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## 2019 VRLTA Ordinary Awards Finalists Announced

*VRLTA to Announce Winners on October 10*

Richmond, Va. – September 24, 2019 - The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association (VRLTA) is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2019 VRLTA Ordinary Awards. Recipients will be honored at a special dinner at The Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa | Short Pump on October 10, 2019 in Richmond, Virginia.

The 2019 Ordinary Awards, now in their fourth year, are sponsored this year by Kings Dominion, Virginia Business, UnitedHealth Group, E&J Gallo Winery, Virginia Lottery, Visit Fairfax, Tablee, and Queen of Virginia Skill & Entertainment.

VRLTA will also honor Hu Odom, of Golden Corral / Both, Inc., with the *Golden Pineapple Lifetime Achievement Award* for both his work in the industry and his philanthropy. Odom recently gifted \$1.1 million to Norfolk Public Schools, to develop a ProStart culinary program, and \$1.0 million to Tidewater Community College, to support their Hospitality and Culinary Management program.

The following individuals and businesses were selected as finalists from the more than 140 nominees:

### Bartender of the Year

- Mark Beyer, Saltine Norfolk at Hilton Norfolk The Main
- Brett Helke, Press 626 Wine Bar
- Miguel Lopez-Arevalo, Glory Days Grill, Lorton

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

- Colin Romanick, Pamplin Historical Park
- Katie Tewell, The Apple House Restaurant & Gift Shop

### Hotel Employee of the Year

- Gene Bussineau, The National Conference Center
- Stephanie Cervantes, Richmond Marriott Short Pump
- Denise Walters, Four Points by Sheraton Richmond

### Restaurant Employee of the Year

- Briana Parker, Barrel & Bushel
- Suman Wagle, Silver Diner
- Lily Wilson, Glory Days Grill of Reston

### Chef of the Year

- Frank Estremera, The National Conference Center
- Justin Gudiel, Trattoria Villagio
- Ype von Hengst, Silver Diner

Supplier of the Year

- Retro Hospitality
- Tablee

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

- Jalyn Burns, Goochland High School
- Steven Evans, James Madison
- Amanda Hall, Virginia Tech

Brewery of the Year

- Fine Creek Brewing Co., Powhatan
- Mustang Sally Brewing Company, Chantilly
- Port City Brewing Co., Alexandria

Distillery of the Year

- A. Smith Bowman Distillery, Fredericksburg
- Three Crosses Distilling Co., Powhatan
- Vitae Spirits, Charlottesville

Winery of the Year

- Chateau MerrillAnne, Orange
- Paradise Springs Winery, Clifton

Hotelier of the Year

- Scott Jones, Delta Hotels by Marriott Richmond Downtown
- Meghan Macaulay, Uniwest Hospitality

*Jim Ricketts Award* for DMO/CVB Employee of the Year

- Lisa Meriwether, Lynchburg Office of Economic Development & Tourism
- Bruce Newton, Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau
- Lois Tokarz, Smithfield & Isle of Wight Tourism

*Jim Wordsworth Award* for Restaurateur of the Year

- Kathleen Huff, Glory Days Grill & CPFG
- Joel Jerkins, JJ's Restaurant & Sports Bar / Papa Tom's Cantina
- Shaena Muldoon, The Palisades Restaurant

Attraction of the Year

- The Arc of Loudoun's Shocktober, Leesburg
- Farm Brew Live, Manassas
- Historic Masonic Theatre, Clifton Forge

Restaurant of the Year

- 1799 at The Clifton Inn, Charlottesville
- The Boathouse at City Point, Hopewell
- The Water Dog, Lynchburg

Hotel of the Year

- Massanutten Resort, McGaheysville
- The National Conference Center, Leesburg
- The Virginian Lynchburg, Curio Collection by Hilton, Lynchburg

“This year, we received over 140 nominations for the various categories of the Ordinary Awards. Each nominee has made an incredible contribution to their organization and community, and we wish we could honor them all. Our finalists in each category represent the best of the hospitality and tourism industry, and we are pleased to recognize them at the awards dinner on October 10,” shared Eric Terry, President of VRLTA.

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

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