

Jamul Casino Voted Winner of Five “San Diego’s Best” Awards

San Diegans agree that Jamul Casino is one of San Diego’s top destinations for exceptional entertainment, outstanding cuisine, and exquisite events. The casino was honored as the winner in five categories of the *San Diego Union-Tribune’s* 24th annual Reader’s Poll. The poll reflects the voting audience’s selections for the best products and services in San Diego, covering everything from restaurants to nightlife, retail, real estate, financial services, and more. The winners earn the right to be called “San Diego’s Best.” This is the third year in just four years since opening that Jamul Casino has been named among “San Diego’s Best,” bringing home a personal best of five awards.

Jamul Casino’s 2020 “San Diego’s Best” winners included: Best Entertainment Venue for JIVE Lounge (third consecutive year); Best Nightclub for JIVE Lounge (second consecutive year); Best Sports Bar for Tony Gwynn’s Sports Pub (third consecutive year); Best Chinese Restaurant for Emerald Chinese Cuisine; and Best Place to Get Married for the recently debuted The Rooftop at Jamul Casino.

Jamul Casino was also named a “Favorite” in numerous categories, including Best Local Casino, Loosest Slots, Best Place to Work, Best Casino Buffet, Best Casino Restaurant (non-buffet), Best Live Music Venue, Best Pho/Noodle House, Best Steakhouse, Best Hamburger, Best Bartender (five from Jamul Casino), Best Chef (three from Jamul Casino), and Best Restaurant Server (five from Jamul Casino).

Mary Cheeks, President and General Manager of Jamul Casino, said, “We are honored that San Diegans voted Jamul Casino ‘San Diego’s Best’ five times over. These are absolutely the most meaningful awards we could receive because they reflect the opinions of our neighbors and guests, and demonstrate the outstanding performance of team Jamul. Thank you, San Diego!”

Jamul Casino made its first appearance on the “San Diego’s Best” list in 2018, earning two awards for JIVE Lounge and Tony Gwynn’s Sports Pub. Last year, the two destinations earned four awards. Emerald Chinese Cuisine and The Rooftop debuted on the “San Diego’s Best” list this year, helping the casino to bring home its all-time best of five awards.

Turning Stone Named #1 Best Overall Gaming Resort in New York in *Casino Player Magazine’s* 2020 Best of Gaming Awards

Turning Stone Resort Casino has earned a record high of 27 Best of Gaming Awards for 2020 by *Casino Player Magazine*, a leading authority in the casino gaming industry, which includes the highest honor of being named the #1 Best Overall Gaming Resort in New York.



The magazine’s annual Best of Gaming award-winners are hand-selected by casino visitors themselves. Turning Stone was recognized across the board for its outstanding games, luxury accommodations, exciting sports book, exceptional golf, and expert staff, earning 17 first-place awards: Best Overall Gaming Resort; Best Hotel; Best Suites; Best Pool; Best Spa; Best Golf Course; Favorite Casino Resort for Vacation; Best Casino; Best Table Games; Best Table Game Tournament; Best Poker Tournament; Best Video Poker; Best Live Poker; Best Blackjack; Best Bingo; Best Sports Book Promotions; and Friendliest Sports Book.

In addition to being named the #1 Best Overall Gaming Resort in New York for the fifth straight year, Turning Stone also received wins in several other categories including: Best Dealers; Best Craps; Best Rooms; Best High Limit Room; Best Poker Room; Best Non Smoking Casino/Area; Best Prop Bets; Best Hotel Lobby; Best Roulette; and Best Keno.

“Being named New York’s #1 Best Overall Gaming Resort is a tremendous honor, and we are grateful to our guests and dedicated employees for helping us stay on top,” said Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Nation Enterprises CEO Ray Halbritter. “This award is not something earned overnight – instead it is achieved through consistent dedication to exceptional guest service and providing the very best experience possible. As we continue to adapt to the current environment, our commitment to these award-winning ideals will not waiver.”

Thunder Valley Casino Resort Hotel Receives *TripAdvisor’s* Travelers’ Choice Award for Outstanding Traveler Feedback

Thunder Valley Casino Resort is proud to announce that it has received the 2020 *TripAdvisor* Travelers’ Choice Award for consistently receiving outstanding traveler feedback, placing Thunder Valley in the top 10% of hospitality businesses around the globe.

This coveted award program identifies and ranks the very best hotels, destinations, attractions and restaurants in

specific categories and geographic areas as rated and reviewed by travelers. The awards take into account the quality and quantity of traveler reviews and ratings.

“Achieving the Travelers’ Choice Award is a significant honor for Thunder Valley Casino Resort,” said Dawn Clayton, General Manager of Thunder Valley Casino Resort. “Although it has been a challenging year for the travel industry, this a true testament to the hospitality, service and attention to detail that our guests have come to enjoy at Thunder Valley.”

In 2019, Thunder Valley received TripAdvisor’s Certificate of Excellence for the fifth consecutive year, which placed them in the TripAdvisor Hall of Fame.

“We are thrilled to be recognized time and time again as an award-winning resort destination,” said Joel Moore, Vice President of Hotel Operations at Thunder Valley Casino Resort. “The hard work and unwavering dedication portrayed by our wonderful team members makes this acknowledgment possible. We look forward to continuing to exceed our guests’ expectations for years to come.”

Agua Caliente Adds Fifth Star to Its Forbes Four-Star Triple Win

Forbes Travel Guide (FTG), the only global rating system for luxury hotels, restaurants and spas, offered a sneak peek at select winners from its upcoming 2021 annual Star Awards. Sunstone Spa at Agua Caliente Resort Casino Spa Rancho Mirage, in Rancho Mirage, CA, earned a new Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Award and will be showcased with other honorees on *ForbesTravelGuide.com*. The Forbes Four-Star Agua Caliente Resort Casino Spa Rancho Mirage was recently bestowed three prestigious Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star Awards for their luxurious resort hotel, the holistically indulgent Sunstone Spa, and the exclusive The Steakhouse. Now, the resort takes their serene spa to the next level with this impressive Five-Star Award, in addition to, an already stellar four-star repertoire. The world-class service provided by this talented and professional spa team ensures guests always feel like they are a world away, and the decadent surroundings seduce every sense. Zero gravity chairs provide a calming affect that readies spa guests for a personalized treatment, and the aromas of sage and lavender sooth the soul from the moment you enter.

“I am enormously proud of the Agua Caliente team for being a Forbes triple winner for the second year in a row. We have been awarded Four Stars for our resort and our steakhouse, and Five Stars for our spa. It is an incredible achievement to be a triple winner, and now we have added a fifth star to our accolades. Only through passion and commitment can an achievement of this magnitude be possible, and our team members strive every day to create the ultimate guest experience at Agua Caliente,” said Saverio Scheri III, COO of Agua Caliente Casinos.

Casino Del Sol Wins Nine Best of Gaming Awards from Casino Player Magazine



Casino Del Sol racked up a total of nine wins in *Casino Player Magazine’s* 2020 Best of Gaming awards, the publication’s annual reader survey of the best casinos from coast to coast.

Casino Del Sol took top honors for the Native Southwest region in five categories, winning first place for Favorite Casino Resort to Vacation At, Best Golf Course, Best Table Game Tournaments, Best High Limit Room and Best Poker Tournaments. The casino also took second place for Best Spa and third place for Best Reel Slots, Best Live Poker and Best Bingo.

“The Best of Gaming awards are decided by the players themselves, which is what makes these awards so special,” said CEO of Casino Del Sol, Kimberly Van Amburg. “It is an honor to be recognized by our guests for our amenities like our spa and golf course, and our variety of gaming offerings and tournaments.”

Casino Player’s Best of Gaming awards are a celebration of the industry’s finest, with votes cast by casino-goers for gaming properties across the country.

Angel of the Winds Casino Resort is a 100 Best Companies To Work For Winner

Angel of the Winds Casino Resort has been named one of the 100 Best Companies to Work For by *Seattle Business Magazine*, even making it into the top five best companies.

Companies are ranked in order as determined by a vote of employees. Based on voting, Angel of the Winds Casino Resort won the fifth spot in the Large Companies category.

At Angel of the Winds Casino Resort, 650-plus team members embody the WEACTION (Welcoming, Engaged, Accountable, Customer Experience, Team) core values, and these core values are what give Angel of the Winds Casino Resort an identity and an edge over the competition. Team members also bring energy, excitement, and

dedication to guests and the company, helping to create the “world’s friendliest” casino.

“Angel of the Winds Casino Resort puts its employees first knowing that it will benefit from it in the long run. The culture is awesome and feels like you belong to a family. When Angel of the Winds Casino Resort does well, it reinvests in its employees,” said one team member.

Osage Casinos Wins 11 Awards From *Casino Player Magazine*

Osage Casinos received national recognition this month with 11 separate awards from *Casino Player Magazine*. The casino and hotel chain boasts 7 locations across Osage County and was honored by the entertainment magazine’s readership with titles ranging from Best Dealers to Best VIP services.

“We work hard to deliver top-notch gaming and entertainment to our guests, and it’s an honor to be recognized by *Casino Player Magazine*,” said Byron Bighorse, CEO of Osage Casinos. “This is an industry that demands the best. I commend our employees for continuing to make customer service a top priority followed by providing unique entertainment opportunities to each guest. In fact, we have some very exciting news that will come out later this year.”

The Best of Gaming awards are a voter-driven initiative where readers of the magazine elect their favorite casinos on categories from Best Overall Gambling Resort to Best Slots. The votes continue to shape the gaming industry.

The following are the awards Osage Casinos received: First Place Wins – Best Comps; Best Dealers; Best Video Slots; Best Blackjack; and Casino Where You Feel Luckiest. Second Place Wins – Best Players Club; Best VIP Services; Best Hosts; and Best Table Games. Third Place Wins – Best Promotions and Best Slot Tournaments.

“We want to thank all of our loyal customers as well as *Casino Player Magazine* for the recognition,” said Bighorse.

Ilani Wins Top Regional Awards for Business, Design

Ilani, the region’s premier gaming, dining, entertainment and meeting destination, has been awarded for its ongoing business contributions to the region as well as its design sensibilities. The Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce recently named Ilani its Large Business of the Year, recognizing Ilani’s importance to not only driving economic activity, but providing critical supports to service organizations during a challenging public health situation. Additionally, Vancouver Business Journal’s annual Top Projects special edition, which features each year’s most outstanding construction projects, designated Ilani’s new parking garage as the Top Commercial Project for 2020.

“We are honored to accept the Greater Vancouver

Chamber of Commerce’s award for Large Business of the Year,” said Kara Fox-LaRose, President and General Manager of Ilani. “This achievement, coming on the heels of the Vancouver Business Journal’s recognition of our new parking garage as the Top Commercial Project, truly reinforces that we are part of a special community that values the impact that Ilani has had – and will continue to have – on the Southwest Washington community. We are privileged to have dedicated team members working alongside us as well as strong community and commercial partners that are integral to our success. We look forward to continuing our investment in the region and being part of its growth. We will remain resilient with our efforts to support and serve the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, our team and our community.”

Cowlitz Indian Tribe Chairman Philip Harju said, “On behalf of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, we would like to congratulate Ilani for these two awards, as well as the more than 100 other awards Ilani has received since opening. We are grateful to the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and the Vancouver Business Journal for their continued recognition of Ilani’s accomplishments. We believe that our new parking garage expansion will pave the way for future growth in Southwest Washington, enabling Ilani to grow and provide additional jobs as well as support to local communities and businesses.”

GLI Authorized to Test and Certify iGaming and Mobile Sports Betting in Michigan

Gaming Laboratories International (GLI) has become the first independent test lab authorized by the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) to test and certify iGaming and mobile sports betting in Michigan.

Additionally, the MGCB has referenced the GLI standards “GLI-19 Interactive Gaming Systems” and “GLI-33 Event Wagering Systems” within their regulations, joining jurisdictions worldwide that have adopted the two standards. These, and all of GLI’s globally accepted standards, are available at gaminglabs.com/gli-standards.

“We are honored that the Michigan Gaming Control Board has approved GLI to test and certify iGaming and mobile sports betting,” said Peter Wolff, Director of Global Technical Compliance. “We have been helping regulators and suppliers navigate the future of iGaming and mobile sports betting for decades, and we are excited to put our worldwide experience to work for Michigan.”

GLI has been working in the iGaming and Sports Betting space for more than 30 years, and GLI is the only lab that is working with all regulated jurisdictions worldwide – both existing and emerging. That means GLI is best prepared to help regulators, suppliers, and operators navigate their way forward and guide them in ways no one else can. ♣