

GRANDWEST STAR SHINES BRIGHTEST OF ALL

Property's marketing manager recognised as the Group's most outstanding executive

[April 2025] The Sun International Group has named GrandWest's Marketing Manager, Nikki Botha, as their Sun Star Executive for 2024.

The employee recognition programme was first introduced in 2022 to honour employees who consistently go above and beyond expectations.

The hospitality and entertainment industry is demanding and fast-paced, requiring enormous energy, endurance, enthusiasm and a genuine love for people. All employees in this environment are outstanding, so to become the ultimate Sun Star a winner must go to exceptional lengths in doing their job.

Following a glittering award ceremony at Time Square casino and hotel in Gauteng, Nikki Botha said, *"I joined the company at the age of 18 and over the years I have learnt from the best – from people who are recognised as industry giants. They instilled a love and passion for the hospitality and entertainment industry in me that could never be matched so I've never been tempted to leave. Sun International is my family and my home. I'm incredibly honoured by this award but in truth, it belongs to everyone in my team at GrandWest. Without their support and hard work I could not have achieved this."*

Botha was previously employed at Boardwalk, Sun International's beach-facing property in Gqeberha, as a promotions manager. Marketing however appealed to her so she studied hard, rising through the ranks, becoming Deputy Marketing Manager, before relocating to GrandWest as Marketing Manager in 2009.

The award committee were impressed by Botha's unwavering commitment, deep understanding of the business, strategic foresight, and innovative spirit. Throughout 2024 she navigated complex operational and strategic challenges with passion, precision, and creativity, and her marketing expertise helped GrandWest to achieve growth in revenue, an increase in footfall, and a rise in market share despite operating in a tough environment.

She contributed to the execution of Group-wide campaigns, promotions and events, elevating the standard across the board. She led with intent, championing both commercial and cultural aspects of the business — particularly the Mind and Mood brand initiatives across the complex and events. She was also instrumental in architecting a results-driven approach to Sun International App adoption by customers.

Sun International's CEO Anthony Leeming said, *"Nikki's optimistic and never-say-die spirit underpins her success. She is a true team player, a passionate brand ambassador for GrandWest, and a shining example of what the Sun Star programme represents. Her extraordinary performance and dedication have set her apart in 2024, and have earned her the highest recognition within the group."*

When asked to name one thing about Botha that makes her stand out, GrandWest's General Manager Mervyn Naidoo said, *"Endurance, grit, positivity, optimism and innovative thinking are things Nikki has in abundance, but what stands out most to all who meet her is her incredible kindness. No matter how bad her day is going or what pressure she is under, she always treats others kindly and despite juggling*

pressing deadlines of her own, she will always make time to help others. This inbred quality is why her team is so motivated and willingly puts extra effort into everything they do for her.”

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