

The Winners

Best Historic or Cultural Venue

GROUNDS FOR SCULPTURE

groundsforsculpture.org | 609.586.0616
Runners-up» The Brownstone, Newark Museum

Best Winery with Event Space

ALBA VINEYARD & WINERY

albavineyard.com | 908.995.7800
Runners-up» Laurita Winery, Unionville Vineyards

Best Restaurant with Private Dining Space

LIBERTY HOUSE

libertyhouserestaurant.com | 201.395.0300
Runners-up» Stone House at Stirling Ridge, Lambertville Station Restaurant and Inn

Best Meeting/Event Venue (No Hotel)

CRYSTAL PLAZA

crystalplaza.com | 973.992.8100
Runners-up» The Boathouse at Mercer Lake, One Atlantic

Best Event Décor Provider

FLOWERFUL EVENTS

flowerfulevents.com | 732.936.1234
Runners-up» The Charles Group, Inc., Laura Clare Design

Best Florist

FLOWERFUL EVENTS

flowerfulevents.com | 732.936.1234
Runners-up» Crest Florist, Highland Flowers & Gifts

Best Meeting/Event Planning Company

THE CHARLES GROUP, INC.

thecharlesgroup.com | 973.575.1444
Runners-up» Landmark Hospitality, Oh So Fabulous

Best Transportation Provider

WORLDGROUND

world-ground.com | 800.549.2283
Runners-up» AAA Worldwide Transportation, AAA Limousine

Landmark Hospitality. Crave Events Group, a division of Landmark Hospitality, manages Alba as the exclusive caterer; it is also this year's Best Caterer. Events are held outdoors in the vineyard, set amidst the rolling hills of Warren County.

Liberty House serves up views of Manhattan on a silver platter, winning Best Restaurant with Private Dining Space. Set right on the Hudson River in Jersey City, this upscale restaurant's setting is hard to beat and "with unmatched panoramic views, Liberty House combines metro chic with understated elegance, creating the perfect dining experience," says John Williams of Landmark Hospitality, which owns the restaurant. The patio, complete with fire pits and a life-size chess set, is the place to be on a sunny day or at sunset.

When times call for impressing event attendees, turn to **Crystal Plaza**, selected as the Best Meeting/Event Venue (No Hotel). Designed by renowned architect Stanford White at the turn of the century, the mansion has five distinct spaces ideal for corporate meetings and events. The look and feel is classic traditional with gleaming crystal chandeliers and satin-draped windows, and the gardens are a particular favorite. The venue only holds one event at a time and is known for being at the forefront of special event catering trends.

Services

You like them. You *really* like them. **Flowerful Events** took home two top marks for Best Event Décor Provider and Best Florist. President and Master Designer Kristina Valdmaa began with a small retail store and really, well, bloomed. From event production with lighting and drapery to a complete rental department to an in-house fabrication and design studio, Flowerful Events is the total package. "We are different from other places because clients can get everything from one place with us. We do mock-ups and it's easy to see how it will all come together," says Valdmaa, who came to the United States from Estonia and began her career by creating flo-

ral displays for friends' parties.

The award for the Best Meeting/Event Planning Company goes to **The Charles Group, Inc.** This corporate meeting and event management company was founded in 1987. Its mission? "To extend clients' brands and produce memorable experiences that exceed expectations," says Susan Dunkelman, managing partner along with Carol Davis-Grossman. The Charles Group works with companies in a variety of industries, including health care and insurance, and handles everything from large corporate meetings and conferences to workshops. Dunkelman's favorite part of planning is the vision. "I enjoy looking at raw spaces and making them come to life," she says. Davis-Grossman relishes the relationships with her clients, noting, "We have a long-term relationship with many clients and I'm really proud of that. Our goal is to let our clients do what they need to do and rely on us for the rest."

WorldGround wins for Best Transportation Provider. "We cater to road warriors with a high level of service," explains Colene Smith, senior vice president of sales and client relations. A recent merger with Kismet Limousine means that WorldGround now offers full-sized buses in addition to the sedans and SUVs they've always provided for corporate clients. WorldGround's reputation for pricing transparency and service is what makes the company a winner. "We work with planners to stay on budget and what we quote is what you're charged. There are no hidden costs. We believe in an honest way of doing business," says Smith. Headquartered in Teaneck, most of WorldGround's business is in the tri-state, but global service is available through an affiliate network.

Meet AC and **Central Jersey Convention & Visitors Bureau** tied for the popular vote in the Best CVB in Town/Area with More than 25,000 Population category.

Founded in 2014 as the marketing, sales, and destination management arm, Meet AC has shattered records since the very beginning. "They said it would take us three years to book 250,000 rooms, but we did it in 18 months,"