marriott Spokane Downtown at the Convention Center
- Meredith Galvan, Holiday Inn Express Spokane Valley
- Meg Harper, The Davenport Hotel and Tower

First Impression Transportation Award:

- Paul Claussen, Holiday Inn Express Downtown
- Nick De Benedetti, Red Lion Hotel at the Park
- Julie Saucier, Group Coordinators

Heart of the House Award:

- John Dixon, Quality Inn Valley Suites
- David Sharp, Ramada Spokane Airport & Indoor Waterpark
- Lewis Turner, Hotel Lusso

Rising Star Award:

- Jeanette Dunn, Premier Publishing
- John Rice, Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Coeur d'Alene
- Jacob Tresham, Ferry County Tri-County Economic Development District

Tourism Professional of the Year Award:

- Nancy DiGiammarco, Silverwood Theme Park
- Sandy Kates, LCD Exposition Services
- Jody Sander, Sterling Hospitality

Our Title Sponsor

Have you heard?

At [Northern Quest Resort & Casino](#),
It's all about the Journey!

Last New Year's Eve, the casino opened their 50,000 square foot expansion with more than 1,600 machines and 37 table games, a new lounge called Liquid, a high-end cigar lounge called Legends of Fire. A few weeks later, The Q - The Ultimate Sports Experience opened with an expansive media wall and live broadcast center. Then, Impulse, a hot new nightclub that looks like it's straight out of Las Vegas.



This New Year's Eve look for the opening of the more than \$200 million 250-room resort hotel with a 10,000 square foot spa.

If you haven't been lately, it's time to check out [Northern Quest Resort & Casino](#).

Many thanks to our title sponsor for the Inland Northwest Tourism Awards, Northern Quest Resort & Casino owned and operated by the Kalispel Tribe of Indians. Without the support of our generous partner, this awards presentation would not be possible.

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Again, many thanks to all of our sponsors for the Inland Northwest Tourism Awards.

About Spokane Regional CVB

The Spokane Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau generates economic growth for Spokane County by successfully marketing the Spokane Region as the destination for conventions and leisure travelers from around the world. The proof is in: Visitors to Spokane County spent an estimated \$805.1 million in 2007, providing jobs for nearly 10,100 residents and generating \$60.3 million in non-resident tax dollars collected in Spokane County.*

**Figures provided by the Washington State Community, Trade and Economic Development Tourism Office in the [September 2008 Dean Runyan Associates report](#) for the year ending 2007.*

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Please visit us online at www.VisitSpokane.com.

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