



Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor

# NEWS

## Office of the Governor

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, State House, Providence, RI 02903  
[www.governor.ri.gov](http://www.governor.ri.gov)

### **Rhode Island to Become First U.S. State to Receive International Award for Recognition as a World-Class Destination and Excellence in Tourism**

It is with great pride and satisfaction that we invite you to witness the presentation of the “International Star Diamond Award” to the State of Rhode Island on **Thursday, January 15, 2009**. Rhode Island will be the first U.S. state to receive the Award, which represents the highest and most prestigious form of achievement in the tourism and hospitality industry, and only the tenth destination worldwide. While the honor is typically awarded to five-star resorts and hotels, spas, restaurants, airlines and cruise lines, exceptional destinations are also recognized. Previous destination winners include Baden-Baden, Germany; Japan; New York City; Lucerne, Switzerland; and Turks & Caicos among others.

Governor Donald L. Carcieri will join State Tourism Director Mark Brodeur to accept the Award on behalf of the State’s tourism industry. More than 200 state tourism and hospitality professionals are expected to witness the ceremony, with the Award presented by Mr. Joseph Cinque, president of the [American Academy of Hospitality Sciences](http://www.aahs.org). The event will be held in the State House Rotunda. Students of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School will kickoff the celebration with a performance at 3:30 p.m. followed by a brief speaking program and award presentation at 4 p.m. A reception featuring an assortment of wines and hors d’oeuvres – compliments of local award-winning wineries and restaurants – will conclude the event, which is free and open to the public.

To attend, please RSVP Laurie Maw of the Rhode Island Tourism Division at 278-9135 or [lmaw@riedc.com](mailto:lmaw@riedc.com) by **Tuesday, January 13**.