



• Tulalip Resort Casino



• Washington State Convention Center



• PJ Hummel & Company

could have written the Worst Case Scenario book series." As for service, she says, "we have a joke that if it's legal, we'll try our best to make it happen." Servers have valetted cars, lifted a wheelchair-bound pastor down a rocky path to perform a service and accommodated 12 different diet restrictions in one dinner.

Seattle, Washington
425.881.3250
www.draparandcompany.com

Conference Venue

THE WINNER IS:
Bell Harbor International Conference Center

RUNNERS UP: Hyatt Regency Seattle, Washington State Convention Center, Lynnwood Convention Center

"Creating satisfied customers is not what we want to do," says Shelley Tomberg, vice president of sales for Bell Harbor. "We want to create 'screaming evangelists'—fans and customers for life." The conference center can count Bill Gates in that group. When Microsoft hosted a conference at Bell Harbor during Seafair weekend, an unidentified backpack forced the evacuation of the entire venue. Bell Harbor's team gained permission to relocate the conference to an aircraft carrier docked alongside their building at Pier 66 as a temporary venue. In less than an hour, the entire 250-person conference was moved, and Gates delivered his address onboard with an American flag backdrop. Bell Harbor offers 100,000 square feet of space and complimentary high-speed internet access with bandwidth for hundreds of heavy users.

Seattle, Washington
206.441.6666
www.belharbor.com

Green Event Venue

THE WINNER IS:
Washington State Convention Center

RUNNERS UP: Hyatt at Olive B, Bell Harbor International Conference Center

The waste from an event at the 415,000-square-foot Washington State Convention Center (WSCC), the largest full-service event facility in Washington, is substantial—but so is the work that has been put into creating one of the greenest facilities in the United States. In addition to investments like \$975,000 for efficient lighting, the sustainability program focuses on the multiple-award-winning catering department, which serves grain-fed beef, free-range chicken and eggs and wine from in-state vineyards. All food scraps are composted, packaging for boxed lunches is biodegradable and cups and cutlery are made of bamboo.

Seattle, Washington
206.694.5000
www.wstcc.com

Hotel with Meeting & Event Space (less than 400 guest rooms)

THE WINNER IS:
Tulalip Resort Casino

RUNNERS UP: The Maxwell Hotel, Hotel Murano

"We made a decision before we even booked one group that we were going to offer additional value that you just couldn't find anywhere else, especially in brand name properties," says Tulalip Director of Sales Troy Longwith. The property offers state-of-the-art, ceiling-mounted projectors in meeting rooms, Wi-Fi and valet parking—all complimentary. That value is combined with a prime location, 30,000 square feet of meeting space (including the largest ballroom north of

Seattle), 370 huge guest rooms and award-winning restaurants.

Tulalip, Washington
866.746.7162
www.tulalipresort.com

Hotel with Meeting & Event Space (more than 400 guest rooms)

THE WINNER IS:
Sheraton Seattle

RUNNERS UP: Hyatt Regency Bellevue, The Westin Seattle

"I've worked at many hotels in my 22-year career, and what's unique about the Sheraton Seattle is the number of associates who have spent their entire career right here," says Director of Sales Carianne Smith. "Three of the six members of our convention services team have been here for 25 years." The hotel, which recently underwent a \$30-million-dollar expansion, gives every meeting planner they work with an anonymous survey, and Smith says she is most proud of responses like this: "We conduct events around the country and have never seen the quality of staff that can execute our event like the staff at the Sheraton Seattle. This team treats us like family and that genuine dedication shows through."

Seattle, Washington
800.525.3535
www.sheraton.com/seattle

Rental Service Provider

THE WINNER IS:
PJ Hummel & Company

RUNNERS UP: Pedersen's Rentals, Grand Event Rentals

"PJ Hummel & Company is a unique hybrid with both designer and production capabilities," says Larissa Crawford, director of business development. "We are not a prop house, but a design service." Hummel's collection of décor and rentals comprises a vast inventory of

one-of-a-kind pieces filling a 15,000-square-foot warehouse. The company doesn't scrimp on service, either. Recently, the team staged a grand opening where the timeline was unexpectedly moved up an hour. With the elevators not working, the staff carried more than 4,000 pounds of décor and hardware up three flights of stairs to ensure the original start time was met.

Seattle, Washington
253.272.6605
www.pjhummel.com

Resort

THE WINNER IS:
Tulalip Resort Casino

RUNNERS UP: Alderbrook Resort & Spa, The Resort at Port Ludlow

"The Tulalip Resort is one of the best kept secrets in the United States," says Shirley LaFollette, president of Interior Design International. "I hear from people who have stayed in five-star hotels, and say Tulalip is the best." Design may have much to do with that assessment—both physical design, which features an incredible collection of Coast Salish art created by Tulalip tribal artists—and operational design, as key aspects of the hotel's operation were already in place when the casino opened in 2003, eliminating the "growing pains" many new large resorts face.

Tulalip, Washington
866.746.7162
www.tulalipresort.com