

# Santa Clara Convention Center wins 'Best Event Venue' award

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A hospitality industry nonprofit chose a roomy, culturally diverse, high-tech hot spot in Santa Clara to honor for its outstanding service.

The Silicon Valley Concierge Association chose the Santa Clara Convention Center as the "best event venue" for 2010 at a hospitality awards ceremony Tuesday at the Golf Club in Boulder Ridge. The 1,600-member group has been giving out awards for 15 years.

Santa Clara's convention center beat out The Mountain Winery in Saratoga and Club Auto Sport in San Jose, which were also nominated for the same slot.

This is the second award for the convention center in less than six months. In December, the Environmental Protection Agency honored Santa Clara's center with a "WRAP" award for its innovative waste reduction and recycling program.

"We are honored to be recognized as the premier meeting facility in Silicon Valley by SVCA," Lisa Moreno, general manager for the convention center, said in a statement. "It means a lot coming from an association that represents concierges throughout Silicon Valley."

Even before the awards were announced, plenty of high-profile groups already know about, and use, the convention center. For example, the Republican Party hosted its spring convention there, as did the "Yes on Measure J" group, which hosted a kickoff campaign in January to gain political support to build a 49ers stadium in Santa Clara.

The Santa Clara Convention Center features 302,000 square feet

of wireless meeting space, a 607-seat theater, 31 breakout rooms, a new Mission City Ballroom, free parking and culturally diverse catering services. For more information about the Convention Center, visit [www.santaclara.org](http://www.santaclara.org).