

valley access

MAGAZINE

silicon valley
CONCIERGE
association



APRIL 2013

WWW.SILICONVALLEYCONCIERGE.COM

11th Annual
silicon valley
CONCIERGE
association

Hospitality Awards

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2013

6:00PM – 9:00PM

6:00PM - 7:15PM – Appetizers, Wine, and Raffle / Silent Auction Items Viewing

7:30PM - 9:00PM – Raffle / Silent Auction and Awards

Invitation to Follow

WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE

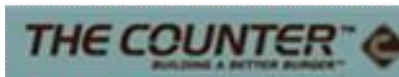
525 S. Winchester Blvd.

San Jose, CA 95128

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HERE ARE THE NOMINEES FOR THE 11TH ANNUAL SVCA HOSPITALITY AWARDS, ON MAY 21, 2013

BALLOTS FOR VOTING WILL BE SENT SHORTLY.....

Best Concierge:

Jeffery Phillips - Garden Court Hotel, Palo Alto
 Michael Mulhern - HOST Program - San Jose Airport
 Robert Ragazza- The Sainte Claire Hotel, San Jose
 Cara Nonnenberg - Fairmont Heritage Place, San Francisco

Best Venue:

Computer History Museum
 California Theatre
 Santa Clara Convention Center

Best Hotel:

Garden Court Palo Alto
 Marriott Santa Clara
 DoubleTree San Jose

Best Kept Secret:

Blush Raw Bar & Lounge - San Pedro Square Market
 Historical Museum at Kelly Park
 Club Sportiva

Best Transportation:

LoneStar Limousine
 Sal's Airport and Limo Services
 Corinthian Transportation

Best Museum:

Intel Museum
 San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA)
 MACLA

Best Lounge / Bar / Nightlife:

Poor House Bistro - San Jose
 Blush Raw Bar & Lounge - San Pedro Square Market
 Scratch - Mountain View

Best Casual Restaurant:

Kyoto Palace - Campbell
 Capers - Campbell
 Habana Cuba - San Jose

Best Upscale Restaurant:

Birks - Santa Clara
 Dio Deka - Los Gatos
 Morton's Steakhouse - San Jose

Best Winery:

Regale Winery – Santa Cruz Mountains
 Cinnabar - Saratoga
 Clos LaChance - Santa Cruz Mountains

Best Catering:

PSRT (Parsley, Sage, Rosemary & Thyme) - San Jose
 A Catered Affair - San Jose
 Restaurant O – Santa Clara

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH CATEGORY AND EACH NOMINEE IS PROVIDED BELOW FOR YOUR PERUSAL
BALLOTS TO FOLLOW - SHORTLY

Best Concierge: Person who provides the best information and service to client, guest and customers of their establishment.

Jeffery Phillips - Garden Court Hotel, Palo Alto

Michael Mulhern - HOST Program - Mineta SJ International Airport

Robert Ragazza - The Sainte Claire Hotel, San Jose

Cara Nonnenberg - Fairmont Heritage Place, San Francisco

Best Venue: Most interesting and serviceable place to stage a hospitality event.

Computer History Museum

Mountain View, stunning spaces, plenty of parking, easy access. Great speaker series.

California Theatre

Beautifully restored theatre now home to Opera San Jose and Symphony Silicon Valley.

Santa Clara Convention Center

Fully equipped convention center offering over 300,000 square feet of meeting space. Easy access, parking and new ballroom.

Best Hotel

A travel destination accommodation offering food and lodging

Garden Court Hotel

The only luxury boutique hotel in downtown Palo Alto offering elegant lodging & accommodations including the Il Fornaio Restaurant

Santa Clara Marriott

A 4-star hotel adjacent to California's Great America Theme Park featuring Chef Bradley Ogden's award-winning Parcel 104 Restaurant

Doubletree Hotel

This hotel is located less than a half mile from the Mineta SJ International Airport known for their spacious guest rooms & Spencer's Restaurant

Best Casual Restaurant

Best place to dine where the food suits the mood

Kyoto Palace

Japanese Teppanyaki-style steakhouse, sushi bar & full service bar located in the Pruneyard Shopping Center in Campbell - the chefs will completely entertain you.

Capers

Eat & Drink in Campbell - American Bistro dining in a comfortable, cozy, chic setting.

Habana Cuba

Located in downtown San Jose, family tradition to provide authentic, original cuisine of Latin flavors.

Best Upscale Restaurant

Best dining experience to toast a special occasion or a rare night off

Birk's

Located in Santa Clara offers a Classic Americana Menu - known for their hardwood grilled steaks, chops & seafood - offers a full bar.

Dio Deka

Located at the Hotel Los Gatos - fine Hellenic cuisine offering a range of dining options of Mediterranean & Greek - full bar.

Morton's

Located in Downtown San Jose - 'the best STEAK Anywhere' Good Service & menu variety substantial - offering a full bar.

Best Winery

Best winery offering award-winning wines and a friendly ambiance

Regale Winery

The Estate located 10 miles from downtown Los Gatos Primary focus is Pinot Noir & Cabernet - also feature Italian varietals.

Cinnabar Vineyards & Winery

Tasting Room located on Big Basin Way in Saratoga - variety of reds & whites.

Clos La Chance

Located in the foothills of San Martin - breathtaking view -delightful wines

Best Museum:

Best place to see exhibits of art, science, history, and culture in Silicon Valley

Intel Museum

Silicon technology highlighted in interactive exhibits in this Santa Clara museum.

San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA)

Gallery space exhibiting contemporary art. Part of First Friday's art scene downtown SJ.

MACLA

Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana Exhibits art rooted in the Chicano/Latino experience. Focus on community based visual, literary and performing arts.

Best Lounge / Bar / Nightlife:

A fun place to gather, relax and mingle with others that offers adult beverages served by knowledgeable staff.

Poor House Bistro - San Jose

Place to be before Sharks games. New Orleans taste and ambiance. Weekend music and outdoor seating.

Blush Raw Bar & Lounge - San Pedro Square Market

In San Pedro Square Market downtown San Jose. Popular Happy Hour with raw bar and sushi.

Scratch - Mountain View

Mountain View's best happy hour. Large round bar, friendly knowledgeable bartenders. Excellent variety of wines and food for a happy hour menu.

Best Transportation:

The company that provides the best transportation and customer service to, from and around Silicon Valley.

LoneStar Limousine

Award winning company servicing the Bay Area hospitality industry. Many satisfied national companies and hotel partners.

Active supporters of community.

Sal's Airport and Limo Services

All around transportation company. Many local sports organization utilize their services.

Corinthian Transportation

Large fleet of vehicles including a party bus on which you can dance.

Best Kept Secret:

Little known gem of a place offering hospitality or services to the public.

Blush Raw Bar and Lounge

At San Pedro Square Market, is the newest place to dine in San Jose. This restaurant is a new raw food bar lounge with one-of-a-kind cocktails, small plates with fresh ingredients, sushi and oysters.

Historical Museum at Kelly Park

History Park features many early San Jose artifacts and exhibits with old trolley car rides; Happy Hollow Park with fun and live animal exhibits for children and the beautiful Japanese Tea Gardens.

Club Sportiva

Exotic car rentals, including Lamborghini, Maserati, Bentley, Aston Martin, etc.

Best Catering:

Best company that provides food and beverage and event services in various locations in Silicon Valley.

PSRT (Parsley, Sage, Rosemary & Thyme) – San Jose

They have established a reputation for any special theme event and cuisine for large or small groups. They recently catered a dinner at Mark Zuckerberg's (Facebook guy) home for Governor Christie from New Jersey.

A Catered Affair – San Jose

Has been a leader in the Silicon Valley for over 25 years. We have a solid staff whose experience is unparalleled and who are always striving to bring our clients the latest in cuisine trends.

Restaurant Q – Santa Clara

Chef Justin Perez has transformed his catering operation -- located on the Santa Clara site that was home to the beloved Wilson's Jewel Bakery.

Touring.with.Maria

Spring brought some new restaurants to Silicon Valley.



Tacolicious Restaurant opened in Palo Alto. Their other successful restaurants are in the San Francisco. They offer a huge choice of tequila and a creative menu.

Mountain View has several new establishments. The **Olympus Caffe & Bakery** across from the train station offers on-site baked goods as well as breakfast, lunch and dinner. (Lots of outside seating and free WIFI.)

It is owned by folks who have **Ephesus** on Castro Street.

La Fontaine Restaurant offers excellent French and Italian fare. The chef owner was formerly at the popular **Vaso Azzuro** also on Castro Street.

Steins, a new concept in beer gardens, just opened on Villa Street in Mountain View. The remodeled space is 12,000 square feet with communal tables, large screen TV's, beautiful outside garden and an interesting menu. The owner is local and the chef was formerly with Wolfgang Puck's organization, Hawthorn Lane and Square One in the city. The menu is fresh and designed to pair with beer. The 30 craft beers are all on tap. Some beers will be passed, dim sum style (site was formerly The Golden Wok).

Not new but always enjoyable serving great fish and seafood entries is **The Fish Market**. I frequent the original one in Palo Alto and love the happy hour but have also enjoyed dining in their San Jose, Santa Clara and San Mateo restaurants.

Great seafood is also at **Billy's Boston Chowder House** in Los Gatos. It is small and cozy and I am looking forward to returning for the lobster roll.

Heads in Beds, by Jacob Tomsk, is the new expose book on the hotel industry. Subtitled "A Reckless Memoir of Hotels, Hustles, and So-called Hospitality", it is an entertaining read but I hope not really indicative of our Silicon Valley hotel industry.

Happy spring!

Maria Lange
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Dear Hospitality Industry Partner:

The Silicon Valley Concierge Association is pleased to announce our celebration at our 11th Annual Hospitality Awards Event to be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at the Winchester Mystery House.

The awards event offers a special opportunity for your company to sponsor the event or donate goods for door prizes. Sponsors and Donors will receive recognition at the Hospitality Awards Event and will be acknowledged in the event program as well as the Silicon Valley Concierge Association's (VAM) "Valley Access Electronic Magazine".

You may contact us via e-mail at svconciierge@mindspring.com to arrange for items to be picked up. Or send "envelopes" to

Silicon Valley Concierge Association
P.O. Box 2545
Saratoga, CA 95070-0545

To ensure timely acknowledgement in our events program and magazine we respectfully request that all sponsorships and donations are received by May 17, 2013.

Since 1995 the Silicon Valley Concierge Association has been recognized as the leading professional non-profit organization dedicated to the education and advancement of its members. The SVCA assists over 1,600 members in enhancing their professional skills through seminars, networking and familiarization events, meetings, newsletters, and training programs.

We believe that networking, training and education are beneficial to all of us. The art of creating and maintaining positive relationships is a significant factor in the success of the SVCA and its hospitality partners.

We thank you in advance for your consideration in supporting the Silicon Valley Concierge Association and look forward to seeing you at the awards event!

Sincerely,

Mori Mandis
SVCA President

INSIDER'S TRACK

The title of this column, "Insiders' Track" is primarily meant for SVCA members and those who are interested in what the Hospitality Industry contributes to the economic well-being and reputation of Silicon Valley.

This and upcoming columns are meant to draw the readers' attention to academic institutions that have, as part of their curriculum, degree programs that focus on career opportunities in the hospitality industry. Institutions or in-house programs related to the hospitality industry may also be covered.

In all of this we should not forget that concierges (in Hotels, Corporations or large Residential complexes) and meeting planners, and tour guides, are the Bay Area's and Silicon Valley's knowledge base, "cheerleaders" and service providers for things to do and places to go.

This column is devoted to Mission College in Santa Clara, CA, an academic institution that has, for over 37 years, had a Hospitality Management program that focuses on providing its students in that field with marketable skills or with a basis for broadening their education in related fields upon graduation.

Details about the program can be accessed on the web at:
www.missioncollege.org/depts/food/default.html

The Board members of SVCA had the opportunity to get a closer look at the culinary part of Mission College's Hospitality Management program. They met for lunch at the "Mission Bistro". As you would guess, the lunch is planned by the Bistro's Student Manager and executed by Student Chefs under the watchful eyes of Haze Dennis, Department Chair, Sandy Rice, Program Specialist, and Lorraine Reese, faculty member who sat with the SVCA members to explain the program and answer questions

The choices on the menu on that – and it varies during the week – ranged from Fish and Chips with Coleslaw, to Chicken Fajitas, and Meatloaf with Mashed Potatoes, followed by Chocolate Raspberry "Surprise" and Carrot Cake with a special topping.

The atmosphere was thoroughly professional as the students are dressed like any waiters in a well-run, middle to upscale restaurant. During our conversations with our hosts, we learned about the various career opportunities for students such as (and I am excerpting): Chef; Convention Planning; Cruise Lines; Meeting Planning; Restaurant Manager; Front Desk Supervisor etc.

Equally important is that a significant number of the program's graduates seek to continue their education before finally entering the workforce. Education institutions that offer such opportunities are – to name a few: San Jose State University; the Collins School of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly Pomona; UNLV; or the Culinary Institute of America.

The Board Members of SVCA had a wonderful experience watching first hand, the up- and coming crop of Hospitality Management graduates in action and learning about the extensive curriculum Mission College has in place to meet the demands of the students.

The Faculty and Supervisors are experienced and we parted assured that the Hospitality Management School at Mission College is in good hands. The picture below shows Department Chair Haze Dennis and a student in action.

Gus Holweger
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WEDNESDAY
APRIL 24
6PM-9PM

- Hair & Makeup Demos
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DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR E-MAGAZINE, IS THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH NOTE: ARTICLES AND SPECIAL DATES APPEARING IN THE VAM ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

* * * *

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