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Best of **2019**

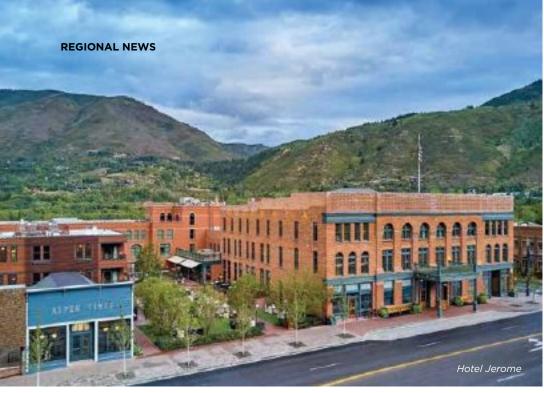
FEATURING 25 categories including

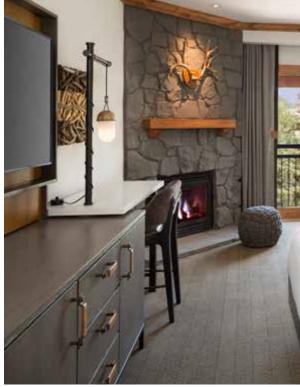
BEST EVENT DÉCOR/FLORIST, CATERER, MEETING/EVENT PLANNING COMPANY, SPECIALTY RENTALS, ENTERTAINMENT AGENCY & MORE (PAGE 33)

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT HONOREE

Bruce Horii

plus six industry veterans and rising stars join the COM+E Hall of Fame (42)





HOTELS & RESORTS»

Aspen's Hotel Jerome Showcases Improvements

Rowland+Broughton has wrapped up a twopart project at the Hotel Jerome in Aspen, Aspen Times Building next door and the courtyard in between. The courtyard area previously turned its back on the Aspen Times Building and now offers a 360-degree experience with seating and landscaping and improved connectivity to Main Street.

Designed as an extension of the courtyard, the new three-story Suites building features cedar siding stained to complement the red brick siding of the hotel. An informal hardwood screen on the façade functions as a vertical garden trellis meant to encourage the courtyard to "grow" up the building. The interior palette, millwork, finishes and furnishings take their cue from the historic property.

The Aspen Times Building underwent exterior and interior improvements and now features a speakeasy and entertainment venue Bad Harriet. A sliding barn door system was added to the original garden-facing wall to create a link to the outdoors. *aubergeresorts.com/hoteljerome*

Distinct Team-Building & Activities at Beaver Creek Hotel

Some of The Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch's most popular year-round group activities are the property's Art in Nature classes that combine getting creative, going outside and enjoying a beverage.

Colors & Cocktails » Enjoy soothing

sounds and a cocktail while decorating a colorful mandala to take home.

Painting & Pinot » Sip wine and paint a rendition of the gorgeous alpine scenery.

Whiskey & Woodburning » Using a woodburning tool, etch a personalized design into a wood cutting board or coaster set while enjoying a custom whiskey cocktail.

Lager & Leatherworking » Learn to stamp leather using a variety of lettering fonts and designs while savoring a flight of Colorado microbrews.

Gin & Jewelry » Design a bracelet, necklace or keychain while tickling your taste buds with a signature cocktail.

For a culinary angle, the Ultimate S'mores Showdown involves teams racing against the clock to create s'mores using only the ingredients in their baskets. Another option is a pizza-making class where groups hand toss dough, make tomato sauce and enjoy the finished product with the hotel's signature beer, Buck, Buck, Moose. ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/colorado/bachelor-gulch

Armstrong Hotel undergoing Upgrade

The historic Armstrong Hotel in Old Town Fort Collins closed for an extensive renovation on Jan. 1 and is expected to reopen by early spring 2019. The 1923 landmark will soon feature nine new guest rooms, an expanded lobby space, and a complete interior refresh that showcases a rich and bold design. The hotel's Ace Gillett's Lounge also is undergoing upgrades. thearmstronghotel.com

Two Hotels Celebrate Holidays with Gingerbread Displays

The Broadmoor wrapped up its centennial year with a large gingerbread display in the form of a 13.5-foot-tall replica of the original 1918 resort. A holiday tradition since 1964, the 2018 masterpiece was spearheaded by executive pastry chef Adam Thomas and required four months of planning and more than 10 master pastry chefs and two carpenters devoting 220-plus hours. The actual 1918 building took 13 months and 600 Italian artisans to complete. *broadmoor.com*

The impressive, 15-foot-high gingerbread display of Santa's workshop at Sheraton Denver Downtown was the result of a partnership with Johnson & Wales University Denver Campus and Craine Architecture. It's the third consecutive year that the hotel's culinary team, led by executive chef Scott Skomal, has held the Gingerbread Village Challenge. Seven teams of two culinary students participated to help create features for the life-size gingerbread house. Cash prizes were awarded. *marriott.com*

Entertainment & Venue Growth at The Stanley

In tandem with AEG Presents Rocky Mountains, The Stanley Hotel's entertainment lineup is expanding to an anticipated 60 nights a year. Over the past three years, the iconic Estes Park property began promoting its own lineup of concerts and events, attracting national touring acts. The Stanley also launched a four-day horror film festival, TED Talk-style speaker series and high-profile comedy events.