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## Rancho Mirage awards year's 'Rammys'

*Colin Atagi*  
*The Desert Sun*

As Coachella Valley businesses struggle through the recession, those that continue to provide great service were honored Wednesday for being the best at what they do.

A dozen awards were handed out by the Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce during "The Rammys" at Westin Mission Hills Resort and Spa, including the Rising Star Award, which went to Burgers and Beer.

Co-owner Marco Honold said Wednesday afternoon that he is humbled by the award.

"Things couldn't be better; we're doing really, really well," he said.

Other award winners:

Business Man of the Year: Victor Woo, general manager of Rancho Las Palmas Resort and Spa

Business Woman of the Year: Kristi Brown, owner of Tulip Hill Winery

Exemplary Hotel/Resort: Rancho Las Palmas Resort and Spa

Exemplary Small Business: Thai Smile of Rancho Mirage

Exemplary Casual Dining: Piero's Acqua Pazza

Exemplary Large Business: Eisenhower Medical Center

Exemplary Specialty Dining: P. F. Chang's China Bistro

Recycling Award: Agua Caliente Casino, Resort and Spa

Exemplary Furnishings and Décor: Charles Townsend Collection

Exemplary Non-Profit Group: Guide Dogs of the Desert

Exemplary Financial Institution: El Paseo Bank

Nomination forms were sent to chamber members, who chose winners among the five businesses in each category to receive the most picks, spokesman Darren Zetena said.

“It's important to acknowledge people in good times and bad times when they're doing well,” he said. “It helps motivate people.”

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