



MEDIA RELEASE

Virginia Green Announces 2016 Green Travel Star & Green Travel Leader Award Winners!

To be presented on February 17th at the 4th annual Virginia Green Travel Conference held at the UVA Darden School Conference Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RICHMOND, VA. -- The Virginia Green program will present the *Virginia Green Travel Star Award* to nineteen (19) Virginia tourism businesses for their outstanding commitments to green tourism practices at the 4th annual Virginia Green Travel Conference and Travel Star Awards Celebration. Twenty-two (22) additional tourism businesses will be recognized and receive the *Virginia Green Travel Leader Award* for their efforts to protect the environment and promote green tourism in Virginia.

The conference and awards will be held on February 16-17, 2017, at the Darden School of Business Conference Center at the University of Virginia. The conference will feature educational workshops, a green tourism business expo, and great speakers, including a keynote by Maxime Verstraete, VP of Corporate Sustainability for Hilton Worldwide. The conference culminates on February 17th with the Virginia Green Travel Star Awards Luncheon, hosted by the First Lady of Virginia Dorothy McAuliffe.

The Virginia Green program is run through a partnership between the Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Tourism Corporation, the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association, and the Virginia Green Travel Alliance. The program encourages green practices in Virginia's tourism industry, and it has nearly 1,700 partner organizations that have self-certified their green commitments and are continuously improving their environmental programs.

The 2016 Virginia Green Travel Star Award winners are:

- Green Attraction of the Year
- Green B&B/Inn of the Year
- Green Brewery of the Year
- Green Travel Chapter of the Year
- Green Conference Center of the Year
- Green Convention Center of the Year
- Green Event of the Year
- Green Hotel of the Year
- Green Restaurant of the Year
- Green Supplier of the Year
- Green Supporting Partner of the Year
- Green Transportation Partner of the Year
- Jungle Golf of Virginia Beach
- Peabody's 'Hip Little Stay'
- Wild Wolf Brewing Company
- Chesapeake Green
- UVA Inn at Darden Conference & Event Center
- Virginia Beach Convention Center
- Newport News One City Marathon
- Westin Reston Heights
- The Daily
- RepSource MidAtlantic
- Virginia Clean Cities
- Richmond Limousine

- Green Visitor Center of the Year
 - Green Winery of the Year
 - Green Winery of the Year
 - Most Innovative Green Projects
 - Most Innovative Green Projects
 - Most Innovative Green Projects
 - Industry Game Changer
- Hardesty-Higgins House
 - DuCard Vineyards
 - North Gate Vineyard
 - Executive Mansion Greening
 - Oystoberfest
 - Green Corner Consulting
 - Eric Walter, Blackbear Composting

The 2016 Virginia Green Travel Leader Award winners are:

- Adventure Kayak Tours
- Burnham Guides
- Green Leaf and Pebble Spa
- Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center Foundation
- Blue Mountain Brewery
- Coelacanth Brewing
- Port City Brewing Company
- The Damascus Brewery
- RVA Green Team Volunteer Network
- Claiborne House Bed and Breakfast
- Clay Corner Inn & Spa
- Doubletree by Hilton Virginia Beach
- Hilton Richmond Downtown
- Hostelling International Richmond
- Mountain Song Inn
- Oak Grove Plantation Bed & Breakfast
- Shadow Mountain Escape
- Caffe Amouri
- Capital Ale House
- Local Roots – A Farm to Table Restaurant
- The Monticello Wine Trail
- Birdsong Pleasure Garden

Marketing of Virginia Green partners is handled by the Virginia Tourism Corporation and is available at www.VirginiaGreenTravel.org. Information about the Virginia Green program is available on here or a www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen.aspx. Program outreach and partner educational opportunities are supported by the VirginiaGreenTravelAlliance.org.

Members of the news media are invited to attend the conference and awards luncheon on February 17th. If you would like to attend, or for more information, please contact Tom Griffin of the Virginia Green Travel Alliance at (804) 986-9119 or VirginiaGreen@Virginia.org.