

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**THE CARIBBEAN HOTEL & TOURISM ASSOCIATION (CHTA) CELEBRATES
PRESIDENT SANOVNIK DESTANG FOR RECEIVING
AAHOA/NABHOOD OUTSTANDING HOTELIER AWARD
AT 29TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HOTEL OWNERSHIP SUMMIT**



FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (June 25, 2025) – The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) is proud to announce that Sanovnik Destang, Executive Director & Shareholder of Bay Gardens Resorts in Saint Lucia and current President of CHTA, will be honored with the prestigious AAHOA/NABHOOD Outstanding Hotelier Award. This marks the first time a Caribbean hotelier will receive the award.

This distinguished honor, jointly presented by the Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA) and the National Association of Black Hotel Owners, Operators & Developers (NABHOOD), recognizes hoteliers who exemplify exceptional leadership, innovation, and a commitment to creating opportunities within the hospitality industry. Recipients demonstrate vision, dedication, and the ability to elevate hotel performance and community impact. The award will be presented during the Hilton Awards Luncheon on Thursday, July 23, as part of the 29th Annual International African American Hotel Ownership & Investment Summit & Trade Show, held at the Hyatt Regency Miami, Florida.

Destang, a Chartered Accountant and Chartered Financial Analyst has been a driving force behind the growth and success of Bay Gardens Resorts, helping to transform it into one of the premier hospitality brands in the Caribbean. His leadership and forward-thinking approach were further affirmed through his appointment as CHTA President in 2024, where he continues to advocate for regional cooperation and innovation across the tourism sector.

His commitment to the Caribbean hospitality landscape began in 2012, and in his new role, he is focusing on empowering people, embracing technology, and strengthening linkages with other sectors of the economy. The Bay Gardens Resort first opened its doors in 1995 by his mother, Joyce Destang, O.B.E., at the start of the tourism boom for Saint Lucia. Today, the company has expanded to include four unique hotel destinations with a fifth under construction

and schedule to open Winter 2026. At the head of the family business is Sanovnik, the second-generation hotelier.

“Thank you all once again for putting your faith in me and my generation,” said Destang. “Being CHTA’s first president born in the 1980s, I fully understand the responsibility ahead of me. I’m ready to lead, but more importantly, I’m ready to serve. My focus areas will be people, technology, and building stronger connections across our economies and communities.”

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About Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA)

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) is the Caribbean’s leading association representing the interests of national hotel and tourism associations. For more than 60 years, CHTA has been the backbone of the Caribbean hospitality industry. Working with some 1,000 hotel and allied members, and 32 National Hotel Associations, CHTA is shaping the Caribbean’s future and helping members to grow their businesses. Whether helping to navigate critical issues in sales and marketing, sustainability, legislative issues, emerging technologies, climate change, data and intelligence or, looking for avenues and ideas to better market and manage businesses, CHTA is helping members on issues which matter most. To learn more about CHTA and its initiatives, visit www.caribbeanhotelandtourism.com.

About NABHOOD

The National Association of Black Hotel Owners, Operators & Developers is dedicated to increasing the number of African Americans developing, owning, operating and managing hotels, while also increasing vendor opportunities and executive-level employment. For more information visit www.nabhood.net.

About AAHOA

The Asian American Hotel Owners Association is the largest hotel owner’s association in the world, dedicated to advancing and protecting the business interests of hotel owners through advocacy, education and community engagement.

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