



29TH ANNUAL VIRTUOSO® TRAVEL WEEK CLOSES WITH A STUNNING GALA TO HONOR ITS MOST EXCEPTIONAL MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

LAS VEGAS (August 18, 2017) – Last night in front of more than 2,800 of the industry’s elite, international luxury travel network [Virtuoso](#)® celebrated this year’s most outstanding travel advisors, agencies and partners, presenting them with prestigious Virtuoso Awards. The stylish gala represented the culmination of the 29th 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, the gala recognized the most innovative and admired agencies and advisors worldwide, in addition to the finest partners in the network’s global portfolio.

The Virtuoso Awards are truly a network endeavor, as the top agencies, advisors and preferred partners are determined by their network peers. Travel providers vote for agencies and advisors, while travel agency members vote for preferred partners. Engagement in the process is strong; this year Virtuoso tallied almost 2,000 votes.

“Virtuoso Travel Week is all about building authentic human connections that then translate into personal, more enriching experiences for clients, so it’s fitting that we close the week by recognizing those Virtuosos who put the most into their industry relationships,” said Upchurch. “The Virtuoso Awards promote the dedication of these agencies, advisors and partners, and serve as an inspiration to the entire network. Each year I’m amazed at how our members and partners go above and beyond to create a new standard, and I am very proud of these outstanding Virtuosos.”

The 2017 Virtuoso Award winners are:

Agency/Advisor Awards (as voted by preferred partners)

- **Most Hospitable Agency:** Avenue Two Travel, Villanova, Pennsylvania
- **Most Innovative Advisor:** Fernando Gonzalez, First in Service Travel, New York, New York
- **Virtuoso Rising Star:** Jessica Renshaw, Renshaw Travel, Vancouver, BC, Canada
- **Most Admired Advisor – Asia/Pacific:** Tina Killeen, Spencer Travel, Sydney, Australia
- **Most Admired Advisor – Canada:** Cindy Ducasse, TTI Travel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- **Most Admired Advisor – Europe/Middle East/Africa:** James Merrett, Black Tomato, London, UK
- **Most Admired Advisor – Latin America/Caribbean:** Fernanda Martin del Campo, ITG – International Travel Group, Mexico City, Mexico
- **Most Admired Advisor – USA:** Mickey Weill, Protravel International, Beverly Hills, California

Partner Awards (as voted by travel agency members)

- **Airline of the Year:** Emirates Airline
- **Specialty Partner of the Year:** Travelex Insurance Services
- **Sustainable Tourism Leadership – Partner:** Wilderness Safaris
- **Cruise Line of the Year:** AmaWaterways

As well, Virtuoso honored four outstanding cruise performers at a reception August 15:

- **Top Producer – Virtuoso Voyages:** Gina Morovati, Northstar Cruises
- **Most Innovative Advisor – Cruise Sales:** Leah Bergner, Coastline Travel Advisors
- **Virtuoso Cruise Ambassador of the Year – Member:** Ruth Turpin, Cruises Etc. Travel
- **Virtuoso Cruise Ambassador of the Year – Partner:** Mark Conroy, Silversea Cruises

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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 800 travel agency partners with more than 16,000 elite travel advisors in over 45 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.) \$21.2 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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