



VIRTUOSO
SPECIALISTS IN THE ART OF TRAVEL

EXPERTS FROM VIRTUOSO® TRAVEL NETWORK DOMINATE *TRAVEL+LEISURE'S* 2015 A-LIST OF INDUSTRY ALL-STARS

Eleven Virtuoso Travel Advisors Selected As Super-Agents

NEW YORK (September 1, 2015) – International luxury travel network [Virtuoso®](#) is proud to announce that **75 of its experts** have been named to *Travel+Leisure's* 14th annual **A-List of top travel specialists**. Virtuoso is the most celebrated network on the coveted list, with its elite travel advisors and preferred partners accounting for **55 percent** of those honored and nabbing 11 out of 12 Super-Agent spots.

Travel+Leisure Publisher Jay Meyer and Editor in Chief Nathan Lump debuted the hotly anticipated A-List at the 27th annual Virtuoso Travel Week at Bellagio in Las Vegas on August 10. The complete list will appear in the magazine's September issue. Its editors assembled the prestigious list based on nominations, followed by a thorough review and vetting of the travel experts' qualifications.

The list features 12 Super-Agents, 11 of whom are members of the Virtuoso network. These Super-Agents bring unparalleled experience to their clients, alongside the ability to turn any travel dream into a reality. Virtuosos also dominated areas on the list including family travel (five out of seven advisors), cruising (five out of seven), adventure (all four named are Virtuosos), luxury travel (all three advisors named) and destinations (such as 16 out of 28 specializing in Europe).

"We debut the A-List at Virtuoso Travel Week simply because so many of the experts named to our list are members or partners of the Virtuoso network," says Jay Meyer, publisher of *Travel+Leisure*. "When someone is associated with Virtuoso, we know their knowledge and professionalism is the caliber of travel expert we're looking to share with our readers."

Whether sharing firsthand knowledge of global destinations, arranging VIP service, securing the perfect suite at a sold-out hotel or booking a last-minute flight due to cancellations, Virtuoso's A-List advisors – or any of the network's more than 9,800 professional advisors worldwide – create exceptional experiences for clients, living up to their reputation as industry leaders and innovators. Virtuoso's A-List-ers appear below. Travelers can review their biographies and connect with them by visiting Virtuoso's Advisor Catalog at www.Virtuoso.com.

Virtuosos named to the 2015 *Travel+Leisure* A-List:

Super-Agents:

Maita Barrenechea (Argentina, Chile and Uruguay – Mai10, Buenos Aires, Argentina)

Jack Ezon (Destination Celebrations – Ovation Vacations, New York City)

Patrick Fragale (Protravel International, New York City)

Mary Ann Ramsey (Cruising – Betty Maclean Travel, Naples, FL)

Guy Rubin (China – Imperial Tours, Beijing, China)

Anne Morgan Scully (Western Europe – McCabe World Travel, McLean, VA)

Pallavi Shah (India – Our Personal Guest, New York City)

Jim Strong and Nancy Strong (Western Europe – Strong Travel Services, Dallas, TX)

Valerie Ann Wilson (Hotels – Valerie Wilson Travel, New York City)

Joel Zack (Spain and Portugal – Heritage Tours Private Travel, New York City)

Europe:

Central Europe – **Nathalie Nagy** (Protravel International, New York City)
Central Europe – **Ellison Poe** (Poe Travel, Little Rock, AR)
France – **Bob Preston** (Panache Voyage, Geneva, Switzerland)
Germany – **Virginia Giordano** (Culture Trip, Berlin, Germany)
Italy – **Andrea Grisdale** (IC Bellagio, Bellagio, Italy)
Russia – **Greg Tepper** (Exeter International, Tampa, FL)
Scandinavia and Iceland – **Diane B. Eide** (Travel Experts, Raleigh, NC)
Scotland – **Claire Schoeder** (Century Travel, Atlanta, GA)
Spain – **Virginia Irurita** (Made For Spain, Madrid, Spain)
Turkey – **Tony Huffman** (Huffman Travel, Dayton, OH)
United Kingdom – **Ellen LeCompte** (Brownell, Richmond, VA)
United Kingdom – **Susie Worthy** (NoteWorthy Events, London, UK)

The Caribbean:

Margie Hand (Andavo Travel, Birmingham, AL)
Janet McLaughlin (Provident Travel Corporation, Cincinnati, OH)

Mexico & Central & South America:

Brazil – **Martin Frankenberg** (Matueté, Sao Paulo, Brazil)
Central and South America – **Emmanuel Burgio** (Blue Parallel, Potomac, MD)
Mexico – **Zachary Rabinor** (Journey Mexico, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico)
Peru and Bolivia – **Beth Jenkins** (McCabe World Travel, McLean, VA)

United States and Canada:

Napa Valley – **Michelle Murré** (SmartFlyer, San Francisco, CA)
New York City – **Lia Batkin** (In the Know Experiences, New York City)

Africa and the Middle East:

Africa – **Dana Welch** (The Travel Society, Denver, CO)
Eastern and Southern Africa – **Volker Altvater** (Big Five Tours & Expeditions, Stuart, FL)
Egypt – **Malaka Hilton** (Admiral Travel International, Sarasota, FL)
Morocco – **Michael Diamond** (Heritage Tours Private Travel, New York City)
South Africa – **Tamsyn Fricker** (Travel Artistry Africa, Houston, TX)
United Arab Emirates – **Amalia Lazarov** (Protravel International, New York City)

Asia:

China – **Mei Zhang** (WildChina, Beijing, China)
Hong Kong – **Laura Woo** (West University Travel, Houston, TX)
India and Sri Lanka – **Carole Cambata** (Greaves Tours, Highland Park, IL)
India and Sri Lanka – **Ashish Sanghrajka** (Big Five Tours & Expedition, Stuart, FL)
Maldives – **Justin Parkinson** (Linara Travel, Eagle, ID)
Thailand – **Holly Monahan** (Absolute Travel, New York City)

Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific:

Australia – **Cassandra Bookholder** (Camelback Odyssey Travel, Phoenix, AZ)

Cruising:

Cruising - **Liz Sadie Sutton** (Alabama World Travel, Montgomery, AL)
Cruising - **Ruth Turpin** (Cruises Etc. Travel, Fort Worth, TX)
Small Ships - **Betsy Patton** (Hurley Travel Experts, Naples, FL)
Small Ships - **Marcella Rappoport** (Ovation Travel, New York City)

Special Interest:

Adventure – **Betty Jo Currie** (Currie & Co. Travels Unlimited, Atlanta, GA)
Adventure – **Brooke Garnett** (Absolute Travel, New York City)
Adventure – **Tom Marchant** (Black Tomato, London, UK)
Adventure – **Susan Sparks** (Brownell Travel - Birmingham, Aspen, CO)
Air Travel – **Michael Holtz** (SmartFlyer, New York City)
Business Travel – **Jennifer Wilson-Buttigieg** (Valerie Wilson Travel, New York City)
Culture/Education – **Margery Hunter** (Rudi Steele Travel, Dallas, TX)
Destination Celebrations – **John Clifford** (Montecito Village Travel, San Diego, CA)
Diving – **Robert Becker** (Protravel International, New York City)
Fly-Fishing – **Betsy Donley** (Camelback Odyssey Travel, Phoenix, AZ)
Fly-Fishing – **Mollie Fitzgerald** (Frontiers International Travel, Gibsonsia, PA)
Food & Wine – **Keith Waldon** (Departure Lounge, Austin, TX)
Food & Wine – **Lynda Turley Garrett** (Alpine Travel, Saratoga, CA)
Gay & Lesbian Travel – **David Rubin** (Montecito Village Travel, Corona del Mar, CA)
Golf – **Chad Clark** (Camelback Odyssey Travel, Phoenix, AZ)
Hotels – **Bobby Zur** (Travel Artistry, Franklin Lakes, NJ)
Luxury Travel - **David Lowy** (Renshaw Travel, Vancouver, Canada)
Luxury Travel – **Andrea Malis** (Camelback Odyssey Travel, Phoenix, AZ)
Luxury Travel – **Stacy Small** (Elite Travel International, Los Angeles, CA)
Spas and Wellness – **Karen Benson** (Camelback Odyssey Travel, Phoenix, AZ)
Weddings and Honeymoons – **Peter Lloyd** (Century Travel, Atlanta, GA)
Weddings and Honeymoons – **Kristen Pike** (KK Travels Worldwide, Atlanta, GA)

Family Travel:

Julie Danziger (Ovation Vacations, New York City)
Jessica Griscavage (McCabe World Travel, McLean, VA)
Shawna Huffman Owen (Huffman Travel, Chicago, IL)
Sam McClure (Brownell Travel - Birmingham, Austin, TX)
Kimberly Wilson Wetty (Valerie Wilson Travel, New York City)

To view the full *Travel+Leisure* A-List, go to www.travelandleisure.com/a-list.

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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 375 agency members with more than 9,800 elite travel advisors in 30 countries throughout North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia-Pacific 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 (US) \$14 billion in annual travel sales makes Virtuoso a powerhouse in the luxury travel industry. For more information, visit Virtuoso.com.

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