

**** STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL FRIDAY 05 OCTOBER 2018 AT 17.00PM ****

ADVANTAGE BIG CELEBRATION LUNCH 2018: THE WINNERS

London, UK – 05 October 2018: Advantage Travel Partnership hosted for the third consecutive year The Big Celebration Lunch, celebrating members and their success. Attended by 250 guests, TV presenter Mark Durden-Smith once again took to the stage to host and present 22 awards to members and business partners.

Julia Lo Bue-Said, CEO at Advantage Travel Partnership said: “We are very proud of our members and business partners and are excited to once again celebrate what we have collectively achieved in the past year. We’re delighted that our event is now an annual calendar event in the industry”.

In Advantage Travel Partnership’s 40th Anniversary year the consortia will support Make-A-Wish UK®, the children’s charity who create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. Whether it’s starring in their own films, walking with dinosaurs, going on an amazing holiday or meeting a celebrity hero, all wishes are varied, personal and most importantly, magical.

“We’re delighted that Advantage Travel Partnership have chosen to support Make-A-Wish UK. Over the next year, employees at The Advantage Travel Partnership in London and their members, based across the UK, will be aiming to raise £25,000 by taking part in a number of events. Through the partnership we’ll be able to grant the wishes of even more seriously ill children, giving them the strength to cope, resilience to fight their illness and hope for the future.” commented Nina Allard, Head of Mass Fundraising from Make-A-Wish UK.

Magical host, Paul Martin, took to the stage and entertained the room to leave guests on a high as the day drew to an end.

The full list of 2018 winners

Leisure Sales Team of the Year 2018

Jet2holidays

Advantage Holidays Agent of the Year 2018

Polka Dot Travel

Hotel Partner of the Year 2018

Meliá Hotels International

Most Engaged Leisure Travel Agent of the Year 2018

Garstang Travel

Most Engaged Business Travel Agent of the Year 2018

Blue Cube Travel

Advantage Business Travel Agent of the Year (Less than £30M sales annually) 2018

Global Travel Management

Advantage Business Travel Agent of the Year (More than £30M sales annually) 2018

Business Travel Direct

Business Travel Partner of the Year (Air) 2018

Emirates

Business Travel Partner of the Year (Technology & Ancillary) 2018

Travelogix

Business Travel Account Manager of the Year 2018

Michael Rainford, Air France KLM

Advantage Leisure Travel Agent of the Year (North) 2018

Althams Travel

Advantage Leisure Travel Agent of the Year (South) 2018

Baldwins Travel Group

Leisure Partner of the Year 2018

Gold Medal and Travel 2

Agent Friendly Leisure Partner of the Year 2018

Classic Collection

Leisure Account Manager of the Year 2018

Jonny Peat, Celebrity Cruises

Employee of the Year- Business Travel 2018

Heeral Patel, Omega Business Travel

Employee of the Year- Leisure Travel 2018

Nicki Lahiri, Meon Valley Travel

Marketing Excellence Award 2018
Oasis Travel

Rising Star Award 2018
Amy Floyd, Sevenoaks Travel

Outstanding Achievement Award Winner 2018
Suzanne Horner, Gray Dawes Group

Advantage Employee of the Year
Lee Ainsworth

The winners were chosen by a mixture of members, business partners and an independent panel. The awards were held on 5th October 2018 at Hilton London Bankside.

Find out more about The Big Celebration Lunch at www.bigcelebrationlunch.com

Ends

For further information about Advantage Travel Partnership please contact Lauren Williams, Phil Harper and Jessica Connan (bgadvantage@finnpartners.com / 44 20 7 326 9880)

Note to editors: Advantage Travel Partnership is the UK's largest independent travel agent partnership. Advantage leisure and business travel agents who are part of the group are each independently owned, but as a collective they produce over £4bn of travel sales each year, making members experts in every aspect of the travel industry.

About Make-A-Wish UK

Make-A-Wish UK grants life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

A wish is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and a focus for children living with serious illnesses whose future may be uncertain.

Since the charity was founded in the UK in 1986 it has granted more than 12,000 wishes.

Registered charity number: 295672/SCO37479.

- To respect the sensitive nature of life-threatening conditions, we ask that phrases like ‘terminally ill’ are not used and that the term ‘life-threatening conditions’ is used in all materials.
- Make-A-Wish should be referred to as Make-A-Wish® UK in the first instance. Thereafter ‘Make-A-Wish’ is suitable.
- Please hyperlink to our website when you mention [Make-A-Wish](#) online.