



30TH ANNUAL VIRTUOSO® TRAVEL WEEK CONCLUDES BY CELEBRATING THE NETWORK'S TOP MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

LAS VEGAS (August 17, 2018) – Global luxury travel network [Virtuoso](#)® has unveiled the year's most exceptional travel advisors, agencies and partners: the winners of the celebrated Virtuoso Awards. The prizes were distributed last night before more than 3,000 luxury travel leaders at a festive gala marking the end of the 30th annual Virtuoso Travel Week, held in Las Vegas at Bellagio Resort & Casino, ARIA Resort & Casino and Vdara Hotel & Spa. Hosted by Virtuoso Chairman and CEO Matthew D. Upchurch, Senior Vice President of Marketing Terrie Hansen and Senior Vice President of Global Member Partnerships David Kolner, the gala feted the network's most revered agencies, advisors and partners worldwide.

The Virtuoso Award winners are decided by their network peers. Virtuoso's preferred partners vote for agencies and advisors, and travel agency members select the winning partners. This year's Virtuoso Awards garnered thousands of votes, demonstrating high interest in the awards.

"Virtuoso is a network based entirely on the importance of human connection, and there is no better way to close Virtuoso Travel Week than to honor the members and partners who have forged some of the deepest personal connections," said Upchurch. "The Virtuoso Award winners consistently find new, creative ways to collaborate and exceed the client and guest expectations. Their outstanding performance is one important reason why Virtuoso's presence and reputation continues to grow on a global scale."

The 2018 Virtuoso Award winners are:

Agency/Advisor Awards (as voted by partners)

- **Most Hospitable Agency – US/Canada:** SmartFlyer
- **Most Innovative Advisor – US/Canada:** John Oberacker, Montecito Village Travel
- **Virtuoso Rising Star – US/Canada:** Blaine Horton, The Accomplished Traveler
- **Most Admired Advisor – Asia/Pacific:** Brent Wallace, SmartFlyer Australia
- **Most Admired Advisor – Europe/Middle East/Africa:** Alfonso Caballero Comendador, Beyond Traveller Ltd.
- **Most Admired Advisor – Latin America/Caribbean:** Tomas Perez, Teresa Perez Tours
- **Most Admired Advisor – Canada:** Andrew Grove, Vision Voyages
- **Most Admired Advisor – US:** Marlene Singer, Lake Shore Travel

Partner Awards (as voted by members)

- **Airline of the Year:** Emirates
- **Service Partner of the Year:** Travelex Insurance Services
- **Sustainable Tourism Leadership – Partner:** Lindblad Expeditions
- **Cruise Line of the Year:** Crystal Cruises

As well, Virtuoso revealed this year's exceptional cruise performers at a reception August 14:

- **Top Producer – Virtuoso Voyages:** Ralph Bias, Amazing Cruises, Inc.
- **Virtuoso Rising Star – Cruise:** Isabela Arellano, Coastline Travel Advisors
- **Most Innovative Advisor – Cruise Sales:** Anne Scully, McCabe World Travel, Inc.
- **Virtuoso Cruise Ambassador of the Year – Member:** Marni Becker, Protravel International – New York
- **Virtuoso Cruise Ambassador of the Year – Partner:** Gary Murphy, AmaWaterways

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About Virtuoso:

Virtuoso® is the leading international travel agency network specializing in luxury and experiential travel. This by-invitation-only organization comprises over 1,000 travel agency partners with 17,500 elite travel advisors in 50 countries throughout North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Africa and the Middle East. Drawing upon its preferred relationships with 1,700 of the world's best hotels and resorts, cruise lines, airlines, tour companies and premier destinations, the network provides its upscale clientele with exclusive amenities, rare experiences and privileged access. More than (U.S.) \$23.7 billion in annual travel sales makes Virtuoso a powerhouse in the luxury travel industry. For more information, visit www.virtuoso.com.

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