



## Chestnut Wins Best Accommodation Operator at The Publican Awards 2026



**Chestnut is proud to announce it has been awarded Best Accommodation Operator at The Publican Awards 2026 - a recognition that reflects the strength of its rooms business and the importance of accommodation in the sector.**

What began as a pub-led business has evolved into a collection of places where food, drink and stays work together. Today, Chestnut operates over 400 bedrooms with an occupancy average of 70%.

Accommodation has become central to the way the business performs and grows. With 46% of guests travelling from across the UK, bedrooms are not simply an

extension of the offer, but a driver of destination appeal - bringing guests further, encouraging longer stays and encouraging overall spend.

This award is, above all, a recognition of the teams behind the scenes who make that experience possible every day. *"Every room is prepared, checked, and cared for by people who take real pride in what they do. Guests might not always see that work, but they feel it - in how comfortable, easy, and considered their stay is. That's what keeps people coming back."* Said Genevieve Dorrington, Guest Experience Manager at Chestnut.

From housekeeping teams who set the standard for care and consistency, to maintenance teams who ensure every detail works as it should, to Chestnut's interior design partners - it is a collective effort that defines the quality of the stay.

At its core, Chestnut's approach to accommodation is grounded in the same principles that have guided the business from the beginning: places should feel like they belong, guests should feel at ease, and quality should be delivered quietly but confidently.

Philip Turner, Founder and CEO at Chestnut said *"This award is a reflection of how important accommodation has become to our business. It allows us to welcome guests for longer, to create more meaningful experiences, and to build a more resilient model. What matters most, though, is how it's delivered - with care, consistency, and a genuine sense of place. That comes from our teams."*

As hospitality continues to evolve, accommodation is no longer an add-on, it is fundamental to resilience in a challenging operating environment. This award recognises how far Chestnut has come - and the standards it continues to set.

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For further information, imagery, or press opportunities with Chestnut, please contact Georgina Coakley, Head of Marketing at Chestnut [georgina@chestnutgroup.co.uk](mailto:georgina@chestnutgroup.co.uk)

### **More about Chestnut**

Chestnut is a collection of pubs and hotels in the East of England. Chestnut's pubs with rooms include The Packhorse Inn in Moulton, Newmarket, The Black Lion in Long Melford, The Westleton Crown in Westleton, The Ship at Dunwich, The Eight Bells in Saffron Walden, The Weeping Willow in Barrow, The Three Blackbirds in Woodditton, The Crown Inn in Stoke-by-Nayland, The Cricketers in Clavering, The Globe Inn, in Wells Next-the-Sea, The Feathers in Holt, The Wiveton Bell in Holt, The Lifeboat Inn and

The Chequers in Thornham, and The Carpenters Arms in Cambridgeshire, The Gin Trap Inn, Ringstead, and The Ancient Mariners Inn, Old Hunstanton. Chestnut's hotel's include The Old Bridge in Huntingdon, Titchwell Manor, near Brancaster, The Maltings, Weybourne, and Le Strange Arms, Old Hunstanton.

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