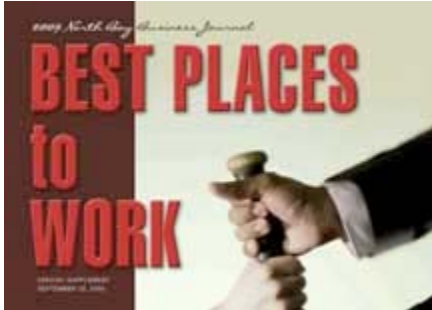


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## **2009 Best Places to Work: The Winners**

By [jdinova](#)

**Welcome to the Business Journal's fourth annual Best Places to Work in the North Bay.**



*Click on the image to read other stories from Best Places to Work 2009.*

The 55 companies selected this year are inspirational and instructional, providing the North Bay with key benchmarks for what makes a company a great place to work, especially in this challenging time.

We are especially pleased that along with an impressive group of 18 new winners, 10 exceptional companies have returned as winners for a fourth consecutive year. Twenty seven companies are being honored for the second or third year.

The winners, representing a broad range of industries, including banking, engineering, technology, health care, insurance, accounting, consulting, entertainment, food manufacturing, automotive, landscaping and building, will be feted at an awards reception Wednesday at the Doubletree Hotel in Rohnert Park.

Once again, congratulations to our winners. They have shown exceptional character during a very difficult time for all business. Many of the employee responses to the question added to this year's survey, "How has your company dealt with the challenging business environment?" are inspiring. We hope you gain insight from reading these company stories as much as we did finding and telling them.

*Brad Bollinger, Editor in Chief, Associate Publisher and  
Sue Wildermuth-Adams, Director of Advertising, Associate Publisher*

## **The Winners**

## **Of the 55 companies which were listed, the two below are MCVB Members:**

*(Listed alphabetically.)*

### **Embassy Suites Hotel**

SAN RAFAEL – “It’s all about being hospitable and making a difference to those around you, be it to each other or to our guests,” said Pat Sorber, general manager of Embassy Suites Hotel of Marin, who heads a management team with 86 percent women and minorities.

An employee said, “We all work together to reduce expenses to offset whatever losses there may be from the downturn, without taking away from our guests overall experience.”

The company’s mission statement emphasizes family taking care of family through commitment, accountability, respect, empowerment and trust. Employees gave their company a 4.76 average rating in the 2009 Best Places to Work survey.

“The ability to make your own decisions and learn from them is what I like. We promote from within and constantly reward and train team members for their great job,” another employee added.

### **Inn Marin/Rickey’s Restaurant**

#### **TWO-TIME WINNER**

NOVATO – A spirit of giving is part of the culture at Inn Marin/Rickey’s Restaurant in Novato. Over the years the company has donated overnight stays and \$50 gift certificates for school fundraisers, Novato Community Hospital, the North Bay Children’s Center and other nonprofits.

With a mission to operate the friendliest, cleanest and best-maintained hotel and restaurant in Marin County, owners John and Robert Marshall also show their support for community by donating meeting space for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, Rotary functions and by sponsoring Cub Scout functions.

“We had to cut back hours due to the ailing economy but have tried to hold layoffs among our 48 employees to an absolute minimum. We are a family-based company, and our goal is to focus on opportunities, not failings, and to do the right thing because it is the right thing.”