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INTERSTATE
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**INTERSTATE HOTELS & RESORTS
CROWNS WINNER OF THE ULTIMATE FOOD + BAR SUMMIT**

Among 14 chefs from across the U.S., Executive Chef Dane Blom named winner of Interstate's second annual F&B competition

ARLINGTON, Va. – August 16, 2019 – [Interstate Hotels & Resorts](#) – a global leader in third-party hotel and resort management – announces the winner of the Company's second annual *Ultimate Food + Bar Summit: Elevating the Craft through Training, Excellence and Recognition*. The competition is a platform for Interstate to develop its culinary talent, recognize excellence and provide chef-developed and tested recipes for use in Interstate's restaurants and banquets across its managed portfolio.

Interstate's food and beverage evolution is changing the culinary story, transforming hotel restaurants into destination eateries with as much popular appeal for locals as well as hotel guests. Participating in immersive educational experiences in an environment shaped to spark creativity, further their training and recognize the best, the ultimate showdown tested the chefs' skills to create a dish using mystery ingredients that can be replicated in a restaurant, bar or banquet environment.

"The Ultimate Food + Bar Summit enriches our evolution and commitment focusing on education, training and opportunity across all verticals to further develop our talent, ultimately improving our performance," said Elie Khoury, Interstate's executive vice president of operations resources. "This competition is key in recognizing and developing our culinary talent at Interstate, as well as providing a platform for our chefs from around the country to collaborate and learn from one another."

Executive Chef Dane Blom of [The Citizen Hotel](#) and Grange Restaurant & Bar in Sacramento was named the winner. Executive Chef Raymond Nicasio from The Westin

Bonaventure Hotel and Suites, Los Angeles placed second and Executive Chef Michael Ford from Streamsong Resort in Florida placed third.

“We are very proud of Chef Dane, whose creativity and passion for excellence inspires our culinary teams around the world,” said Fernando Salazar. “I am also honored to announce that the competition’s first and second place winners, Chef Dane and Chef Raymond, will be showcasing their talents globally by participating in world-renowned gastronomic experiences in Spain.”

The Ultimate Food + Bar Summit competition took place August 13 - 14, 2019 at the Kendall-Jackson Wine Estate & Gardens in Sonoma. The contestants were given three ingredients in advance of the competition, while the rest of the ingredients remained a surprise until the day of the showdown, at which time, chefs created their recipes that met competition guidelines. The competition was judged by Elie Khoury, celebrity chef Tracey Shepos Cenami of Kendall-Jackson Wine Estate & Gardens, along with other Interstate executives: Fernando Salazar, Senior Vice President of Food & Beverage; Bradley Moore, Vice President of Food & Beverage Operations; and Stephen Roach, Vice President of Food & Beverage–Europe.

A global leader in third-party hotel management, Interstate Hotels & Resorts’ depth of experience across all lodging segments and asset classes drives results in each of its managed hotels worldwide. For more information on Interstate Hotels & Resorts, visit www.InterstateHotels.com.

About Interstate Hotels & Resorts

Interstate Hotels & Resorts is a leading, global third-party hotel management company, operating branded full service, select service, luxury hotels, destination resorts, convention centers and lifestyle hotels. Currently, Interstate’s global portfolio represents 605 properties in 15 countries inclusive of a committed pipeline of hotels under construction or development around the world. The company’s experienced operators, industry-leading platforms and extensive management capabilities produce exceptional guest experiences and optimal returns for hotel owners and investors. For more information, please visit www.interstatehotels.com. Connect with Interstate Hotels & Resorts on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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