



VIRTUOSO® HONORS ITS DESTINATION & EXPERIENCES PARTNERS AT THE 28TH ANNUAL VIRTUOSO TRAVEL WEEK

LAS VEGAS (August 9, 2016) – International luxury travel network [Virtuoso®](#) honored six of its key partners for overall excellence at last night’s Destination Showcase Dinner & Awards. The ceremony, which attracted close to 1,400 travel agency members and preferred partners, was one of many events at the 28th annual Virtuoso Travel Week conference, happening this week at Bellagio Resort & Casino, ARIA Resort & Casino and Vdara Hotel & Spa in Las Vegas. Hosted by Virtuoso Chairman and CEO Matthew D. Upchurch, and Albert Herrera, Virtuoso’s senior vice president of Global Product Partnerships, the Destination Showcase celebrated partners that offer exceptional experiences globally to Virtuoso clients, while providing outstanding expertise to Virtuoso travel advisors.

“Each of these honored companies embodies Virtuoso’s commitment to innovation and passion for delighting clients,” said Herrera. “As a network, we are incredibly selective, only admitting partners with a strong heritage of knowledge, offerings, service and relationships. Given our rigorous requirements, these six partners are truly the crème de la crème of a very impressive Virtuoso portfolio. We applaud their excellence and ability to inspire the entire network.”

Each of the Destination Showcase Awards corresponds to an elected committee of Virtuoso advisors. Those committees designate a list of finalists for each award, then all network advisors vote to determine the winners. This year’s Destination Showcase Award nominees received more than 5,300 votes altogether.

The winners are all part of the network’s lauded land excursions program, Virtuoso Destinations & Experiences. It consists of more than 60 tour operators, 160 On-Site in-country specialists and 11 specialty partners in over 140 countries. The fast-growing portfolio features close to 15,000 tours from more than 200 land operators. As well, Virtuoso’s tourism board partners are honored at the dinner, with the year’s best selected from among the network’s 73 preferred destinations.

The 2016 Virtuoso Destination Showcase Award winners are:

Best Destinations & Experiences - FIT/Custom Partner: **Micato Safaris**

Best Destinations & Experiences - Escorted Tour Partner: **Tauck**

Best Destinations & Experiences - In-Country Partner: **Journey Mexico**

Best Virtuoso Active & Specialty Travel Partner (VAST): **Lindblad Expeditions**

Best Voyager Club Experience: **Abercrombie & Kent Hong Kong** | Shanghai Highlights with Lunch at the Whampoa Club

Tourism Board of the Year: **Tourism New Zealand**

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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 390 agency members with more than 11,400 elite travel advisors in 40 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.) \$15.5 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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