

Real Estate
Company
of the Year

Awarded
for playing
aggressively with
branding and
advertising and
creating a niche
in real time

Palacio entered the Goan market in 2006, in order to give their clients an opportunity to own a piece of Goan paradise. When the Palacio Group first set foot in Goa, one thing was certain; their projects would be a unique blend of the famous Goan-Portuguese architecture infused with modern amenities and technology, a trait visible in all their projects.

Their maiden project, Casa Philomena, a tastefully designed resort styled complex with boutique apartments was launched in the heart of the tourist belt, Calangute and was an instant sell out. This inspired Palacio to launch their next big project. Glenwood Gardens came at a time when numerous projects were mushrooming around the coastal belt. Palacio raced against the tide and moved to a more conservative but rapidly developing location in the picturesque village of Goa Velha. This project symbolized the company's commitment to sustainable and green development in Goa. Palacio has on offer residential apartments, villas, plots, and commercial spaces for sale.

The real estate company also has a hospitality division 'Aquarela' that looks into the leasing of service apartments at Casa Philomena. What sets Palacio apart from its peers is the fact that it constantly challenges its own benchmarks! Having a strong focus on development and progress which is in harmony with the surroundings and local culture, and feel is on top of its mind, not to mention appreciating the value of client investments by creating landmarks.



With rich experience developing projects in and around Mumbai and having earned a name for creating spectacular residential and hospitality projects with innovative architectural designs,



COVER STORY

Night of the Business Stars

The second edition of Goa's only business awards was celebrated in style and grandeur with 33 awardees taking a bow

After its spectacularly successful debut last year, the much awaited Business Goa Awards for Corporate Excellence were back, and this year, bigger and better. So, while the sun set into the Arabian sea on 7th March, 33 businessmen, businesswomen and businesses took away a personalized award plaque amidst thundering applause and cheering from the Who's Who of the Goan business fraternity. Held at the popular Tito's Courtyard in Baga, the event witnessed a spectacular turnout from friends, well-wishers and industry biggies. The Chief Guest for this stunning evening was Mumbai based, Ashok Advani, founder-publisher of Business India, the country's first and leading business magazine.

The evening started off with an introductory speech by founder-editor, Harshvardhan Bhatkuly, about the idea behind hosting the Business Goa Awards for Corporate Excellence. In 2009, Savoir Faire Media created a milestone when they launched Goa's first Business Magazine; now over two years, the brand has created yet another milestone with the Business Goa Awards for Corporate Excellence.

Entrepreneurs are the backbone of any vibrant economy. This is especially relevant to Goa, which has in the past few years, seen a slew of individuals make their foray into the business world via their exciting and innovative business ideas. While earlier, tourism and mining were the chief drivers of the economy, today, thanks to the daring and entrepreneurial spirit of an increasing number of Goans, as well as neo-settlers who have made Goa their home, a range of businesses including, realty, health, media, lifestyle, retail, tourism and education have become great success stories. So when there are glittering awards ceremonies honouring the likes of actors, artists, musicians, etc, it was only a matter of time before these amazing entrepreneurs, too, were appreciated for all their hard work and efforts and after its debut grand success last year, the Business Goa Awards for Corporate Excellence were back for the second year in a row. Endorsing this opinion were stalwarts from the industry who echoed these sentiments and congratulated Business Goa for initiating such awards and looked forward to them every year.

This year's edition of the Awards, saw an introduction of a slew of new categories including those stories of success against all odds, traditional craftsmanship and works in the domain of education and healthcare. The illustrious list of awardees for 2013 included The HQ for the Best Dining Experience, Xavier Furtado of Fisherman's Wharf for Preserving Goan Culinary Culture, Yellow Mehra's Fiesta for Best International Cuisine, The Grand Hyatt Goa for Best International Hotel, Varun Albuquerque of Club Tito's at Radisson Blu for Innovative Tourism Concept, Cidade de Goa for Exemplary Contribution to Hospitality, Palacio as the Real Estate Company of the Year, Property Management Group walked away with the award for Real Estate Consultancy of the Year while Galaxy Healthcare and Centaur Pharma took away the awards for Healthcare Company of the Year and Pharmaceutical Company of the Year, respectively. Prabhakar Bhide of Rajhauns Vitaran walked away with the award for Publisher of the Year and The Bicholim Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. was awarded for being the Goan Bank of the Year. Honouring businessmen for making a mark outside the State, Sushant Tari's The Production Terminus was awarded as the Services Company of the Year, while Desmond Nazareth of Desmondji was awarded for Business Innovation. In the automobile category, Chowgule Industries Pvt. Ltd was awarded Best Auto Company of the Year (four wheelers) and Sitara Motors took away the award in the two wheelers category. The award for the Luxury Brand of the Year was grabbed by Manek Gem Art International, while Real Drinks Pvt. Ltd took home the prestigious award for the Goan Brand of the Year. This year, Business Goa awarded traditional businesses, and this saw Vijaydutt Lotlikar of Kalpavrukshakala for the Traditional Goan Business award. Applauding the efforts of the Goa IT Incubation Centre in creating an IT hub in Goa, the Centre took home the award for being a Catalyst of Entrepreneurial Change. Sesa Goa was awarded for its Contribution to CSR and the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry was lauded for being the Business Institution of the Year. For not letting a physical disability get in his way of creating his business success story, Victor Fernandes was awarded in the category of Success Against all Odds. Peter F.X D'Lima was awarded for his Notable Contributions to Education. The award for the Real Estate Personality of the Year went to Peter Vaz of Models Constructions and the Young Turk Award went to Sahil Adwalpalkar. For the Most Promising Business Woman, Neomi Barnetto of Neomi's took home the award and the Most Promising Business Man award was given to Nitin Desai of Exflor. The award for Professional of the Year was conferred on Advocate General of Goa, Atmaram N.S Nadkarni, and for Exemplary Contribution to Goan Industry, Dr. J.C Almeida was awarded. For turning around the Navhind Times, Pallavi Dempe was awarded Business Woman of the Year, while Anil Couto was awarded Business Man of the Year for being a Goan entrepreneur in the real sense of the term. For taking collective risks yet staying focused for generations, Margao-based Nanu Enterprises were awarded the Business Group of the Year.

Business Goa believes that every business man and woman who has the guts to go out and pursue his or her dream to fulfillment, no matter how big or small their business may be, is a winner all the way. These awards are a token of appreciation and encouragement for their efforts and congratulating them for their success.



Vinay Bhasin
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