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Meet the Winners of the 2026 Azure Road Impact Awards

From boutique hotels to global brands, these winners offer better ways to travel, eat, and live.

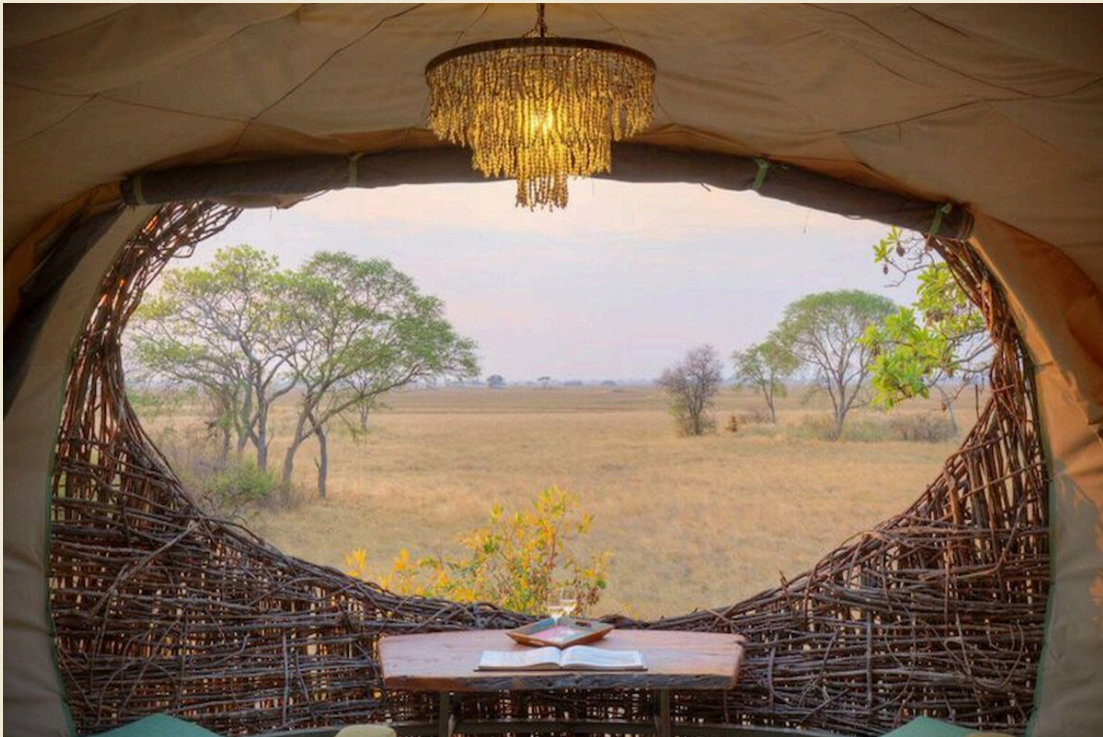
[Azure Road Editorial Team](#) | March 31, 2026

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Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations for the inaugural Azure Road Impact Awards. The depth and quality of entries made clear that meaningful work is happening across travel, food and drink, and lifestyle, with real, measurable impact. We're especially grateful to our panel of internal judges, who spent hours reviewing, discussing, and vetting each submission to ensure every finalist met our standards.

A sincere thank you as well to the Azure Road team for keeping the process moving from start to finish, and to every finalist and winner featured here. This recognition is well deserved. These businesses set a higher bar for how their industries operate and offer readers a clear path toward more thoughtful choices.

And now, the winners.



Chisa Busanga Camp Courtesy of Much Better Adventures.

Sustainable Travel Companies and Experiences

Boutique Hotel

of wines, including Chenin Blanc and Syrah. Guests stay in a relaxed yet high-end setting, with fine and casual dining that draws on the farm. The property boasts one of the country's most significant contemporary art collections.

Hotel Brand or Group

Inkaterra

Nature-forward hotels anchored in Peru's ecosystems

Inkaterra's properties place guests inside some of Peru's most biodiverse regions, from cloud forest and rainforest reserves to historic Andean landscapes. Stays revolve around guided nature walks, on-site research projects, and immersive encounters with local ecology and culture. The hotels function as gateways to conservation areas, making biodiversity protection an active part of the guest experience rather than a background promise.

Safari Lodge or Outfit

Green Safaris

Renewable-powered safari camps in southern Africa

Green Safaris has built one of the strongest renewable energy and conservation-led safari portfolios in Zambia and Malawi, with multiple camps powered largely by solar and deeply connected to local communities. Their ability to scale sustainability without diluting impact makes them a standout operator for accessible, responsible safaris.

Global Tour Company

Much Better Adventures

Lower-carbon small-group adventure travel

Much Better Adventures focuses on lower-carbon, small-group adventures while publicly accounting for climate impact and investing in measurable climate action. With a highly engaged, values-driven audience, the company demonstrates how sustainability and growth can coexist in modern adventure travel.



Luxury Sea View Suite, Koh Samui. Courtesy of Kamalaya Koh Samui.

Local or Single-Focus Tour Company

Wild Terrains

Women-centered, relationship-driven travel

Wild Terrains, a women-founded operator designing small-group and custom trips that center local women business owners, artists, and chefs. Wild Terrains treats travel as a way to redistribute income and visibility to women on the ground, building long-term collaborations instead of one-off experiences.

Wellness Resort

Kamalaya Koh Samui

Spiritual and integrative wellness in a tropical setting

Set on a forested hillside overlooking the Gulf of Thailand, Kamalaya blends Eastern spiritual traditions with Western medical oversight. Guests follow multi-day or multi-week programs focused on stress, emotional balance, detox, or resilience, supported by Ayurvedic treatments, Traditional Chinese Medicine, naturopathy, and mindfulness practices. Open-air pavilions, cave temples, and ocean-facing pools shape a calm, contemplative environment without isolating guests from the natural landscape.

Journeys

SeaTrek Sailing Adventures

Small-ship sailing expeditions across Indonesia

SeaTrek Sailing Adventures operates small-group expeditions through eastern Indonesia aboard traditional phinisi ships. Itineraries connect guests with

seafood, and the team distributes educational books, reading glasses, and children's swimming goggles in remote coastal villages.

Travel Innovators

Populus Hotel

Carbon-positive city hotel with sculptural design

Populus Hotel stands out in downtown Denver as a bright, aspen-inspired tower with deep oval windows that shape both its exterior and its rooms. The hotel positions itself as carbon positive over the life of the building, publicly tracking and publishing the environmental cost of its construction and ongoing operations. Interiors are warm and contemporary, with window benches that double as work and lounge space and strong food and drink programs from Pasque and the Stellar Jay. The experience feels well-designed and upmarket, with layouts and amenities that work equally well for leisure and business travel. Populus recently opened a second location in Seattle, WA.



Striking plated artistry. Courtesy of A to Z Chef's Table.

Culinary

Restaurant Group or Restaurateur

A to Z Chef's Table, Panama City, Panama

Creative cooking focused on organic Panamanian ingredients

restaurant's first fully Panamanian bread and beer, turning dinner into a playful riff on local terroir that keeps guests engaged rather than exhausted by endless tweezer food.

Heritage-Inspired Culinary Project

Pablo & Lucio Usobiaga – Arca Tierra & Baldío

For its regenerative chinampa farm and zero-waste dining

In Xochimilco and Mexico City, brothers Pablo and Lucio Usobiaga helped revive pre-Hispanic chinampa farms through Arca Tierra, then built Baldío as a restaurant that cooks almost exclusively with that harvest. With a zero-waste system shaped in part with guidance from Silo's chef Doug McMaster, Baldío turns high-concept, Michelin Green Star-level cooking into something joyfully accessible while keeping the farm-to-table loop as tight as possible.

Pantry Brand

Burlap & Barrel

Single-origin spices direct from small farmers

Founded in 2016 by Ethan Frisch and Ori Zohar, Burlap & Barrel is a public benefit corporation that sources single-origin spices directly from smallholder farmers and foragers in more than 20 countries, often paying several times the standard commodity rate. From Cloud Forest Cardamom to Zanzibar Black Peppercorns, each jar is labeled by origin so farmers earn better prices and home cooks get a clear line between what's in the pantry and where it comes from.

Coffee Companies

Lamastus Family Estates

Panamanian Geisha growers turned global cult name

In the highlands of Boquete, Lamastus Family Estates is a group of family-run farms centered on Elida Estate, where the Lamastus family has grown coffee for generations since 1918. High-altitude Geisha coffees from Elida and sister farms like El Burro and Luito have become benchmarks at auctions and in specialty circles, showing how careful farming in a cloud-forest landscape can turn a single variety into one of the world's most sought-after cups.



Sauvignon Blanc Glasses & Basket shot. Courtesy of Loveblock.

Drinks

Wine Region

New Zealand

Fine winemaking while pioneering sustainable wine farming

This cool-climate winegrowing country spans vineyards across the North and South Islands and treats Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand (SWNZ) as its national sustainability certification program. Launched in 1995, SWNZ sets independently audited standards and guidance across areas like climate, water, soil, plant protection, waste, and people, and now covers about 98% of New Zealand's vineyard area and around 90% of wine produced.

Wine Brand

Loveblock, New Zealand

Science-based organic wines rethinking sulfites

In Marlborough, Loveblock is Erica and Kim Crawford's organic wine project, farming certified organic vineyards and making vegan wines. Crawford's experiments with tea tannins led to the TEE Sauvignon Blanc line, which replaces added sulfur dioxide with green tea extract as the main antioxidant, offering a science-first way to reduce sulfites in commercial wine.

Winery/Wineries

Pinot Noir and sparkling wines, they created the AAPI Food & Wine nonprofit and festival to highlight Asian American and Pacific Islander talent across food and wine.

Spirits Producer

NcNean Distillery, Scotland

Net-carbon footprint and industry thought-leadership

On Scotland's remote Morvern peninsula, Nc'nean is an independent distillery making organic single malt whisky from Scottish barley and powered entirely by renewable energy. The team avoids the use of peat to protect peatlands as carbon sinks and bottles in 100% recycled glass and has cut its own operational emissions to net zero, using verified offsets only for what it can't yet eliminate.



Silk Ikat fashion. Courtesy of Bibi Hanum.

Lifestyle

Travel Gear and Accessories

Cotopaxi

Adventure gear funding global poverty relief

Known for its bold color blocking and outdoor ethos, Salt Lake City-based Cotopaxi was founded in 2014 by Davis Smith. The brand produces backpacks, duffels, travel packs, and apparel built for adventure. Products like the Allpa

impact reports and tracks carbon and material usage across product lines

Fashion House

Ibu Movement, United States

Global marketplace championing women artisan designers

Founded by Susan Walker, Ibu Movement is a Charleston, South Carolina–based nonprofit that partners with women artisans in more than 40 countries. The organization supports the production and sale of handmade clothing, accessories, and textiles through its online marketplace, connecting makers to international customers and helping generate stable income in communities where economic opportunity is often limited. The company also has a travel arm called The Fringe Road, which connects donors to artisans on the ground through trips as far-flung as Uzbekistan, India, and Thailand.

Heritage Craftsperson or Collective

Bibi Hanum, Uzbekistan

Bold Uzbek ikat woven by women artisans

Founded by Muhayo Alieva, the woman-led brand Bibi Hanum works with textiles from Uzbekistan’s Fergana Valley to produce handwoven silk ikat garments used in coats, scarves, pants, and other accessories. Production supports income for women seamstresses and weavers, many working either in their atelier in Tashkent or from the convenience of their homes, when needed. The collections center on traditional Margilan silk weaving techniques translated into high-saturation, contemporary silhouettes. Her pieces can also be found at Ibu Movement in Charleston.



de Buyer cookware. Courtesy of de Buyer.

Cookware Brands

de Buyer

French-made carbon steel cookware built for generations

Founded in 1830 in Faymont in France’s Vosges region, [de Buyer](#) manufactures carbon steel, stainless steel, and copper cookware designed for long service life and full recyclability. Its carbon steel pans are made without synthetic coatings and are intended to season over time. The company holds a Corporate Social Responsibility label and earned Exemplary-level recognition from AFNOR in 2022, and it cites factory-level measures, including an on-site wastewater treatment plant to prevent industrial discharge, beehives to support pollination, and regional reforestation projects.

Furniture Brands

Rarify

Meticulously restored mid-century and iconic furniture finds

Co-founded in 2021 by David Rosenwasser and Jeremy Bilotti, [Rarify](#) specializes in [authentic collectible pieces](#) and a curated mix of contemporary pieces, with restoration, education, and provenance at the center of the business.

Rosenwasser views vintage as a smart response to “fast furniture” waste and knockoffs, since well-made originals are built to last and hold their value. The catalog spans major makers and icons, including pieces associated with Herman Miller, Knoll, Fritz Hansen, Carl Hansen, and Artek, with a deep online inventory and a Philadelphia showroom for in-person browsing.

transparency in skincare formulations at commercial scale

Founded by a brother and sister in the U.K. who pitched (successfully) to Dragon’s Den (Shark Tank in the U.S.), UpCircle Beauty uses discarded byproducts from food and beverage production, including coffee grounds and fruit extracts. Products include face care (serums, creams), as well as hair and body care. Thanks to their New Jersey warehouse, they ship orders in North America in less than a day at competitive prices.

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