

CRAZIES

CONNECTICUT RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION AWARDS

CRAZIES 2025 Nomination Toolkit

CRAZIES season is here! The 7th annual gala returns to Foxwoods Resort Casino on December 8th to recognize exceptional talent and achievement in the Connecticut hospitality industry.

The first step in the process is public nominations. The general public can submit entries online via survey for their favorite restaurant, chef, caterer, server, bartender, and more. **Public nominations open Wednesday, August 13th, and close midnight, Sunday, September 21st, 2025.**

While the Connecticut Restaurant Association team and Board of Directors help oversee the awards process, we do not participate in the voting for or selection of winners or finalists. View the CRAZIES Awards selection process **here**.

Logos

The 2025 CRAZIES logo can be used in black, white and gold. Feel free to use these logos on content created to promote for the 2025 nomination period. Download logos **here**.

Link to Nominate

Nominations can be submitted **here**.

Full URL: www.surveymonkey.com/r/CRAZIES2025Nominations

Website

craziesawards.com

Social Media Handles

Instagram: [@craziesawards](https://www.instagram.com/craziesawards)

Facebook: [@craziesawards](https://www.facebook.com/craziesawards)

Hashtags

#CRAZIES #CRAZIES2025 #CRAZIESAwards

Note

CRAZIES must be spelt in all caps. Incorrect variations: CRAzies, Crazies, crazies

Questions?

Contact Katie Gerber at gerber@ctrestaurant.org.

CRAZIES

CONNECTICUT RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Nomination Best Practices

Ask for Support

Your customers are your biggest supporters! Display the QR code to vote in your restaurant to encourage nominations.

Go further by reaching out to your local community, including:

- Local chamber
- Town leadership
- Neighboring businesses

Spotlight Your People

Do you have a Bartender or Server who is beyond incredible? Are they known, respected, and recognized for their top-notch hospitality, leadership, knowledge, and skill? Do you have a best-in-class Chef that is driving innovation? Or an incredibly creative Pastry Chef? Nominate them!

Share Your Story

There's never been a more important time to share your story - not only to stand out from your competitors, but to build loyalty and connection with your customers. Is it about the food? Is it your people? Do you have a personal mission? Is there something you do better than anyone else? CRAZIES season is a great time to amp up your marketing! Check out this [inspiration](#) from DORO Restaurant Group.

It's More Than The Awards

The CRAZIES are about bringing our industry together in celebration. The CRAZIES demonstrates our strength and unity as an industry, amplified by a massive platform. Stay focused on the bigger picture - that's where our strength is.

Stay Involved

One of the most underutilized tools for success is to be actively involved with the Connecticut restaurant community - not just during the CRAZIES nominations period, but year-round. Though being a member of the Connecticut Restaurant Association is not a requirement to be nominated or to win, it's the smartest way to tap into an established and supportive network. Plus, you'll benefit from the advocacy, support and resources that CRA members receive year-round. If you're not a member, you're missing out. Period.

CRAZIES

CONNECTICUT RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION AWARDS

FAQs

Who can submit nominations and when do nominations open?

Anyone can submit nominations during the nominations time-period, - August 13th to September 19th. Follow the Connecticut Restaurant Association and CRAZIES Awards for announcements and notifications.

Who selects the nominees?

The Connecticut Restaurant Association does not select nominees, finalists, or award winners. Rather, the selection process is based on voting by the public and a nominating panel. Read more about the process [here](#).

How can I promote my restaurant, chef, or staff?

With so much deserving talent across Connecticut, we love seeing the excitement and buzz from restaurants during our nominations period! Even if you don't get a nominations nod, this is a great time to bring visibility to your restaurant and team. You can promote yourself on social media, on your website, through your email distribution, or with signage and marketing materials in your restaurant.

Can I use the CRAZIES logo in my promotional campaign?

Yes! **Click [here](#)** to access CRAZIES logos for your marketing campaign.

Do I need to be a CRA member to be nominated?

No! Our nominations selection process is based on public voting and input from our nominating panel. Membership status is not a factor in the selection process. However, if your restaurant or food service business is not a CRA member, you are absolutely missing out on a wide range of benefits, resources, and support. Click [here](#) to learn more.

How can I increase my chances of receiving a nomination?

Continue doing what you love every day! Your passion for your craft, your commitment to your team, your focus on fresh, local ingredients – these are all things that shine through in your work and make a difference for your business every day.