

Influential Women Profiles Karen Almazan: Private Events Manager And Hospitality Professional

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, UNITED STATES, September 2, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Bringing More Than 13 Years of High-End Hospitality and Event Management Experience to Creating Seamless, Memorable Guest Experiences

San Francisco, California — Karen Almazan is an experienced Events Manager with more than 13 years of experience in high-end hospitality, private dining, and large-scale event execution. Known for combining careful planning with genuine warmth, Karen has built a career around creating seamless experiences for guests while leading teams, coordinating vendors, and managing the many moving parts required to bring complex events to life.



Today, Karen serves as Private Events Manager at McCormick and Kuleto's, where she oversees all private events. Her work encompasses corporate receptions, weddings, and premium dining experiences, requiring her to manage every stage of an event from initial client intake and proposal development through staffing, logistics, and on-site execution.

Karen also works closely with chefs and sommeliers to develop custom menus and wine pairings that complement each event and elevate the overall guest experience. Her earlier leadership and coordination roles at One Market have given her a comprehensive understanding of hospitality operations, allowing her to approach events from both a management and hands-on service perspective.

Building a Career From the Ground Up

Karen's professional journey began in entry-level restaurant and café positions, where she

gained firsthand experience in the fundamentals of hospitality. She worked her way through service and operations, learning the importance of attentiveness, communication, teamwork, and consistency before transitioning into event management.

That experience continues to influence how Karen leads her teams today. Rather than simply expecting employees to understand hospitality standards, she takes an active role in teaching them.

Karen has trained members of her team from the ground up, including teaching them how to serve plates, bartend, greet guests, and understand what it means to take care of people and deliver an exceptional experience. For Karen, strong leadership begins with setting an example and giving people the knowledge and confidence they need to succeed.

She attributes much of her success to three principles: hard work, kindness, and leading by example. Trust is equally important to her leadership philosophy.

Karen feels fortunate to have a strong team around her and emphasizes that mutual trust plays a major role in how they operate and succeed together. By treating her team with kindness while giving them responsibility, she creates an environment where people can grow and contribute to the overall success of an event.

A Career Defined by Precision and Guest Experience

Throughout her career, Karen has developed a reputation for handling the details that make events successful. Managing an event for hundreds or even 1,500 guests requires extensive preparation, coordination, and the ability to respond quickly when circumstances change.

Her work allows her to bring together her operational experience, service knowledge, and event-management expertise. From coordinating staffing and budgets to working with culinary and beverage teams, Karen approaches each event with the goal of ensuring that the guest experience remains at the center of every decision.

Her professional experience also includes serving as a Tasting Coordinator for Wine Enthusiast Magazine, where she managed wine submissions and blind-tasting logistics for editorial reviews. The role further strengthened her organizational skills and familiarity with the wine industry, complementing her work in premium dining and private events.

Karen's accomplishments include managing large-scale events for major clients and receiving an industry award recognizing her excellence in hospitality. These experiences have reinforced her belief in the importance of preparation, teamwork, and delivering consistently high standards.

Encouraging Women to Believe in Themselves

Karen's advice to young women entering the hospitality and events industry is straightforward: it will be hard work, but it is worth it.

She encourages women to believe in themselves and recognize what they are capable of achieving, even when the path forward is difficult. Karen speaks about this perspective from personal experience. As a domestic violence survivor, she is particularly proud of the distance she has traveled and the person she has become.

Her journey has taught her that difficult circumstances do not have to determine someone's future. Instead, resilience, self-belief, and persistence can create the foundation for meaningful growth.

Karen hopes other women can take confidence from her experience and understand that they can accomplish remarkable things, even when the work required to get there is challenging.

Turning Experience Into a Future Consulting Business

Karen's passion for learning continues to shape her professional goals. She genuinely enjoys learning and embraces challenges, particularly when she recognizes an opportunity to turn an idea into something successful.

That mindset is now motivating her to explore the development of her own consulting company. Karen is working toward creating a business that would allow her to share her extensive knowledge of event planning, hospitality, and execution with others.

The idea has grown naturally from conversations she has with people involved in private events. Karen frequently hears people tell her that they need her help or want her advice about how to approach particular aspects of event planning. She enjoys helping and guiding them, and those interactions have reinforced her desire to eventually establish a consulting business.

Through consulting, Karen hopes to use the lessons she has learned throughout more than a decade in hospitality to help others create successful, well-organized, and memorable events.

Leading With Loyalty and Purpose

Loyalty is the most important value to Karen in both her professional and personal life. She is loyal to her team, loyal to herself, and loyal to the people she loves. That sense of loyalty is closely connected to the trust she builds with the people around her.

Hard work, kindness, and leading by example remain equally important principles. Karen believes that leadership is not simply about giving direction; it is about being willing to do the work, teach others, support the team, and demonstrate the standards she expects.

Her career reflects that philosophy. From starting in entry-level hospitality roles to managing sophisticated private events for major clients, Karen has continued to grow by learning, taking on challenges, and remaining committed to delivering exceptional experiences.

As she looks toward the future, Karen is focused on expanding the impact of her expertise. Whether through her continued work in private events or the consulting business she hopes to establish, she aims to help others navigate the complexities of hospitality and event execution.

For Karen, success is not simply measured by the size or prestige of an event. It is reflected in the relationships she builds, the teams she develops, the trust she earns, and the experiences she helps create. Her story demonstrates how hard work, resilience, kindness, and a commitment to leading by example can transform a career—and create opportunities to make an even greater impact in the future.

Learn More about Karen Almazan:

Through her Influential Women profile, <https://influentialwomen.com/connect/Karen-Almazan>

Influential Women

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