



VIRTUOSO®

VIRTUOSO® TAPS INTO ITS NETWORK OF TOP-PERFORMING ADVISORS TO NAME THE BEST CRUISE LINES OF 2024 AND ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST-EVER CRUISE AMBASSADOR

LAS VEGAS (August 14, 2024) – [Virtuoso®](#), the leading global network specializing in luxury and experiential travel, recognized the network’s best in cruising Tuesday, August 13, at the 36th annual Virtuoso Travel Week. Two new categories – Best Small Ship Cruise Line and the Cruise Ambassador - were added to the ballot this year, in addition to the traditional categories, which are Best Ocean Cruise Line, Best River Cruise Line and Best Expedition Cruise Line.

The Cruise Ambassador was selected internally by Virtuoso leadership, while nominations for the partner awards were determined by a survey of Virtuoso advisors, who then cast votes to determine the winners. As the cruise category expands in market size and consumer demand, competition is fiercer than ever. This year’s winners share a commitment to excellence, innovation, support of the travel advisor community, client satisfaction and, of course, unforgettable travel experiences in some of the world’s most extraordinary destinations.

Winners were honored Tuesday, August 13, at “Cruise Night Out,” one of the hottest tickets of the week, which hosts the network’s cruise partners and its cruise-focused advisors for a by-invitation-only celebration. Taking place August 10-16, Virtuoso Travel Week has brought together more than 4,700 top luxury travel professionals, travel advisors and preferred partners, from 97 countries.

And the winners are:

CRUISE AMBASSADOR recognizes the Virtuoso advisor whose commitment to the network’s cruise partners stands out for their support, amplification and engagement. This advisor has made a measurable impact on Virtuoso cruise sales and innovation.

Winner: Melinda Gregor / Gregor and Lewis Bespoke Travel

BEST SMALL SHIP CRUISE LINE (350 passengers or less)

Winner: Aqua Expeditions

A recognized global leader in luxury small-ship expeditions, Aqua Expeditions explores the world’s most biodiverse and culturally significant destinations aboard best-in-class vessels. Guests can expect tailored five-star itineraries, a highly exclusive one-to-one crew-to-guest ratio, world-class dining and small group, expert-guided activities and excursions. Aqua Expeditions operates river explorations on the Amazon (Peru), the Mekong (Cambodia and Vietnam) and coastal yacht voyages to Komodo National Park, Ambon and the Spice Islands, as well as Raja Ampat (East Indonesia), with its latest superyacht sailing the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador).

BEST OCEAN CRUISE LINE

Winner: Silversea Cruises

Silversea's small luxury ships are designed for those who delight in the thrill of discovery, while indulging the mind and body in the most lavish surroundings imaginable. Silversea voyages and cruise expeditions sail to over 900 destinations on all seven continents – more than any other cruise line. Plus, with expanded all-inclusive service, door-to-door transfers and added shore excursions for classic voyages, sailing the world has never been so seamless.

BEST RIVER CRUISE LINE

Winner: AmaWaterways

A family-owned company since 2002, AmaWaterways offers unforgettable river cruises with 29 ships sailing through Europe, Asia, Africa and soon-to-be South America. With exquisite locally-sourced cuisine, a variety of included shore excursions in every port, personalized service, twin-balcony staterooms and fleetwide wellness activities, AmaWaterways is redefining the river cruise experience. It is also the only river cruise line inducted into La Chaine des Rotisseurs, one of the world's most prestigious culinary organizations.

BEST EXPEDITION CRUISE LINE

Winner: Quark Expeditions

Quark Expeditions has been the leading provider of expeditions to Antarctica and the Arctic travel for over 30 years. With a diverse fleet of specially-equipped small expedition vessels, icebreakers, and unique land-based adventures, Quark Expeditions offers travelers unparalleled access to the most remote places on earth. The spirit of exploration runs deep in the cruise line's polar pedigree with a passion for creating transformational experiences for fellow adventurers visiting these regions. Quark Expeditions offers the highest expedition guide-to-passenger ratios (1:6), providing the highest level of education, photography and overall experience for passengers on board.

Virtuoso wishes to congratulate all award recipients this year. Photos available upon request. For more details on Virtuoso's network of world's best travel agencies, advisors and preferred partners, please visit www.Virtuoso.com.

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About Virtuoso

Virtuoso® is the leading global travel agency network specializing in luxury and experiential travel. This by-invitation-only organization comprises over 1,200 travel agency locations with more than 20,000 travel advisors in 58 countries throughout North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Africa and the Middle East. Drawing upon its preferred relationships with 2,300 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. Normalized annual sales of (U.S.) \$35 billion make Virtuoso a powerhouse in the luxury travel industry. For more information, visit www.virtuoso.com.

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