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# HISTORIC HOTELS of AMERICA

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National Trust *for* Historic Preservation\*



## **Winners of the 2021 Historic Hotels of America Awards of Excellence and Winners of the Historic Hotels Worldwide Awards of Excellence Announced.**

Kohler, WI—November 11, 2021

Historic Hotels of America® and Historic Hotels Worldwide® are pleased to announce the winners of the 2021 Historic Hotels Awards of Excellence. The Historic Hotels Awards of Excellence recognize and celebrate the finest historic hotels and hoteliers from across the United States of America and from around the world.

Recipients were honored at a special evening Ceremony and Gala at The American Club Resort Hotel on Thursday, November 11. Awards were presented before an audience of more than 200 industry leaders, owners, senior management, and representatives of the finest historic hotels from across the United States of America and from around the world. Nineteen Historic Hotels of America Awards of Excellence were given in multiple categories ranging from Historic Hotels of America Hotelier of the Year, Historic Hotels of America Hotel Historian of the Year, Historic Hotels of America Best Historic Resort, Historic Hotels of America Lifetime Achievement, and others. Three Historic Hotels Worldwide Awards of Excellence were presented for Historic Hotels Worldwide Best Historic Hotel in Europe, Historic Hotels Worldwide Best Historic Hotel in Asia and the Pacific, and Historic Hotels Worldwide Best Historic Hotel in the Americas.

The winners were selected from a pool of nominee finalists, who were nominated by historic hotels, preservation supporters, prior award recipients, community leaders, and leadership from Historic Hotels of America and Historic Hotels Worldwide. As official programs of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Hotels of America and Historic Hotels Worldwide provide the recognition to travelers, civic leaders, and the global cultural, heritage, and historic travel market that member hotels are among the finest historic hotels across America and around the world. The Historic Hotels Annual Awards of Excellence program recognizes the pinnacle of this distinct group of nominees in a range of categories.

From over 260 nominations, the awards committee evaluated and after careful consideration selected the following 2021 Award Winners:

### **Historic Hotels of America New Member of the Year**

This award is presented to a new member hotel that best demonstrates immediate engagement, activation, and passionate support of Historic Hotels of America.

- [The Alisal Guest Ranch & Resort \(1946\) Solvang, California](#)

### **Historic Hotels of America Best Social Media of a Historic Hotel**

This award is presented to a hotel that actively engages consumers by sharing the best of its history through social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with interesting facts, photos, and contests.

- [Grand Hotel \(1887\) Mackinac Island, Michigan](#)

### **Historic Hotels of America Sustainability Champion**

This award is presented to a hotel that best implements and practices innovative green initiatives and programs, demonstrating historic preservation is the ultimate green.

- [Airlie \(1899\) Warrenton, Virginia](#)

### **Historic Hotels of America Best Small Historic Inn/Hotel (Under 75 Guestrooms)**

This award is presented to a hotel under 75 guestrooms that best celebrates its history in the guest experience and provides exceptional customer hospitality and service.

- [The Blackburn Inn & Conference Center \(1828\) Staunton, Virginia](#)

### **Historic Hotels of America Best Historic Hotel (76-200 Guestrooms)**

This award is presented to a hotel with 76-200 guestrooms that best celebrates its history in the guest experience and provides exceptional customer hospitality and service.

- [The King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort \(1935\) St. Simons Island, Georgia](#)

### **Historic Hotels of America Best Historic Hotel (201-400 Guestrooms)**

This award is presented to a hotel with 201-400 guestrooms that best celebrates its history in the guest experience and provides exceptional customer hospitality and service.

- [The Skirvin Hilton Oklahoma City \(1911\) Oklahoma City, Oklahoma](#)

### **Historic Hotels of America Best Historic Hotel (Over 400 Guestrooms)**

This award is presented to a hotel over 400 guestrooms that best celebrates its history in the guest experience and provides exceptional customer hospitality and service.

- [Palmer House®, A Hilton Hotel \(1871\) Chicago, Illinois](#)

### **Historic Hotels of America Best City Center Historic Hotel**

This award is presented to a hotel located in a city center that best celebrates its history in the guest experience and provides exceptional customer hospitality and service.

- [The Westin Poinsett \(1925\) Greenville, South Carolina](#)

### **Historic Hotels of America Best Historic Resort**

This award is presented to a historic resort that best celebrates its history in the guest experience and provides exceptional customer hospitality and service.

- [Hotel del Coronado, Curio Collection by Hilton \(1888\) Coronado, California](#)

### **Historic Hotels of America Hotel Historian of the Year**

This award is presented to a hotel historian who best demonstrates a passion for preserving, displaying, and interpreting the history of his or her hotel, a true ambassador of the past.

- Tom Vickstrom at [The Hermitage Hotel \(1910\) Nashville, Tennessee](#)

### **Historic Hotels of America Best Historic Restaurant in Conjunction with a Historic Hotel**

This award is presented to a restaurant that is part of a historic hotel that offers the finest cuisine, historic atmosphere, and exceptional customer service.

- Top of the Mark at the [InterContinental Mark Hopkins Hotel \(1926\) San Francisco, California](#)

### **Historic Hotels of America Ambassador of the Year (Celebrating 20+ Years of Service)**

This award is presented to an individual who has dedicated his or her career to a historic hotel for at least twenty years and has shown exemplary hospitality and service to the hotel and its guests.

- Cherie LeJeune at [The American Club Resort Hotel \(1918\) Kohler, Wisconsin](#)

### **Historic Hotels of America Legendary Family Historic Hoteliers of the Year**

This award is presented to a multi-generational family ownership entity or management company which has served as an exemplary role model in the operation of the historic hotels entrusted to its stewardship, as well as a demonstrated legacy of commitment to preservation, and active participation in Historic Hotels of America.

- The Widman Family at Charming Inns®: [John Rutledge House Inn, Kings Courtyard Inn \(1853\)](#), [Wentworth Mansion® \(1886\)](#), Circa 1886 Restaurant (1886) Charleston, South Carolina

### **Historic Hotels of America Steward of History and Historic Preservation**

This award is presented to a leader whose passion has helped to preserve a historic hotel and whose dedication to historic preservation will ensure that future generations of travelers can experience its history.

- Bruce Haines at [Historic Hotel Bethlehem \(1922\) Bethlehem, Pennsylvania](#)

### **Historic Hotels of America Historic Hotelier of the Year**

This award is presented to the recipient demonstrating the highest contribution to furthering the celebration of history at historic hotels as well as leadership and innovation.

- John Dewberry at [The Dewberry \(1965\) Charleston, South Carolina](#)

### **Historic Hotels of America Lifetime Achievement Award**

This award is presented to individuals whose lifelong passion has resulted in the preservation and celebration of the history and stories of a legendary historic hotel.

- Jeanne and Grant Genzlinger at The Settlers Hospitality Group: [The Sayre Mansion \(1858\)](#), [Ledges Hotel \(1890\)](#), [The Settlers Inn at Bingham Park \(1927\)](#), and [Silver Birches \(1927\)](#) Pennsylvania

### **Best Historic Hotels Worldwide Hotel in Europe**

This award is presented to a hotel in Europe that best celebrates its history in the guest experience and provides exceptional customer hospitality and service.

- [Hotel Hacienda de Abajo \(1493\) Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain](#)

### **Best Historic Hotels Worldwide Hotel in Asia/Pacific**

This award is presented to a hotel in Asia/Pacific that best celebrates its history in the guest experience and provides exceptional customer hospitality and service.

- [Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar \(1780\) Bagac, Philippines](#)

### **Best Historic Hotels Worldwide Hotel in the Americas**

This award is presented to a hotel in the Americas that best celebrates its history in the guest experience and provides exceptional customer hospitality and service.

- [Hacienda de los Santos Resort & Spa \(1685\) Alamos, Mexico](#)

### **Historian of the Year**

This award is presented to an individual for making a unique contribution in the research and presentation of history, and whose work has encouraged a wide, if not provocative, discussion and greater understanding of the history of our nation.

- [Brigadier General Ty Seidule, U.S. Army \(retired\)](#)

### **Legacy of Innovation and Inspiration Award**

This award recognizes the extensive accomplishments of Horst Schulze in pioneering innovative concepts for achieving uncommon success, for being a thought leader on exceptional service, a legend and inspiring leader in the hotel world, and whose teachings and vision have reshaped the concepts of service and hospitality across industries.

- [Horst Schulze](#)

“It is an honor to congratulate all the 2021 Annual Awards of Excellence winners,” said Lawrence Horwitz, Executive Vice President, Historic Hotels of America and Historic Hotels Worldwide. “The winners are the finest historic hotels and hoteliers from across the United States and from around the world. The historic hotels nominated include small historic inns, boutique hotels, lifestyle hotels, and resorts. They represent small towns to large cities to UNESCO World Heritage destinations. We applaud the dedication and passion of the thousands of individuals working at these iconic and legendary hotels that keep the stories alive from the past and make staying or celebrating special occasions at these historic hotels memorable experiences. The hotels on this list represent the very best spirit of perseverance and preservation of Historic Hotels. Through the many chapters these buildings have seen, it is the care of their staff, owners, and operators and the support of travelers that allow these stories to continue.”

### **About Historic Hotels of America®**

Is the official program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation for recognizing, celebrating, and promoting the finest historic hotels in the United States of America. To be nominated and selected for membership in this prestigious program, a hotel must be at least 50 years old; designated by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark or listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; and recognized as having historical significance. Of the more than 300 historic hotels inducted into Historic Hotels of America from 44 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, all historic hotels faithfully preserve their sense of authenticity, sense of place, and architectural integrity. For more information, please visit [HistoricHotels.org/US](https://www.HistoricHotels.org/US).

### **About Historic Hotels Worldwide®**

Is a prestigious and distinctive collection of historic treasures, including luxury historic hotels built in former castles, chateaus, palaces, academies, haciendas, villas, monasteries, and other

historic lodging spanning ten centuries. Historic Hotels Worldwide represents the finest and most distinctive global collection of more than 320 historic hotels in more than 46 countries. Hotels inducted into Historic Hotels Worldwide are authentic historic treasures, demonstrate historic preservation, and celebrate historic significance. Eligibility for induction into Historic Hotels Worldwide is limited to those distinctive historic hotels that adhere to the following criteria: minimum age for the building is 75 years or older; historically relevant as a significant location with a historic district, historically significant landmark, place of a historic event, former home of a famous person, or historic city center; hotel celebrates its history by showcasing memorabilia, artwork, photography, and other examples of its historic significance; recognized by national preservation or heritage buildings organization or located within UNESCO World Heritage Site; and presently used as historic hotel. For more information, please visit [HistoricHotelsWorldwide.com](http://HistoricHotelsWorldwide.com).

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Katherine Orr  
Historic Hotels of America | Historic Hotels Worldwide  
Manager, Marketing Communications  
Tel: +1-202-772-8337  
[korr@historichotels.org](mailto:korr@historichotels.org)