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2023

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Congratulations to this year's AzLTA Stars of the Industry Awards winners! We celebrate their leadership, impact and innovation in the lodging and tourism industry.

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WELCOME TO THE 2023 STARS OF THE INDUSTRY AWARDS



Win Holden
Master of Ceremonies
Former Publisher - Arizona Highways Magazine



Kim Grace Sabow
President & CEO
Arizona Lodging and Tourism Association

Entertainment



Nelson Cade III
Former "The Voice" Contestant

Dear Esteemed Guests,

Welcome to the 2023 Stars of the Industry Awards Luncheon, a much-anticipated event where we gather to honor and recognize the outstanding team members in Arizona who consistently go above and beyond in providing exceptional customer service. After a hiatus caused by the pandemic, it is truly a delightful occasion to come together again and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our amazing industry workforce.

Throughout the most unprecedented and challenging period in recent history, our industry faced hurdles that were more severe than any other sector. Overnight, our dedicated workforce was required to navigate through multiple roles and find innovative ways to maintain the highest level of service that Arizona tourism is renowned for. The resilience and dedication displayed by our industry professionals in such trying times are nothing short of remarkable.

To the 106 nominees here with us today, I extend my heartfelt congratulations! Your exceptional achievements and contributions deserve this well-earned recognition. We deeply appreciate your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts. It is because of your dedication that we can proudly uphold the high standards of service and hospitality that define our industry.

Once again, congratulations to all the nominees, and thank you to every member of our industry workforce. Your dedication and contributions are truly valued, and we couldn't do it without you.

Sincerely,



Kim Grace Sabow
President and CEO
AzLTA

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Program

Emcee

Win Holden, Former Publisher,
Arizona Highways Magazine

Welcome

Kim Grace Sabow, President & CEO,
Arizona Lodging and Tourism Association

Awards Presentation

Luncheon

Words from BMI Music Partner

Dan Spears, Vice President
Industry Relations, BMI

Performance

Nelson Cade III

Awards Presentation Resumes

Closing Remarks

Win Holden

Menu

**Compliments to
Executive Chef Eric Finney,
Executive Banquet Chef Soren Hanson,
and Executive Pastry Chef George Rugel**

~First Course~

Pressed Watermelon “Carpaccio”
Spring Greens, Watercress,
Pickled Onion, Marinated Feta
Mint Vinaigrette

~Main Course~

Steak Picanha
Chorizo Black Beans,
Cilantro Arancini, Crisped Cheese
Guajillo, Chimichurri

~Dessert~

Ibarra Chocolate Caramel Entremet,
Candied Pecan
Espresso Glaze

Nelson Cade III



AzLTA is thrilled to bring BMI Rising Star and former “The Voice” contestant Nelson Cade III to Arizona’s 2023 Stars of the Industry Awards. Nelson’s extraordinary journey includes being the first 4-chair turn and a finalist on John Legend’s team on the hit show “The Voice” in 2020. With a diverse range of experiences, Nelson has completed two nationwide tours, had the honor of jamming with Stevie Wonder, and contributed his songwriting talents to artists like Mary J. Blige and Bailey Coats. We are excited to share that Nelson has recently released his debut single, “Freedom,” which is now available for streaming on all major platforms.

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Event Rents

2023 Stars of the Industry Award Categories

AzLTA Member of the Year

Community Service

Food & Beverage Employee of the Year

Front of the House Leader of the Year

General Manager of the Year

Good Earthkeeping

Guest Service/Bell Staff Employee of the Year

Heart of the House Leader of the Year

Hospitality & Tourism Without Barriers

Housekeeping/Engineering/Maintenance

Employee of the Year

Sales/Catering Employee of the Year

Special Event: One-Time

Tourism Employee of the Year

Tourism Manager of the Year





Community Service Nominees:

- Arizona Grand Resort & Spa, Boys & Girls Club of Guadalupe Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
- Karen Cahn, The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa
- Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel & Spa
- Sonesta ES Suites Flagstaff, Sonesta Culture of Caring Mission

Food and Beverage Employee of the Year Nominees:

- Adriana Olivas, Delta Hotels by Marriott Phoenix Mesa
- Alex Diaz de Armas, Hotel Valley Ho
- Autumn West, Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North
- Berkeley Alvarado, Fairmont Scottsdale Princess
- Colleen Nagore, Bob's Steak & Chop House at Omni Tucson National Resort
- Gabe Shanahan, Arizona Biltmore, A Waldorf Astoria Resort
- Manuel Casiano, Enchantment Resort & Mii amo spa
- Terry Dallas, The Scottsdale Plaza Resort & Villas
- Tracy McElroy, The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa
- Arthur AJ Rios, The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa



Front of the House Manager of the Year Nominees:

- Amy Ortiz, DoubleTree Phoenix Mesa
- Anne Schwanz, Sanctuary Camelback Mountain
- Christine Barkulis, The Wigwam Resort
- Daulton Altamirano, Omni Tucson National Resort
- Homero Jarquin, The Scott Resort & Spa
- Jim Foss, Enchantment Resort & Mii amo spa
- John Anderson, Arizona Biltmore, A Waldorf Astoria Resort
- John Glynn, Fairmont Scottsdale Princess
- Mark Forquer, The Scottsdale Plaza Resort & Villas
- Mary Kelly, Hilton Phoenix Resort at the Peak
- Paul Hills, The Scottsdale Resort & Spa
- Rosa Chavez, Canyon Ranch Tucson
- Sheryl McCormick, The Phoenician and the Canyon Suites at The Phoenician
- Stacey Murtaugh, Arizona Biltmore, A Waldorf Astoria Resort
- Syl Sichko, JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa
- Tim Smith, Sheraton Phoenix Downtown
- Tom Stanley, Tempe Mission Palms, Destination by Hyatt



General Manager of the Year Nominees:

- Alan Klein, The Scottsdale Resort & Spa
- Brandon Howard, The Scott Resort & Spa
- Bunty Ahamed, Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass
- Derek Ellis, The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa
- Janet Hoff, Delta Hotels by Marriott Phoenix Mesa
- Mark Vinciguerra, The Phoenician and the Canyon Suites at The Phoenician
- Todd Gagnon, Omni Tempe Hotel at ASU
- Tom Delaney, Hyatt Regency Phoenix

Good Earth Keeping Nominees:

- Arizona Biltmore, A Waldorf Astoria Resort
- JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa
- Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North
- Fairmont Scottsdale Princess



Guest Service/Bell Staff Employee of the Year Nominees:

- Bane Vujanovic, Fairmont Scottsdale Princess
- Carolanne Harrington, The Scott Resort & Spa
- Casey Pochert, Sanctuary Camelback Mountain
- Christina Barraza, DoubleTree by Hilton Phoenix Mesa
- Jerilyn Villian, Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort
- Leon Grant, The Scottsdale Resort & Spa
- Leopoldo Gonzalez, JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa
- Miguel Torres, Arizona Grand Resort & Spa
- Patty Washington, Hilton Phoenix Resort at the Peak
- RJ Meza, Hotel Valley Ho
- Robert Burback, The Scottsdale Plaza Resort & Villa



Heart of the House Manager of the Year Nominees:

- Bethany Wedsworth, Omni Tucson National Resort
- Chad Bonenberger, Hilton Phoenix Resort at the Peak
- Clariza Sanchez, Enchantment Resort & Mii amo spa
- Dan Haywood, Hotel Valley Ho
- Fatiha Fadil, Fairmont Scottsdale Princess
- Global Kai, JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa
- Jay Floyd, Delta Hotels by Marriott Phoenix Mesa
- Jessica Kelley, The Wigwam Resort
- Ken Arneson, The Scottsdale Resort & Spa
- Kimberly Backman, Omni Tucson National Resort
- Michelle Wrobel, The Phoenician and the Canyon Suites at The Phoenician
- Mike Rainsford, The Scottsdale Plaza Resort & Villas
- Sergio Lopez, Canyon Ranch Tucson
- TC Rushing, The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa
- Tony Carlson, Sanctuary Camelback Mountain
- Yudith Bustos Taleno, Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North



Hospitality and Tourism Without Barriers Nominees:

- Alison Brooks, Visit Mesa
- Sheraton Phoenix Downtown

Housekeeping / Engineering / Maintenance Employee of the Year Nominees:

- Aaron Lowry, Delta Hotels by Marriott Phoenix Mesa
- Celia Martinez, DoubleTree by Hilton Phoenix Mesa
- Clanson Concepcion, Arizona Grand Resort & Spa
- Gloria Riggs, Sonesta ES Suites Flagstaff
- John Miller, Arizona Biltmore, A Waldorf Astoria Resort
- John Dickson, Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North
- Jose “Lorenzo” Lara, Sanctuary Camelback Mountain
- Luis Silva, Enchantment Resort & Mii amo spa
- Lynn Reimer, Hilton Phoenix Resort at the Peak
- Manuel Madrigal, Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel & Spa
- Rosario Valencia, Delta Hotels by Marriott Phoenix Mesa
- Timothy Tracey, Fairmont Scottsdale Princess
- Tina Castillo, Hilton Sedona Resort at Bell Rock
- Tina Martinez, Arizona Biltmore, A Waldorf Astoria Resort



Sales / Catering Employee of the Year Nominees:

- Andrea Rivas, Delta Hotels by Marriott Phoenix Mesa
- Ashley Peters, Canyon Ranch Tucson
- Corissa Malik, Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel & Spa
- Cynthia Ellsworth, The Scottsdale Plaza Resort & Villas
- Dena Isaacs, Sanctuary Camelback Mountain
- Lori Grossenbacher, Hilton Garden Inn Downtown Chandler/ Residence Inn Ocotillo
- Shannon Walters, Enchantment Resort & Mii amo spa
- Silvia Vannoy, Fairmont Scottsdale Princess
- Traci Mead, Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North

Special Event: One-Time Nominees:

- Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, Eighth Concourse Grand Opening
- Arizona Grand Resort & Spa, Holiday Open House
- Arizona Diamondbacks, World Baseball Classic
- Hotel Valley Ho, Sip + Shop Summer Market Series



Tourism Employee of the Year Nominees:

- Jim Keller & Lobby Dogs, Fairmont Scottsdale Princess
- Phoenix Sky Harbor, Super Bowl LVII Steering Committee

Tourism Manager of the Year Nominees:

- Amanda D. Kays, Arizona Grand Resort & Spa
- Leslie McClendon, Visit Yuma
- Lori Pappas, Discover Flagstaff
- Michael Saam & Studio F, Fairmont Scottsdale Princess
- Susana Trasente, City of Peoria
- Thomas R. Moulton, Southern Arizona Attractions Alliance

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About Arizona Grand Resort & Spa

Arizona Grand Resort & Spa puts you in the midst of one of Phoenix, Arizona's most naturally beautiful places. The region's only AAA Four-Diamond, all-suite hotel is ideally situated on the doorstep of 17,000 acres of South Mountain Preserve, the largest municipal park in the world and the most visited hiking destination in the state. Arizona Grand Resort & Spa serves up stunning perspectives and unique Southwestern touches that make your visit to Phoenix feel naturally grand.

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About AzLTA



The Arizona Lodging and Tourism Association (AzLTA) is the leading statewide public policy organization advocating for Arizona's travel, lodging, arts/attractions, and sports industry. Founded in 1938, the association represents statewide hotels and resorts, tourism attractions, destination marketing organizations, sports teams, airlines, airports, the arts, and related business partners. The Arizona Lodging and Tourism Association is focused on advocacy, collaboration, and education to generate support and increase awareness of the profound impact our leading industry has on Arizona jobs, tax revenues, and economic growth.



— AZLTA —

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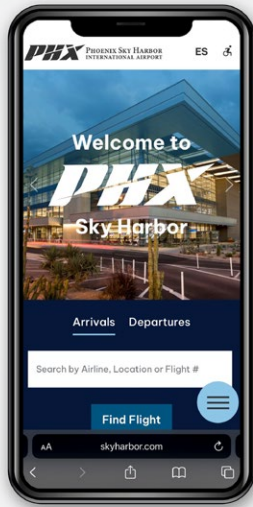
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