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11:51 am, May 6, 2010

Southeast Michigan hotels, restaurants win AAA Four Diamond Awards

By [Daniel Duggan](#)

The **MotorCity Hotel Casino** has caught up with its crosstown competitor **MGM Grand Detroit** in picking up a coveted Four Diamond Award rating for its hotel operation.

Heathrow, Fla.-based **AAA** announced its hospitality awards during an event on Mackinac Island today.

MotorCity's award was the only newcomer to the list of four diamond awards, joining the casino's restaurant, **Iridescence** on the list of recipients.

MGM earned awards for its 400-room hotel and the **Saltwater** restaurant last year and kept the awards this year.

In addition, the **1913 Room** inside the **Amway Grand Plaza Hotel** in Grand Rapids remains the only property to win the Five Diamond Award — the highest possible — in the state of Michigan.

On the list were nine area hotels and eight area restaurants.

The **Atheneum Suite Hotel** in Detroit was snubbed by AAA, losing its Four Diamond award after a 16-year run.

The **Townsend Hotel**, Birmingham, got the award for the 22nd consecutive year. The **Dearborn Inn**, Dearborn, the **Royal Park Hotel**, Rochester, and two **Westin** hotels in Southfield and Romulus also made the list.

Winning the award was the **Ritz-Carlton** and the **Hyatt Regency** both in Dearborn. The Ritz-Carlton is in the process of being sold and will no longer be a Ritz-Carlton and the Hyatt is for-sale after the owner defaulted on its mortgage.

Restaurants receiving Four Diamond Awards were: **The Lark** in West Bloomfield Township, **Iridescence** in Detroit, **Rugby Grille** in Birmingham, **The Grille** at the Ritz-Carlton, **Cafe Cortina** in Farmington Hills, **The Earle Uptown** in Ann Arbor and **Saltwater** in Detroit.

The only restaurant to win the award last year and not this year is **Tribute** in Farmington Hills, which closed.

The awards are given after multiple visits are made to look at hundreds of items, such as service, cleanliness and amenities.

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