

Tourism Stars Shine

Article: iAfrica.com
Fri, 28 Nov 2003 00:00

The Cape tourism industry paid tribute to their star performers on Thursday night when those who offered top-class service, excellent quality and actively encouraged community participation were rewarded for their achievements. Six industry players walked off with the coveted awards at the third annual Cape Tourism Awards ceremony, which was held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

Criteria for the awards included contribution to transformation in the industry, community empowerment, growth of tourism to the area as a result of the business, service excellence and the quality of the product. The judges, all leading tourism role-players, were hard-pressed to select a winner in each category from the wide array of entrants, but ultimately chose them for the way in which they combined economic viability and tourism growth with community upliftment and transformation.

"All those who entered these awards embody the awards criteria," said Mr Basil Cupido, Chairman of the Western Cape Tourism Board (WCTB). "They are a marvellous example for the Cape tourism industry, and indeed the rest of the country."

Western Cape Minister of Tourism and Gambling, Ms Joyce Witbooi, praised the winners for their outstanding contribution to the promotion of tourism, both within the country and internationally. "Especially commendable," she said, "is that each of these winners did their utmost to include as many local community members in their initiatives as possible, thus working towards making the industry more accessible to a broader segment of the population than it was previously and assisting to uplift the communities in which they work."

And the winners are:

Chairman's Award

Winner: Penny Jones, producer of the ICC Cricket World Cup Opening Ceremony

Emerging Tourism Entrepreneur

Winner: Jan Harmsgat Country House and The Gaol Coffee Shop in Swellendam

Tourism Event

Winner: North Sea Jazz Festival

Tourism Information Bureau

Winner: Mossel Bay Tourism Bureau

Conventions Venue/Organiser

Winner: Cape Town International Convention Centre

Tourist Guide

Winner: Faizal Gangat