

06 October 2017

NEWS RELEASE

ADVANTAGE BIG CELEBRATION LUNCH: THE WINNERS

- *Big Celebration Lunch was attended by 240 delegates*
- *This is the second-time Advantage has held a standalone awards ceremony*
- *TV presenter Mark Durden-Smith returned for a second year to host the event*



London, UK – 02 October 2017:

In its second year, Advantage hosted The Big Celebration Lunch, celebrating members and their success.

Overall 18 awards were presented to members, and business partners. The winners were chosen by a mixture of members, business partners and an independent panel. The awards were held on Friday 06 October at The Grange, City of London. A standalone award for Advantage employee of the year was also awarded for the very first time.

Julia Lo Bue-Said, Managing Director at Advantage said: “This year we will be welcoming yet again individuals who have themselves been directly involved in Advantage over the years; celebrating the success of individual members and businesses partners nominated by their peers; presenting this year’s recipient of our Outstanding Achievement Award.”

“Last year’s inaugural event was a huge success and proved that the Big Celebration Lunch should be firmly placed in the industry calendar.”

Advantage chose to support the Together Forever Foundation with a prize draw raffle on the day. It is a cause that has been set up by Advantage member, Westoe Travel, to help the families of Chloe Rutherford and Liam Curry, who tragically lost their lives in the Manchester bombing. Over £3,600 was raised on the day.

The UK’s premier improv comedy troupe, The Noise Next Door, 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 winners

Travel Employer of the Year 2017

Regal Travel

Leisure Sales Team of the Year 2017

Jet2holidays

Advantage Holidays- Agent of the Year 2017

Terra Travel

Advantage Business Travel Agent of the Year 2017

Ace Travel

Advantage Leisure Travel Agent of the Year 2017

Baldwin's Travel Group

Business Travel Hotel of the Year 2017

Meliá International Hotels

Business Travel Partner of the Year (Airline) 2017

Virgin Atlantic

Business Travel Partner of the Year (Technology & Ancillary) 2017

Avis Budget UK

Leisure Partner of the Year 2017

Gold Medal / Travel 2

Agent Friendly Leisure Partner of the Year 2017

(SUPER BREAK)

Most Supportive Leisure Travel Agent of the Year 2017

Oasis Travel

Most Supportive Business Travel Agent of the Year 2017

Norad Travel Group

Leisure Account Manager of the Year 2017

Helen Parry - Jet2holidays

Business Travel Account Manager of the Year 2017

Denise Bridgeman - Air Canada

Staff Member of the Year (Business Travel) 2017

Amy O'Rourke - NYS Corporate

Staff Member of the Year (Leisure Travel) 2017

Kim Kent - Spear Travels

Rising Star Award 2017

Rajni Kaur - BS Executive Travel

Outstanding Achievement Award Winner 2017

Scott Pawley- Global Travel Management

Advantage Employee of the Year (new for 2017)

Danni de Nervaux, Marketing Campaign & PR Manager

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

Ends

For further information about Advantage Travel Partnership please contact Lauren Williams (lauren.williams@brightergroup.com) or Katherine Lawrey (Katherine.lawrey@brightergroup.com), +44 (0) 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.

WIN is a select group of corporate travel specialists working together to provide a superior service to international clients. They provide local service excellence using global products and technology to build a truly Locally Global solution. There are around 6,000 travel agent members in over 70 countries worldwide.