



CATERING AWARDS

Terms & Conditions of Entry

Restaurant & Catering Industry Association of Australia Incorporated trading as Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) owns and operates the Restaurant & Catering Hostplus Awards for Excellence.

1. AWARDS ELIGIBILITY

- Entries and payments must be submitted online via the R&CA awards website www.rca.asn.au
- Members and non-members of R&CA are eligible to enter the Catering Awards.
- Businesses will only be classified as entered into the awards program once payment has been processed.
- Entrants must have an operational business at the time of the announcement of the awards in order to be eligible for recognition as a finalist or winner.
- Member businesses must be a financial member of R&CA when nominating and at the time of the awards presentation to be eligible to participate in the Awards at the member rate, otherwise the non-member rate will apply.
- Entries will only be accepted if they fit the chosen category definition.

2. CATEGORIES

- Definitions of each catering category are included in the nomination booklet on the R&CA awards website www.rca.asn.au
- Caterers can enter as many categories as they wish as long as the entrant fits the chosen category definition and provides the event options or site details for judging.
- Categories will be split into the master category and sub-categories only if there are sufficient entrants. Not all catering categories listed will be run in all states/regions. Categories will be determined dependent on the number of entries.
- States/regions may be merged if insufficient entries (i.e. North Queensland/Northern Territory with South East Queensland, Regional NSW with Sydney and Victoria with Tasmania).
- The Awards Administrator and the National Chair of Judges reserves the right to refuse entries for any particular category if in their opinion, the entry is inappropriate for the category concerned.
- R&CA reserves the right for the final decisions in relation to categories and sub-categories. This will be communicated to entrants.

3. SINGLE ENTRANT CATEGORIES

- Where a category has one entrant, the entrant will be merged with the master category.
- Where a category has one entrant and the entrant does not fit into an alternate category, the entrant is already entered in the alternate category or the category cannot be merged into another region/state (i.e. Sydney with Regional NSW), the single entrant will be given the option to withdraw from the category and receive a full refund.
- If the single entrant fails to meet the appropriate standard, then no finalist will be announced. If the entrant meets the appropriate standard, the entrant will be awarded an Honourable Mention.

4. FINALISTS AND WINNERS

- Finalists will be notified via email and listed on the R&CA awards website page.
- Finalists are invited to attend their state awards gala dinner for the announcement of the category winners and the major award winner for Caterer of the Year.
- At no time will winners be disclosed prior to the awards events.
- There is no direct entry into the major award for Caterer of the Year. The winner of the major award is determined by the highest score obtained from the winners of the catering categories.
- National Awards - state/regional category winners will be automatically entered into the National Awards at no additional entry fee cost. Not all categories are presented at National level and some state/regional category winners may be merged into alternate categories.

5. ENTRY PERIOD

- The closing date for catering entries is the 31 March 2025.
- Dates for nominations may be varied by R&CA.
- Nominations for the R&CA Catering Awards will be open for entry for 7 weeks only. Late entries will only be accepted at the discretion of the Awards Administrator.

6. ENTRY FEES AND REFUNDS

- Financial catering members can enter upon payment of the member fee of \$379.00 per category entered.
- Non-member caterers can enter upon payment of the non-member fee of \$749.00 per category entered.
- Payments will only be accepted via credit card.
- Non-members can elect to become a member of R&CA to be eligible for the member entry fee of \$379.00 per catering category entered. Contact the Association on 1300 722 878 or via email membership@rca.asn.au
- Entrants withdrawing their entry prior to evaluation will receive a 50% refund of their entry fee.
- No refund will be issued once the entrant has been evaluated under the RACES judging system.
- Remote catering venues - entries for remote judging's are pending location and judge availability. R&CA may need to withdraw the entry if a judge is not available, if this is the case, a full refund will be processed.
- Additional travel expenses for judging may need to be charged to the entrant for establishments located in remote locations including transfers, airfares, accommodation and incidentals. R&CA will request approval from the entrant for any such additional expenses prior to judging.
- If a catering entrant does not provide four event options to be judged with at least 4 weeks' notice and needs to withdraw due to no judge being available, 50% of the entry fee will be refunded only.
- Payment must be received by R&CA prior to judging otherwise the entry will be withdrawn.

7. JUDGING PROCESS AND FEEDBACK

- Each entry in the Catering Awards is evaluated by trained independent judges under the National Restaurant And Catering Evaluation System (RACES).
- Each entrant is assessed on a strict set of judging criteria. The judging criteria is included in the nomination booklet on the R&CA awards website www.rca.asn.au
- Judging can begin any time after the entry has been received online and the entry fee has been processed.
- Judging must be completed by the closing date of judging as outlined in the AFE Nomination Booklet on the R&CA awards website www.rca.asn.au
- Event Caterer categories - caterers are judged on one event.
- Site & Industrial Caterer categories - caterers are judged on one site visit during food and beverage service.
- Catering member entrants will receive a judging analysis graph that provides the relative performance of their business against the average and winning result in the entered state category. Graphs will be distributed after the National Awards (except for single entrant categories).
- Single entrants in a category who are awarded an Honourable Mention will not receive a judging analysis graph as there are no further category entrants to compare the judging evaluation.
- Written judge feedback and scores will not be provided to entrants.
- Judges reserve the right to not present a category winner if the minimum standard has not been met.

8. JUDGES' DECISION IS FINAL

- The judges' decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into the outcome or judging process.