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13th National Tourism Award Winners

Belize City, Belize – August 2, 2015 – The Belize Tourism Board held its 13th National Tourism Awards on Saturday, August 1st in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye.

The event had a grand turn out with guest converging from all corners of the country for this gala event. Distinguished guests included the Prime Minister, Honorable Dean Barrow, Ambassador of Taiwan, H.E. Benjamin Ho, and Minister of Tourism, Culture, & Civil Aviation Honorable Manuel Heredia Jr. among others.

The event began with a cocktail reception, following seating of guests to commence the festivities. Nominees were all well represented and showed up in full force anticipating the results of the judging process.

This year, the list of categories had increased to 11 with a total of 57 nominations. The winners are as follows:

1. Hotel of the Year-
 - Gaia River Lodge
2. Small Hotel of the Year-
 - Table Rock Lodge
3. Guesthouse of the Year (NEW)-
 - Hickatee Cottages
4. Tour Operator of the Year-
 - Ian Anderson's Cave Branch Jungle Lodge and Adventure Co
5. Cruise Tour Operator of the Year (NEW)-
 - Calypso train tours
6. Tour Guide of the Year-
 - Desmond Ramirez (Belcampo Lodge)
7. Cruise Tour Guide of the Year (NEW)-

- Axel Chavin (Day Light & Dark night Cave Adventure)
- 8. Frontline Person of the Year
 - Roberto Guerra (La Beliza Belize Island Resort)
- 9. Restaurant of the Year
 - Guava Limb Café (The Lodge at Chaa Creek)
- 10. Major Festivals and Events
 - San Pedro Lobster fest
- 11. Hospitality Award
 - San Ignacio Resort Hotel

Special recognition awards were also presented to individuals that have been influential in the tourism industry and have set the bar through dedication and hard work.

Minister's Award

Mrs. Mariam Roberson (San Ignacio Hotel)

Mrs. Celi McCorkle Award (Formerly Lifetime Achievement Award)

The late Mr. Gerald "Jerry" McDermott

A special recognition was also presented to Mrs.Celi McCorkle herself to mark the milestone of 50 years of tourism in San Pedro and her role in being one of the pioneers on the island.

The Belize Tourism Board would like to congratulate all winners and thank everyone that came out to show their support for this memorable event.

Please view pictures of each of our winners:

- <http://on.fb.me/1fwdJk>

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About the Belize Tourism Board

The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) is a statutory body within the Belize Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation, and it is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation. The BTB works in conjunction with members of the private sector - including the Belize Hotel Association, Belize Tourism Industry Association and Belize National Tour Operators Association – and is dedicated to building tourism in the most economically and environmentally sustainable manner. As a part of its responsibilities, the BTB promotes Belize as a premier tourism destination to both in-country and international consumers. Among its outreach to the international travel market, the BTB markets the country's unique attractions to travellers, members of the travel trade industry and media outlets in key markets.

The BTB is also dedicated to developing and implementing tourism programs that will help strengthen and grow the Belizean tourism industry; promote good destination stewardship; and instil high quality standards for accommodations and travel experiences. For more information on the BTB and its services, visit www.travelbelize.org.

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