



PRESS RELEASE

2018 Best Bar None Awards honour downtown Toronto establishments for commitment to responsible alcohol sales and service

June 13, 2018

Toronto, ON – Real Sports Bar, Crocodile Rock and The Spoke Club have been recognized as the best licensed establishments when it comes to implementing the highest standards for the responsible sales and service of alcohol in Toronto’s downtown core.

The establishments were selected by a judging panel comprising Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada), the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), and Best Bar None (BBN) Ontario, an industry-led international accreditation and awards program that rewards excellence amongst responsible liquor sales licensees.

There are eight winners for this year’s Best Bar None Awards in Toronto:

Best Bar/Lounge: Real Sports Bar	Best Members Club: The Spoke Club
Best Restaurant: 360 Restaurant	Best Hotel: InterContinental Toronto Centre
Best Club: Crocodile Rock	Best Venue: Air Canada Centre
Best Pub: Firkin on Yonge	People’s Choice: Boulevard Club

A key component of the accreditation and awards process is an independent third party investigation to verify that an establishment is in compliance with its own processes and the appropriate provincial regulations as administered by the AGCO.

Both the winners and the newly accredited establishments receive a BBN decal and other marketing materials to promote their status as a BBN-accredited venue. The Best Bar None Ontario decal assures patrons an establishment has met the highest standards for responsible service of alcohol.

BBN Ontario partners include MADD Canada, the AGCO, the LCBO, King Spadina Residents Association, Toronto Entertainment District Business Improvement Area, Toronto Police Service and the City of Toronto.

Quotes

"These establishments have proven that they deserve to receive these inaugural awards for the high standards they have established. They all serve liquor responsibly and reduce the potential for alcohol-related issues. These makes them leaders in building a vibrant and safer city, more attractive to visit while developing positive relationships with industry partners, law enforcement and the community at large," **said Tony Elenis, the President and CEO of ORHMA (the Ontario Restaurant, Hotel and Motel Association).**

BEST BAR NONE Ontario
 Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association
 Suite 8-201, 2600 Skymark Avenue, Mississauga, ON L4W 5B2
 Telephone: 1-855-BBN-9500 or 1-855-226-9500 / Fax: 905-361-0288 or 1-888-359-5588
 Email: BBN@orhma.com / Website: www.BBNOntario.ca



“Together with our industry partners, we are working towards our goal of stopping impaired driving and keeping our roads safe. The Best Bar None Ontario program is a key component in this effort – it establishes a framework of operating standards for licensed establishments that keeps their customers and the public safe.” said **Andrew Murie, CEO of MADD Canada**

“The AGCO is proud to once again be involved in recognizing those businesses that uphold the highest standards for their patrons and staff, in the responsible sale and service of alcohol, and in maintaining important working relationships with the community and industry partners. The public can be assured that these accredited establishments maintain the greatest standards in their operations, in compliance with Best Bar None and the Liquor Licence Act and regulations.” said **Tom Mungham, Chief Operating Officer of the AGCO**

About Best Bar None

Best Bar None is an industry-led annual international accreditation and awards program for liquor sales licensees. The program originated in Manchester, U.K in 2003 and has been credited with increasing levels of public safety and reducing crime in downtown entertainment districts. The program also improves the economic viability of these districts and builds positive relationships between owners of licensed establishments and local community groups and police.

-30-

Media Contact:

Tony Elenis
President and CEO
Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association
905-361-0268 ext. 320
telenis@orhma.com