

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2023



FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2023 INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE AWARDS PRESENTED BY BAR & RESTAURANT EXPO

LAS VEGAS – [Bar & Restaurant Expo](#) is pleased to announce the finalists of the **2023 Industry Excellence Awards**. Finalists in each category are celebrated for their dedication to the independent bar and restaurant industry. These individuals and businesses exemplify integrity, commitment to equality, sustainability, community and culture across the industry.

Finalists in each category were selected by a judging panel of experts, who evaluated each submission based on several criteria. **Winners will be announced** at the **2023 Bar & Restaurant Expo** on **Wednesday, March 29 at 1:00 p.m.**

2023 Industry Excellence Awards Finalists include:

Bartender of the Year

- Amanda Alvarez, Messhall Kitchen, Los Angeles, California
- Kate Gerwin, Happy Accidents Bar, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Raymond James Irwin, Fizz Champagne & Bubbles Bar, Sacramento, California

Chef of the Year

- Troy Guard, TAG Restaurant Group, Denver, Colorado & Houston, Texas
- Daniel Ontiveros, Carver Steak, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Miguel Trinidad, 99th Floor, Brooklyn, New York

Community Leadership Award

- Troy Guard, TAG Restaurant Group, Denver, Colorado & Houston, Texas
- John Anthony, Sparrow + Wolf | Spaghetti on the Wall Hospitality Group, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Adam Orman, L'Oca d'Oro and Good Work Austin, Austin, Texas

Bar of the Year

- Flora-Bama Lounge, Package, & Oyster Bar, Perdido Key, Florida
- Your Third Spot, Atlanta, Georgia
- Three Dots and a Dash, Chicago, Illinois

Best Hospitality Training Program

- Sparrow + Wolf | Spaghetti on the Wall Hospitality Group, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Marlow's Tavern, Atlanta, Georgia
- Session Cocktails, Tuscaloosa & Auburn, Alabama

LGBTQIA+ Venue of the Year

- Que Rico Nightclub, Oakland, California
- DECANTsf, San Francisco, California
- Driftwood, San Francisco, California

Restaurant of the Year

- Ernest, San Francisco, California
- The Jones Assembly, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- The Barrel Room, San Francisco, California

Each finalist will be awarded two Expo + Party Passes to the 2023 Bar & Restaurant Expo, as well as recognition on the Bar & Restaurant website, social media and newsletter before and during the expo. In addition, the winners in each category will receive a beautiful custom award, one VIP ticket to the 2024 Bar & Restaurant Expo and additional media recognition on the website, social media, newsletters and more.

Bar & Restaurant Expo is a trade event and not open to the public. For more information visit barandrestaurantexpo.com.

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About Bar & Restaurant Expo

Bar & Restaurant Expo, formerly known as Nightclub & Bar Show, has continued to evolve to mirror the fast-paced, trend-setting nature of the hospitality industry. The event has been providing the specific tools that bar and restaurant owners, operators, and managers need to grow their businesses, compete, and succeed in this hyper-competitive and dynamic industry. The Bar & Restaurant Group is a division of the Questex Hospitality Group which also produces Vibe Conference, World Tea Conference & Expo, and daily content on barandrestaurant.com.

About Questex

Questex helps people live better and longer. Questex brings people together in the markets that help people **live better**: travel, hospitality and wellness; the industries that help people **live longer**: life science and healthcare; and the technologies that enable and fuel these **new experiences**. We live in **the experience economy** – connecting our ecosystem through live events, surrounded by data insights and digital communities. We deliver experience and real results. **It happens here.**

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