



## **PRESS RELEASE**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA ATTENTION**

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### **GRAND VELAS RECOGNIZED WITH 2010 EDITOR'S PICK HONOR FROM *TravelAge West***

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – GRAND VELAS RIVIERA MAYA has been honored with a 2010 Editor's Pick Award in the category of **Best All-Inclusive Resort, Mexico** as part of the *TravelAge West* WAVE (Western Agents' Vote of Excellence) Awards.

Now in its fifth year, the goal of *TravelAge West's* WAVE Awards is to give travel agents in the Western U.S. the opportunity to recognize the outstanding qualities and services of their travel-supplier partners.

The Editor's Picks were chosen by Editor-in-Chief Ken Shapiro and the entire editorial team of *TravelAge West*. Review methods included product analysis, on-site visits, a survey of a select group of travel agents and online research.

"I believe our picks this year reflect the best of the best, as my team and I considered a wide-range of attributes and features when evaluating these travel companies," said Shapiro. "As a result, I think all of the Editor's Pick winners should be very proud of this acknowledgement."

In addition to this distinction, Editor's Pick honorees are also in the running for a WAVE Award to be determined by a *TravelAge West* readers' choice poll conducted during the month of April. The voting is open to readers of the publication, as well as to all visitors to the magazine's Web site, [TravelAgeWest.com](http://TravelAgeWest.com).

Editor's Pick recipients will be celebrated at the WAVE Awards gala dinner on June 10 at the Four Seasons Los Angeles in Beverly Hills, Calif., where the readers' choice winners will be announced as well. *TravelAge West* will produce a special WAVE Awards Spotlight Issue due out in August 2010, highlighting each nominated company.

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*TravelAge West* is the leading trade magazine for travel agents and the travel industry in the 14 western states. Serving its 22,000 readers for 41 years, the biweekly magazine is a main source of news and product information for the region's agents and travel executives. *TravelAge West* is a part of Northstar Travel Media LLC, a worldwide provider of information, news and data for

the travel and hospitality industry. In addition to *TravelAge West*, Northstar's portfolio of directories, periodicals and destination information services includes *Travel Weekly*, *Family Getaways*, *Ultimate Hotel Guide*, *BTP24*, *Official Meeting Facilities Guide*, *Intelliguide Corporate*, *STAR Service Online*, *Weissmann Reports*, *Meetings and Conventions*, and *Travel Professional*. Northstar Travel Media is based in Secaucus, N.J.

###

## **CRUISE**

### **Best Onboard Entertainment**

- Disney Cruise Line
- Holland America Line
- Norwegian Cruise Line
- Royal Caribbean International

### **Best Teen Program**

- Carnival Cruise Lines
- Disney Cruise Line
- Royal Caribbean International

### **Best Cruise-Tour Program**

- Celebrity Cruises
- Holland America Line
- Princess Cruises
- Royal Caribbean International

### **Cruise Line with the Highest Client Satisfaction (less than 1,100 passengers)**

- Crystal Cruises
- Oceania Cruises
- Regent Seven Seas Cruises
- The Yachts of Seabourn
- Silversea Cruises
- Windstar Cruises

### **Cruise Line with the Highest Client Satisfaction (more than 1,100 passengers)**

- Carnival Cruise Lines
- Celebrity Cruises
- Costa Cruises
- Holland America Line
- Princess Cruises
- Royal Caribbean International

### **Best New Ship (Ocean-going) 2009**

- Carnival Dream, Carnival Cruise Lines
- Celebrity Equinox, Celebrity Cruises
- Costa Luminosa, Costa Cruises
- Oasis of the Seas, Royal Caribbean International

- Seabourn Odyssey, The Yachts of Seabourn

#### **Cruise Line Providing the Best Travel Agent Support**

- Carnival Cruise Lines
- Celebrity Cruises
- Holland America Line
- Princess Cruises
- Royal Caribbean International

#### **Best U.S. Homeport**

- Fort Lauderdale
- Miami
- San Diego
- Seattle

#### **Best Overall Cruise Line for River Cruising**

- Amawaterways
- Avalon Waterways
- Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection
- Victoria Cruises
- Viking River Cruises

#### **Best New Ship (River Cruise) 2009**

- Avalon Affinity, Avalon Waterways
- Swiss Jewel, Tauck
- Amalyra, Amawaterways
- River Beatrice, Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection
- Victoria Jenna, Victoria Cruises
- Viking Legend, Viking River Cruises

#### **River Cruise Line Providing the Best Travel Agent Support**

- Amawaterways
- Avalon Waterways
- Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection
- Viking River Cruises

### **HOTELS & RESORTS**

#### **Hotel/Resort Chain Providing the Best Travel Agent Support**

- Aston Hotels & Resorts
- Hyatt Hotels and Resorts
- Marriott International
- Outrigger Hotels & Resorts
- Sandals
- Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide

**Best New Resort or Major Renovation, Hawaii** (*Oct. 2008 – Oct. 2009*)

- The Kahala Hotel & Resort (Oahu)
- Koa Kea Hotel & Resort (Kauai)
- Mauna Kea Resort (Big Island)
- Outrigger Reef on the Beach (Oahu)
- The Royal Hawaiian Hotel (Oahu)

**Best New Resort or Major Renovation, Mexico** (*Oct. 2008 – Oct. 2009*)

- Azul Sensatori Hotel, by Karisma (Riviera Maya)
- Capella Pedregal (Cabo San Lucas)
- Dreams Riviera Cancun Resort & Spa (Cancun)
- Hacienda Tres Rios Cancun Resort & Spa (Riviera Maya)
- The St. Regis Punta Mita Resort (Punta Mita)

**Best New Resort or Major Renovation, Caribbean** (*Oct. 2008 – Oct. 2009*)

- Cap Maison Luxury Villa Resort & Spa (St. Lucia)
- Dreams Palm Beach Punta Cana (Dominican Republic)
- Iberostar Grand Hotel Rose Hall (Jamaica)

**Best Luxury Resort, Hawaii**

- Four Seasons Resort Hualalai at Historic Ka'upulehu (Big Island)
- Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea (Maui)
- Halekulani Hotel (Oahu)
- The Kahala Hotel & Resort (Oahu)
- The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua (Maui)

**Best Resort for a Romance Vacation, Hawaii**

- Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort and Spa (Kauai)
- Halekulani Hotel (Oahu)
- Hanalei Colony Resort (Kauai)
- Hotel Hana-Maui (Maui)
- Waimea Plantation Cottages (Kauai)

**Best Resort for a Romance Vacation, Mexico**

- Iberostar Grand Hotel Paraiso (Riviera Maya)
- La Casa Que Canta (Zihuatanejo)
- Las Brisas Acapulco (Acapulco)
- Las Ventanas al Paraiso, A Rosewood Resort (Los Cabos)
- Zoetry Paraiso de la Bonita Riviera Maya (Riviera Maya)

**Best Resort for a Romance Vacation, Caribbean**

- Anse Chastanet Resort (St. Lucia)
- Couples Swept Away (Jamaica)
- Sandals Grande St. Lucian (St. Lucia)
- Sunset at the Palms (Jamaica)
- The Caves (Jamaica)

### **Best All-Inclusive Resort, Mexico**

- Club Med Ixtapa Pacific (Ixtapa)
- Dreams Cancun Resort & Spa (Cancun)
- **Grand Velas All Suites & Spa Resort Riviera Maya (Riviera Maya)**
- Royal Hideaway Playacar (Riviera Maya)
- Zoetry Paraiso de la Bonita Riviera Maya (Riviera Maya)

### **Best All-Inclusive Resort, Caribbean**

- Beaches Turks & Caicos (Turks & Caicos)
- Club Med Punta Cana (Dominican Republic)
- Dreams Punta Cana Resort & Spa (Dominican Republic)
- Sandals Whitehouse European Village (Jamaica)

## **DESTINATION**

### **Favorite European City**

- Berlin
- Dublin
- London
- Madrid
- Vienna

### **Favorite Asian City**

- Bangkok
- Hong Kong
- Shanghai
- Singapore
- Tokyo

### **Best Destination for a Honeymoon/Romance Vacation**

- Hawaii
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Tahiti

### **Destination with the Highest Client Satisfaction, USA**

- Las Vegas
- Oahu
- Orlando
- San Francisco

### **Best of the West: Best City for a Foodie Vacation**

- Honolulu
- Las Vegas
- Los Angeles
- Portland

- San Francisco

#### **Favorite Three-Night Destination to Sell**

- Disneyland
- Las Vegas
- New York City
- San Diego
- Seattle

#### **AIRLINE**

##### **Best Airline, Domestic**

- American Airlines
- Continental Airlines
- JetBlue
- Southwest Airlines

##### **Best Airline, International**

- Cathay Pacific Airways
- Lufthansa
- Singapore Airlines
- Thai Airways
- Virgin Atlantic

#### **TOUR OPERATOR**

##### **Best Tour Operator USA/Canada**

- Globus Family of Brands
- Gogo Worldwide Vacations
- Tauck
- Travel Impressions

##### **Most Knowledgeable Tour Operator Reservations Staff**

- Classic Vacations
- Globus Family of Brands
- Tauck

##### **Tour Operator Providing the Best Travel Agent Support**

- Classic Vacations
- Globus Family of Brands
- Pleasant Holidays
- Tauck
- Trafalgar Tours

##### **Best Tour Operator, Escorted**

- Brendan
- Collette Vacations
- Globus Family of Brands
- Tauck

- Trafalgar Tours

#### **Best Tour Operator, FIT**

- Apple Vacations
- Classic Vacations
- Gogo Worldwide Vacations
- Travel Bound
- Travel Impressions

#### **Best Tour Operator, Africa**

- Abercrombie & Kent
- African Travel, Inc.
- Big Five Tours & Expeditions
- Micato Safaris

#### **Best Tour Operator, Middle East**

- Abercrombie & Kent
- General Tours
- IsramWorld
- Ya'lla Tours

#### **Best Tour Operator, Hawaii**

- All About Hawaii
- Apple Vacations
- Blue Sky Tours
- Classic Vacations
- Pleasant Holidays

#### **Best Tour Operator, Mexico**

- Apple Vacations
- Classic Vacations
- Gogo Worldwide Vacations
- Pleasant Holidays
- Travel Impressions

#### **Best Tour Operator, Asia**

- Orient Flexi-Pax Tours
- Pacific Delight Tours
- Ritz Tours
- Sita World Tours

#### **Best Tour Operator, Europe**

- Collette Vacations
- Insight Vacations
- Globus Family of Brands
- Tauck
- Trafalgar Tours

**Best Tour Operator, Australia/New Zealand/South Pacific**

- All About Tours
- Australian Pacific Touring (APT)
- Goway Travel
- Qantas Vacations

**CAR RENTAL**

**Car Rental Providing the Best Travel Agent Support**

- Alamo Rent A Car
- Avis Rent A Car
- Budget Rent A Car
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- Hertz Car Rental

**RAIL**

**Best North American Rail Vacation Provider**

- Alaska Railroad
- Amtrak
- Rocky Mountaineer
- Via Rail Canada