

Europa-Park Legend James ‘Chip’ Cleary inducted into the IAAPA Hall of Fame

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The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) has inducted Chip Cleary into the IAAPA Hall of Fame during a formal ceremony at the IAAPA Expo in Orlando, Florida. The IAAPA Hall of Fame is the highest honour in the global amusement and attractions industry, recognising pioneers, innovators and leaders who have had a lasting impact on the global theme park, water park and family entertainment landscape. Roland Mack and his father, Franz Mack, have been members of the IAAPA Hall of Fame since 2016 and 2005 respectively.

For almost 50 years, Chip Cleary has been a key figure in the international theme park and attractions industry, including serving as Chairman, President, and CEO of IAAPA. He has also played a pivotal role in shaping Germany’s largest theme park, Europa-Park. Since 2013, he has been working as a senior consultant at the park and has also been instrumental in the creation and ongoing development of the successful Rulantica water world.

Roland Mack and Chip Cleary first met in 1990 at Interschau, the international trade fair for fairground operators and amusement technology in Stuttgart. In 2012, Roland Mack suggested that Chip come to Rust for four months so that he could contribute ideas during the planning phase of the Rulantica water world. Fourteen years later, he has not only become a close adviser on various projects at Europa-Park Resort, but also a good friend of the owner family Mack.

In 2021, Chip Cleary was honoured with a bridge bearing his name, connecting the Rulantica water world with the 'Krønasår' hotel. Named the 'Chip Cleary Bridge' by the Mack family, it serves as a lasting tribute to his dedication and significant contributions to the development of the theme park resort. To further recognise his achievements and celebrate his induction into the IAAPA Hall of Fame, Roland Mack has now unveiled a special commemorative plaque, prominently displayed alongside the bridge's sign.

Roland Mack: "I would like to congratulate Chip Cleary on this magnificent honour. It fills me with great pride that, following in the footsteps of my father and myself, he too is now being inducted into the IAAPA Hall of Fame. This recognition is an honour not only for Chip, but also for the Europa-Park Resort, as his commitment to the Rulantica water world, whose development he has been a big part of from the very beginning, was undoubtedly a key factor in receiving this award. I look forward to his continuing advise and our excellent collaboration. Chip, you are incredibly important to the continued development of our family business."

Chip Cleary remarks, "Rulantica was the defining milestone of my career. Working with the Mack family, Europa-Park and Rulantica is a dream come true for me. There really is no other word for it: Wow!"

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Roland Mack and Chip Cleary in front of the Rulantica water world



Roland Mack and Thomas Mack, together with Chip Cleary, at the unveiling of the plaque



Chip Cleary during construction of the Rulantica water world