

# ARABIAN TRAVEL AWARDS





# Nominations *Open*

## ARABIAN TRAVEL AWARDS

# 2023

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MEDIA PARTNERS





# Night of glittering stars at ATA

Stalwarts from the travel, tourism and hospitality industry were felicitated at the Arabian Travel Awards in Dubai recently for their outstanding contribution. The award ceremony also provided an opportunity to assess the previous year's challenges and achievements and plan for the growth in future.



 Shehara Rizly

It was a night of grandeur, glitterati and celebration with travel, tourism and hospitality leaders from across the world attending the most coveted awards in the region, the Arabian Travel Awards. The evening kicked off with the ribbon cutting ceremony, graced by the

battles and led to adapting the new normal. Among our audience are some legends, some visionaries and potential leaders of tomorrow. We have all come together to celebrate success. This ceremony provides us an opportunity to reflect on the previous year, address the whole community, share achievements and plans for growth. Our aim tonight is to

Awards—For the legends and leaders of today and tomorrow. These are stalwarts of the industry and even youngsters who are aiming to change the industry. Business Awards—These awards are for the organizations which set a high benchmark for their respective fields and have consistently exceeded their own expectations. Trending Awards—Decided by critics, these awards are for the individuals who have done some extraordinary work in this field. Partner Awards—These are the partners who have contributed to make this event a grand success. The process for awards starts with online nomination, then voting is done and finally the jury decides the award winners. Voting is carefully monitored to avoid duplication and ensure transparency.

thank the organisers, a very good set-up, and it is my first time to be here and I am very privileged to be among the leaders of the travel and tourism business. This award continues to become the platform for all those successful people in the travel and tourism industry for their hard work and dedication. There is no better time for this awards night to come now, especially as it comes a few days after the launch of the national tourism strategy, on 11 November by His Excellency Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister, UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The strategy aims to attract investment of 100 billion dirhams in UAE by the year 2031 and in the same year attracting 40 million hotel guests."

Next on the agenda was the most important personal awards where the Chief Guest and the DDP Group Directors received the winners on stage. This year, Mohamed Jassim Al Rais entered the Gallery of Legends,

"I am proud to say that more than 83,000 votes have been cast for this edition of the awards. It gives us great pride in mentioning that the publicity generated by this event is unparalleled.

**This award continues to become the platform for all those successful people in the travel and tourism industry for their hard work and dedication**

— Ammar Sajwani

previous Gallery of Legends, Jamal Abdunazar and Nasir Jamal Khan, DDP Gamechanger 2021, Kathryn Wallington, Tourism Ambassador 2022, Basmah Abdulaziz Al-Mayman, along with the Chief Guest, Ammar Sajwani and DDP Group Directors, SanJeet and Sumeera Bahl. It was followed by the launch of the special collector's edition by the Chief Guest.

**SanJeet**, Director, DDP Group, in his opening remarks, said, "The travel and tourism industry in the Middle East has not just survived the pandemic but started to thrive again and leading by example. In fact, the world is carefully watching this magic that is happening from this part of the world. I wish that we could go back and delete the last two years, but the hard battle has made us all stronger and tougher. Everybody in this room is a winner, we have all won both personal and professional

recognize, facilitate and reward all your outstanding contributions to the travel industry. These awards are powered by TravTalk, the region's leading travel publication. Congratulations to all of you for being part of such a growing, innovative and successful industry. The Arabian Travel Awards have been convened to recognise this excellence, hard work and success, thereby making tourism synonymous with progress, development and opportunity. Many of you have been with the DDP Group since 2001, when TravTalk started operations here. We have grown exceptionally since then, all thanks to your support, blessings and guidance. The Arabian Travel Awards are our way to saying thank you to the industry and motivate you all to grow further."

The Arabian Travel Awards are divided into four categories: Personal

It really, reaches the decision makers of the travel fraternity. With this, once again, I would like to congratulate all the award winners in advance. You all deserve this honour, enjoy the evening, and do celebrate your success," SanJeet added.

Chief Guest, Sajwani reiterated, "I am very happy to be here and I would like to first of all take this opportunity to

Basmah Abdulaziz Al-Mayman was honoured as Tourism Ambassador, Jaal Shah was recognised as the DDP Gamechanger and Mohammad Khoori as DDP Trailblazer. The next session was the business awards, followed by trending awards and finally the partner awards to all those who made outstanding contribution to the travel, tourism and hospitality sector. 🌟





# Awe-inspiring presence







## Gallery of Legends

### MOHAMED JASSIM AL RAIS

“I am very happy to receive this award, thank you very much. Twenty years back, I started to work in a very big organization called Al Rais Travel, I was staff just like anyone. I had my colleagues, my reporting manager and started to learn and get experience. When you get the time to learn more, you get the experience then you get the knowledge over that period of time, you get the network and you get the information about the industry, so then you also get the position. When you have all of this combination you have to contribute to the industry and this is what we are trying to do, because as you know travel industry is one of the biggest industries.”

— Mohamed Jassim Al Rais, Deputy Managing Director, Al Rais Travel

The award was presented to **Mohamed Jassim Al Rais**, Deputy Managing Director, Al Rais Travel

## Tourism Ambassador

### BASMAH ABDULAZIZ AL-MAYMAN

“I am very delighted to be here with everyone in Dubai today at this beautiful place and I consider everyone of you as an important stakeholder in our industry. It is an honour and a pleasure to be awarded as a tourism ambassador. On this occasion, I would also like to thank the organisers and my colleagues from the Ministry of Economy for their presence here, for bringing us together for a live event to recognise the efforts of our industry. Rethinking one of the world's major economic sectors is not an easy task, however we are already well on the way, and the pandemic crisis, also showed us where we can build more resilience in being one family together.”

— Basmah Abdulaziz Al-Mayman, Regional Director, Middle East, UNWTO

The award was presented to **Basmah Abdulaziz Al-Mayman**, Regional Director, Middle East, UNWTO



## DDP Gamechanger

### JAAL SHAH

“I am grateful to everyone who has ever supported me on my journey, including my family, friends, team members, and everyone else. On stage, it was me accepting the award, but behind the scenes, a lot of people—along with the awesome power of God—had a hand in helping me work hard and earn the right to receive this honour. This honour serves as a reminder of the blessings I have experienced thus far in my journey.”

— Jaal Shah, Group Managing Director, Travel Designer Group

The award was presented to **Jaal Shah**, Group Managing Director, Travel Designer Group



## DDP Trailblazer

### MOHAMMAD KHOORI

“I am very happy to receive this award this year. It has been a great one for us as we enjoyed very good business with very high occupancy and very good rates. Personally, I would like to thank my team who has been supporting me over the past years.”

— Mohammad Khoori, Cluster General Manager, Golden Sands Hotels and Hotel Apartments

The award was presented to **Mohammad Khoori**, Cluster General Manager, Golden Sands Hotels and Hotel Apartments







## Best Travel Management Company - ME

### KANOO TRAVEL

“We are truly honoured to receive these awards, which demonstrate how our efforts in the sector are not going unnoticed. Such recognition is particularly meaningful because it comes at a time where Kanoo Travel has proven its potential to tackle great obstacles, especially the pandemic, which has presented us and the entire industry with a unique set of obstacles and challenges.”

— Zaeem Gama, CEO, Kanoo Travel

The award was received by **Fahad Kanoo**, Vice President, Kanoo Travel and **Zaeem Gama**, CEO, Kanoo Travel



## Best Family Friendly Hotel

### SWISSOTEL AL GHURAIR

“It is an honour to receive this beautiful award two years in a row, and we are humbled by it. It is a great recognition to our team's effort and hard work to position the hotel as a family-friendly destination. Right from the check-in to dining and entertainment, and creating Family Rooms and offers, the hotel always have the children at the heart of its offerings. This is a testimony that we have aligned with the right partners and experiences, and we will continue to enhance our experiences. See you next year; they say third time is always a charm!”

— Natalia Zubareva, Director, Sales and Marketing, Swissotel Al Ghurair Dubai

The award was received by **Natalia Zubareva**, Director, Sales and Marketing, Swissotel Al Ghurair Dubai and **Mrinaliny Mitra**, Assistant Director, Marketing and Communications, Swissotel Al Ghurair



## Best Visa Outsourcing Company

### VFS GLOBAL

“It is truly an honour to be named the Best Visa Outsourcing Company at the Arabian Travel Awards 2022. We thank the jury for recognising and felicitating us for our services here in the Middle East. We have been working in the region since 2004 and it has been our continuous endeavour to focus on customer centricity and business excellence.”

— Sherif Shazly, Chief Operating Officer, Middle East and North Africa, VFS Global

The award was received by **Arzan Khambatta**, Global Head, Tourism Services, Head, Middle East-Value Added Services, VFS Global and **Prasad Shirke**, Manager, Tourism Services, VFS Global

## Best Travel Agency - Qatar

### TAWFEEQ TRAVEL

“ATA is a perfect platform to connect with regional partners and collaborate with them. This award is an acknowledgement of our hard work and motivates to raise the bar and position ourselves in this region. Moreover such awards built trust in your employees that organization is striving hard to excel in order to reach greater heights. This gave us opportunities to meet and interact with the legends of the industry. I look forward to be associated with ATA in times to come.”

— Rehan Ali Syed, CEO, Tawfeeq Travel Group

The award was received by **Rehan Ali Syed**, CEO, Tawfeeq Travel Group; **Hiloor Muhiyadeen**, CFO, Tawfeeq Travel Group and **Nadeem Ulde**, Sr. Manager, Corporate Sales and Ops, Tawfeeq Travel Group



## Best Business Hotel, UAE

### DUSITD2 KENZ HOTEL

“We are honoured and grateful to receive these awards, which are a testament to our passionate pursuit of excellence at each of our properties. We are delighted to deliver Dusit's unique brand of Thai-inspired gracious hospitality in Dubai, and we look forward to providing even more outstanding services and transformative experiences for our esteemed guests and customers in the exciting months and years ahead.”

— Bassam Zakaria, Cluster General Manager, dusitD2 Kenz Hotel and Dusit Princess Residences

The award was received by **Bassam Zakaria**, Cluster General Manager, dusitD2 Kenz Hotel & Dusit Princess Residences-Dubai Marina and **Alina Dolcos**, Assistant Director, Sales, dusitD2 Kenz Hotel



## Best Training Institute for Aviation, Travel & Tourism

### WINGSWAY TRAINING INSTITUTE IATA - ATC

“Winning the Best Training Institute award, we thank our students for their trust, our team and faculty for their commitment, and our well-wishers for their support.”

— Shakir Kantawala, Co-founder & Managing Partner, WingsWay Training Institute IATA-ATC

The award was received by **Shakir Kantawala**, Co-founder & Managing Partner, WingsWay Training Institute IATA-ATC; **Essa Qureshi**, Training Solutions Manager and **Sheetal Murthy**, Head, Training-IATA Section, WingsWay Training Institute IATA-ATC







## Best Luxury Shopping Destination

### MCARTHURGLEN DESIGNER OUTLETS

“All the guests from the Middle East were happy when they came shopping to us at our McArthurGlen Designer Outlets and it feels great to receive this award as a recognition of our achievements.”

— Matthias Sinner, Head, Tourism, McArthurGlen Designer Outlets

The award was received by **Sabina Piacenti**, International Markets Manager, McArthurGlen Designer Outlets and **Matthias Sinner**, Head, Tourism, McArthurGlen Designer Outlets



## Best Luxury & Mice Hotel

### GRAND MILLENNIUM TABUK

“This achievement goes to the hard work and dedication of our employees and the support of our owners and guests. We are greatly honoured.”

— Jalal Nasser, Cluster General Manager, Grand Millennium Giza, Grand Millennium Tabuk and Grand Millennium Hail

The award was received by **Jalal Nasser**, Cluster General Manager, Grand Millennium Giza, Grand Millennium Tabuk and Grand Millennium Hail



## Best B2B Travel Portal

### AKBARTRAVELS.COM

“First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to the Arabian Travel Awards Committee for nominating and awarding our business as the Best B2B Portal in the Middle East. Since it took years to get here, this is a very proud occasion for us. I want to thank the valuable staff members and committed employees who backed us on this journey and have worked tirelessly to create the company into one of the most renowned companies in India and the world. I want to thank our clients in particular for their continued support and belief in us, which encourages us to strive even harder to provide them with the finest services possible. Thank you everyone!!”

— Ashiya Nazar, Director, Akbar Group, Middle East

The award was received by **Ranjit Rajan**, Sales Manager, B2B, akbartravels.com; **Ashiya Nazar**, Director, Middle East, akbartravels.com and **Ahmed Kasim**, Manager, GCC Online Business, akbartravels.com

## Best Leisure and Business Hotel, UAE

### THE TOWER PLAZA HOTEL, DUBAI

“Winning business awards from credible third parties can go a long way in solidifying your reputation as a trustworthy brand that delivers. Award-winning businesses are consistently seen as more reputable and honest, even if consumers are not consciously aware of this perception. A robust awards and accolades strategy is a key part of any hotel or resort’s marketing effort. This is even more important for independent hotels where awards and accolades create credibility for the guest experience. Winning the award is only step one. Arabian Travel Awards winning has boosted our organization’s reputation, setting The Tower Plaza Hotel Dubai apart from the crowd. It also gave the entire team a morale boost by highlighting their achievements. If you are a young company, winning awards can signal to the world that you have arrived, and help to cement your credibility.”

— Nuran Kilani Director, Sales and Marketing, Tower Plaza Hotel

The award was received by **Emad Ibrahim**, Front Office Manager, Tower Plaza Hotel and **Hesham Al Halwagy**, Revenue Manager, Tower Plaza Hotel



## Best GSA

### AL NABOODAH TRAVEL

“We are privileged to receive the Best GSA Award for a fourth consecutive year, highlighting our continuous efforts to serve our partner airlines. We thank all our airline partners and staff behind this achievement. Thank you to the Arabian Travel Awards.”

— Nasir Jamal Khan, CEO, Al Naboodah Travel

The award was received by **Nasir Jamal Khan**, Chief Executive Officer, Al Naboodah Travel and **Asim Waheed**, Business Development Manager, Al Naboodah Travel



## Best DMC, UAE

### BTB TOURS

“It is always great to see such results after a long hard working period. The biggest honour goes to the team who supported the company to attain its overwhelming success over the past few years. Recognition and appreciation is the best motivation and inspiration to reach further success. Again thank you to the award committee for selecting us for this award.”

— Umut Ilkaya, Global Marketing Director, BTB Tours

The award was received by **Salih Gozcu**, Chief Executive Officer, BTB Tours and **Arda Sever**, Deputy General Manager, BTB Tours







## Best Luxury Suite Hotel

### MERCURE DUBAI BARSHA HEIGHTS – HOTEL SUITES AND APARTMENTS

“It is really a privilege for us at Mercure Hotel Suites & Apartments, Barsha Heights to receive Best Hotel Apartments & Best Luxury Suite Hotel Award from Arabian Travel Awards. By acknowledging and receiving this award, we have made not just our team proud but also the guest who have chosen to stay with us. This award is a recognition for all the hard work and dedication put forward by our team.”

—Dariya Bushmakina, Director, Sales & Marketing, Mercure Hotel Suites & Apartments, Barsha Heights, Dubai

The award was received by **Dariya Bushmakina**, Director, Sales & Marketing, Mercure Hotel Suites & Apartments, Barsha Heights, Dubai and **Radhika Praseen**, Marketing Manager, Mercure Hotel Suites & Apartments, Barsha Heights, Dubai



## Most Trusted Travel Partner in the Middle East

### COZMO TRAVEL

“It is a big day for Cozmo Travel. We are thrilled to have been awarded the Most Trusted Travel Partner in the Middle East Award 2022 in the Middle East! We would like to thank our wonderful team on being our pillars of strength with their hard work and dedication through it all, without them, we would not have been able to achieve such milestones and achievements.”

—Jamal Abdulnazar, CEO, Cozmo Travel

The award was received by **Jamal Abdulnazar**, CEO, Cozmo Travel; **Deepa Rajesh**, Sales & Business Development, Cozmo Travel and **Boniface Aloysius**, Head, Finance, Cozmo Travel



## Best African Airline

### RWANDAIR

“First and foremost, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of this amazing event. This award is very significant for us. In a very competitive and demanding airline field, it is truly an honour and humbling experience to be recognized by tourism partners. We strive to be the best in the services we offer to our clients and we will endeavor to keep this flame burning to reflect the ideals for which we are known for.”

—Reuben Mbonye, Country Manager, RwandaAir

The award was received by **Nikhil Naidu**, Sales Executive, RwandaAir; **Reuben Mbonye**, Country Manager, UAE, RwandaAir; **Sabrina Said**, Customer Service Supervisor, RwandaAir and **Arnold Anthony**, Sales Manager, RwandaAir

## Most Comfortable Hotel Apartments

### GOLDEN SANDS HOTEL APARTMENTS

“I am very happy to receive this award this year. It has been a great one for us as we enjoyed very good business with very high occupancy and very good rates. Personally, I would like to thank my team who has been supporting me over the past years.”

—Mohammad Khoori, Cluster General Manager Golden Sands Hotels and Hotel Apartments

The award was received by **Shehab Manna**, Cluster Commercial Director, Golden Sands Hotels and Hotel Apartments; **Fredrick Garcia**, Cluster Director, Revenue, Golden Sands Hotels and Hotel Apartments; **Mohammad Khoori**, General Manager, Golden Sands Hotels and Hotel Apartments; **Kamila Orlewic**, Cluster Director, Operations, Golden Sands Hotels and Hotel Apartments and **Mirna Tenidis**, Cluster Director, Marketing & Strategic Planning, Golden Sands Hotels and Hotel Apartments



## Best Travel Booking Platform

### REZLIVE.COM

“First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to the jury members who chose our company as the Best Travel Booking Platform and gave us this honour. This is all possible because of our team members, who have worked tirelessly to make the company one of the most recognisable companies in the Middle East region. I want to thank our travel partners in particular for their continued support and belief in us, which has inspired us to strive even harder to provide them with the finest services we can.”

—Jaal Shah, Group Managing Director, Travel Designer Group

The award was received by **Jaal Shah**, Group Managing Director, Travel Designer Group; **Arijit Mookerjee**, VP, Global Sales, Travel Designer Group and **Zaheer Jedy**, Deputy Regional Manager, Travel Designer Group



## Best Desert Hotel

### TILAL LIWA HOTEL

“We are delighted that our efforts to bring back Tilal Liwa in the hospitality scene is being recognized by such an organization. The pandemic has hampered our property into prosperity but our team remained resilient. The entire team's hard work and passion for service are the true reason for this fruitful outcome. We are accepting this award as a sign to keep moving forward and a motivation in the coming years. We are ready to welcome 2023 head strong.”

—Diana Kornilakis, General Manager, Tilal Liwa Hotel

The award was received by **Diana Kornilakis**, General Manager, Tilal Liwa Hotel and **Danica Ogana**, Marketing Executive, Tilal Liwa Hotel





# Chivalrous spirit!







## Best Wedding Hotel

### SOFITEL BAHRAIN ZALLAQ THALASSA SEA & SPA

“We are extremely pleased of being awarded Best Wedding Hotel in 2022 by Arabian Travel Awards. I would like to share this award with the entire Sofitel Bahrain's team who continuously strive to provide guests unique memories and experiences. Our goal is to ensure that guests have the dream wedding they deserve and this award is recognizing all our effort. Our objective in 2023 will be to keep attracting weddings to the Kingdom of Bahrain with collective efforts from Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, Gulf Air and local vendors.”

— Emre Kirazci, Director, Operation, Sofitel Bahrain Zallaq Thalassa Sea and Spa

The award was received by **Emre Kirazci**, Director, Operations, Sales & Marketing, Sofitel Bahrain Zallaq Thalassa Sea and Spa



## Fastest Growing Online Accommodation Distributor

### IBYTA B2B TRAVEL SOLUTION

“Ibyta has been recognized as the fastest growing online accommodation distributor at the Arabian Travel Awards, Dubai. Thank you partners for your immense support and cooperation. Ibyta started its operations at the cusp of the pandemic but has surpassed the challenges and is continuing to grow. Without the team spirit and perseverance, we would not have reached this milestone.”

— Binoy Ouseph, Commercial Director, Ibyta

The award was received by **Binoy Ouseph**, Commercial Director, Ibyta and **Amitha Harilal**, Head, Operation & Product, Ibyta



## Most Active in Promoting Sustainable and Accessible Travel

### GERMAN NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE - GULF COUNTRIES

“We are delighted to receive the award for the Most Active in Promoting Sustainable and Accessible Travel. German National Tourist Board (GNTB) has been at the forefront of promoting sustainability for many years, and through its ‘Feel Good’ campaign which is focused on sustainable travel, it highlights the importance of adopting eco-friendly practices when traveling. Under this campaign, GNTB supports its federal states and towns to highlight their innovative transport solutions and accommodation, along with eco-friendly restaurants, and sustainable touristic activities.”

— Yamina Sofo, Director, German National Tourist Office (GNTB), the regional office of GNTB

The award was received by **Yamina Sofo**, Director, German National Tourist Office, the regional office of GNTB

## Best Holiday Homes Company

### EVERLUXE HOLIDAY HOMES

To make your vacation memorable in the UAE, you need a perfect home stay with all the amenities and facilities. There are many holiday apartments in Dubai and Everluxe is among the leading holiday home rental companies offering a selection of vacation homes for long monthly as well as short-term stay in Dubai. Our fully furnished vacation home rentals are available in locations across the country, including Palm Jumeirah and Dubai Marina.

The award was received by **Sandeep Singh Sahni**, CEO & Founder, Everluxe Holiday Homes and **Asfand Yar**, General Manager, Everluxe Holiday Homes



## Fastest Growing Destination Management Company, UAE

### STELLAR TOURISM LLC

“We are delighted to have won the most prestigious award once again as the Fastest Growing Destination Management Company. This award is a huge endorsement and will add credibility to our company and help make us known to the world. We will continue our efforts to create an even better experience for our guests and we look forward to creating innovative solutions for many years to come.”

— Atica Rehman, Managing Director, Stellar Tourism LLC

The award was received on behalf of **Atica Rehman**, Managing Director, Stellar Tourism LLC



## Best Emerging Car Rental Company in ME

### SAYARA

“A huge congratulations to our team for being awarded the Best Emerging Car Rental Company in The Middle East 2022 by Arabian Travel Awards! We are incredibly proud of growing our fleet to 2000 plus vehicles in a span of less than five years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our esteem customers without whom this recognition would not have been possible. We look forward to many more years of growth and building our network within the Middle East.”

— Sanjay D'Souza, General Manager, Sayara

The award was received by **Sanjay D'Souza**, General Manager, Sayara and **Ahmed Ali**, CEO, Sayara







## Best 4-Star Business Hotel

### COPTHORNE HOTEL DUBAI

“Being selected the Best 4-Star Business Hotel for the second time in a row was a huge honour. This not only demonstrates the level of service we provide to our guests, but also the commitment and dedication of our colleagues. We will never be able to fully express our gratitude for this award, and we will surely use it as a motivation to keep enhancing our procedures and level of customer care.”

— Shady Dawad, General Manager, Copthorne Hotel Dubai

The award was received by **Shady Dawad**, General Manager, Copthorne Hotel Dubai; **Noushad Abdulrahim**, Director, Sales & Marketing, Copthorne Hotel Dubai and **Tohamy Gad**, Front Office Manager, Copthorne Hotel Dubai



## Most Popular Vitality Hotel

### SWISSOTEL AL MAQAM MAKKAH

“It is indeed a great pleasure winning the first global award for Swissôtel Al Maqam Makkah. It is a result of the hard work and dedication by the team working for the hotel.”

— Ahmed Almaghrabi, General Manager, Fairmont Makkah KSA

The award was received by **Ahmed Almaghrabi**, Hotel Manager, Fairmont Makkah KSA



## Best MICE Hotel

### LE MERIDIEN DUBAI HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE

“Thank you for organising this wonderful event at Le Meridien and we also would like to acknowledge the presence of great industry leaders here tonight. On behalf of the Le Meridien Hotel and Conference Centre, we would like to thank the team for their efforts to win this award tonight.”

— Fadeel Wehbe, General Manager, Le Meridien Dubai Hotel & Conference Centre

The award was received by **Fadeel Wehbe**, General Manager, Le Meridien Dubai Hotel & Conference Centre and **Saskia Evraert**, Complex Hotel Manager, Le Meridien Dubai Hotel & Conference Centre

## Fastest Growing DMC - Qatar

### TAWFEEQ HOLIDAYS

“ATA is a perfect platform to connect with regional partners and collaborate with them. This award is acknowledgement of our hard work and motivates to raise the bar and position ourselves in this region. Moreover such awards built trust in your employees that organization is striving hard to excel in order to reach greater heights. This gave us opportunities to meet and interact with the legends of the industry. I look forward to be associated with ATA in times to come.”

— Rehan Ali, CEO, Tawfeeq Travel Group

The award was received by **Rehan Ali Syed**, CEO, Tawfeeq Travel Group; **Mathew Sebastian**, Head, Retail, B2B & DMC, Tawfeeq Travel Group and **Hiloor Muhiyadeen**, CFO, Tawfeeq Travel Group



## Best Business & Leisure Hotel, KSA

### GRAND MILLENNIUM GIZAN

“This achievement goes to the hard work and dedication of our employees and the support of our owners and guests. We are greatly honoured.”

— Jalal Nasser, Cluster General Manager Grand Millennium Giza, Grand Millennium Tabuk and Grand Millennium Hail

The award was received by **Jalal Nasser**, Cluster General Manager, Grand Millennium Giza, Grand Millennium Tabuk and Grand Millennium Hail



## Best City Hotel, Bahrain

### THE DIPLOMAT RADISSON BLU HOTEL, RESIDENCE & SPA - MANAMA

Located just over five kilometers from Bahrain International Airport, The Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, Residence & Spa, Manama offers easy access to the Financial Harbour and the city's commercial, shopping, and banking districts. The Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, Residence & Spa, Manama, features 245 rooms for business or leisure travelers, complete with free Wi-Fi and in-room coffee and tea facilities. It also offers versatile portfolio of meeting and events venues, comprising 16 meeting rooms and two spacious ballrooms, including Bahrain's only rooftop venue.

The award was received by **Petr Dubsky**, General Manager, The Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, Residence & Spa - Manama and **Nahed Guiga**, Director, Sales, The Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, Residence & Spa - Manama







## Best Corporate Travel Agency

### AL NABOODAH TRAVEL

“We are delighted to receive another award for Al Naboodah Travel, made possible through hard work and dedication. This recognition inspires us to continue developing the best corporate travel experience for clients and foster sustainable growth.”

— Nasir Jamal Khan, CEO, Al Naboodah Travel

The award was received by **Nasir Jamal Khan**, Chief Executive Officer, Al Naboodah Travel; **Asim Waheed**, Business Development Manager, Al Naboodah Travel and **Asif Amin**, Assistant Manager, Finance, Al Naboodah Travel



## Best Luxury Business Hotel in UAE

### SOFITEL ABU DHABI CORNICHE

“We are humbled to receive Best Luxury Business Hotel UAE Award from Arabian Travel Awards, among other leaders in the industry. It is a testament to the team's hard work, dedication and passion for delivering authentic experience at Sofitel in Abu Dhabi, where French culture blends with Arabic hospitality. Travelers and their expectations are evolving; our team is always looking for new ways to provide unique experiences to our guests. We are grateful for the lessons and milestones we have achieved in 2022, and we look forward to a fruitful year ahead for Sofitel and Abu Dhabi.”

— Firas Sharrouf, General Manager, Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche

The award was received by **Firas Sharrouf**, General Manager, Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche and **Maha Galieva**, Director, Marketing, Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche



## Best Airline - South East Asia

### PHILIPPINE AIRLINES

“Philippine Airlines is deeply honoured to have received the Best Airline-Southeast Asia Award in this year's Arabian Travel Awards. This is only a testament of PAL's efforts in delivering our Buong Pusong Alaga brand of service to our passengers. This recognition only inspires us to continue aspiring to be better so that we can fulfill our promise to our passengers of making things easy across all our touchpoints to ensure they enjoy a more seamless travel experience.”

— Josh Vasquez, Area Manager, UAE, Philippine Airlines

The award was received by **Josh Vasquez**, Area Manager, UAE, Philippine Airlines and **Shiela Yuliong**, Regional Head, EMEA & Oceania, Philippine Airlines

## Best Family Friendly Resort

### RAMADA HOTEL AND SUITES BY WYNDHAM DUBAI JBR

“The Arabian Travel Awards is a platform to recognize the efforts of the core team behind the success of the travel and hospitality industry in the Middle East and to reward them for their hard work and dedication. Winning the award reflects in our customer focused approach and commitment that is put together by each associate in creating a memorable experience for our valued guests.”

— Pushpendra Sah, Director, Sales, Ramada Hotel & Suites by Wyndham JBR

The award was received by **Pushpendra Sah**, Director, Sales, Ramada Hotel & Suites by Wyndham JBR and **Lucille Tabara**, Marketing Executive, Ramada Hotel and Suites by Wyndham Dubai JBR



## Best MICE Tour Operator - ME

### KANOO TRAVEL

“It is a privilege to win these two awards. Kanoo Travel faced stiff competition from other high-profile regional travel management companies, so being recognized for our excellent work and commitment of all of our staff, as well as our innovative solutions and delivery of a highly customized service to each of our valued clients, is a great honour. These awards come after we were named Leading Travel Agency for Restarting COVID Recovery in the 4th Edition of the Arabian Travel Awards, highlighting our unwavering commitment to succeeding in the sector year after year.”

— Fahad Fawzi Kanoo, CEO, Kanoo Group

The award was received by **Aamit Gupta**, Head, MICE & Holidays, Kanoo Travel and **Aubrey Heldt**, GM, Operations, Kanoo Travel



## Best Serviced Apartments

### DUSIT PRINCESS RESIDENCES - DUBAI MARINA

“We are honoured and grateful to receive these awards, which are a testament to our passionate pursuit of excellence at each of our properties. We are delighted to deliver Dusit's unique brand of Thai-inspired gracious hospitality in Dubai, and we look forward to providing even more outstanding services and transformative experiences for our esteemed guests and customers in the exciting months and years ahead.”

— Bassam Zakaria, Cluster General Manager, dusitD2 Kenz Hotel and Dusit Princess

The award was received by **Bassam Zakaria**, Cluster General Manager, dusitD2 Kenz Hotel & Dusit Princess Residences-Dubai Marina and **Evita Melne**, Residence Manager, Dusit Princess Residences-Dubai Marina







## Emerging B2B Online Travel Portal

### TRAVTROLLEY

“We are honoured to have been awarded the Emerging B2B Online Travel Portal Middle East 2022 by Arabian Travel Awards! It is a testament to our dedication to provide the best B2B user experience through our portal. Through the challenges faced by the industry, Travtrolley was able to provide support to clients and has reintroduced the platform with a brand-new look and updated features that we are excited to share with our current and new clients.”

— Deepa Rajesh, Director, Marketing and Communications, Travtrolley

The award was received by **Sam Varghese**, Regional Manager, MENA, Travtrolley; **Malik Naseer**, Head, Operations, Travtrolley and **Sidique Elambilat**, Manager, Revenue Optimization, Travtrolley



## Best Debut Boutique Hotel

### GOLDEN SANDS HOTEL CREEK

“I am very happy to receive this award this year has been a great one for us as we enjoyed very good business with very high occupancy and very good rates. Personally, I would like to thank my team who has been supporting me over the past years.”

— Mohammad Khoori, Cluster General Manager, Golden Sands Hotels and Hotel Apartments

The award was received by **Shehab Mannaa**, Cluster Commercial Director, Golden Sands Hotel Creek; **Mirna Tenidis**, Cluster Director, Marketing & Strategic Planning, Golden Sands Hotel Creek; **Mohammad Khoori**, General Manager, Golden Sands Hotel Creek; **Fredrick Garcia**, Cluster Director, Revenue, Golden Sands Hotel Creek and **Kamila Orlewic**, Cluster Director, Operations, Golden Sands Hotel Creek



## Best Hotel Apartments

### MERCURE DUBAI BARSHA HEIGHTS – HOTEL SUITES AND APARTMENTS

“It is really a privilege for us at Mercure Hotel Suites & Apartments, Barsha Heights to receive Best Hotel Apartments & Best Luxury Suite Hotel award from Arabian Travel Awards. By acknowledging and receiving this award, we have made not just our team proud but also the guest who have chosen to stay with us. This award is a recognition for all the hard work and dedication put forward by our team. This will encourage us to challenge the status quo of the hotel industry, bring the best in each team, and reset our limits to excellence.”

— Dariya Bushmakina, Director, Sales & Marketing, Mercure Hotel Suites & Apartments, Barsha Heights, Dubai

The award was received by **Dariya Bushmakina**, Director, Sales & Marketing, Mercure Dubai Barsha Heights and **Radhika Praseen**, Marketing Manager, Mercure Dubai Barsha Heights

## Most Promising MICE Tour Operator

### BTB TOURS

“It is always great to see such results after a long hard-working period. The biggest honour goes to the team who supported the company to attain its overwhelming success over the past few years. Recognition and appreciation is the best motivation and inspiration to reach further success. Again, thank you to the award committee for selecting us for this award.”

— Umut Ilkaya, Global Marketing Director, BTB Tours

The award was received by **Gokhan Sinar**, Director, MICE, BTB Tours



## Best City Hotel, UAE

### ST. REGIS DOWNTOWN

The St. Regis Downtown Dubai boasts 298 lavishly appointed rooms and suites, overlooking local landmarks such as Dubai Water Canal and Burj Khalifa. The spacious guest rooms feature floor-to-ceiling windows, plush bedding, marble bathrooms and walk-in wardrobes. Guests staying at The St. Regis Downtown Dubai can expect St. Regis Butler Service, providing round-the-clock anticipatory service.

The award was received by **Dorothy Patai**, Hotel Manager, St. Regis Downtown



## Best Business Hotel, KSA

### MILLENNIUM HAIL

“This achievement goes to the hard work and dedication of our employees and the support of our owners and guests. We are greatly honoured.”

— Jalal Nasser, Cluster General Manager, Grand Millennium Gizan, Grand Millennium Tabuk and Grand Millennium Hail

The award was received by **Jalal Nasser**, Cluster General Manager, Grand Millennium Gizan, Grand Millennium Tabuk and Grand Millennium Hail







## Chief Guest

### AMMAR SAJWANI

“I am very happy to be here and would like to first of all take this opportunity to thank the organisers, a very good set up and it is my first time to be here and I am very privileged to be among the leaders of the travel and tourism business. This award continues to become the platform for all those successful in the travel and tourism industry for their hard work and dedication.”

— Ammar Sajwani, Tourism Director, Ministry of Economy

The award was given to **Ammar Sajwani**, Tourism Director, Ministry of Economy



## Hospitality Partner

### LE MERIDIEN DUBAI HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE

“Thank you for organising this wonderful event at Le Meridien and also would like to acknowledge the presence of great industry leaders here tonight. On behalf of the Le Meridien Hotel and Conference Centre, we would like to thank everybody tonight and for their presence at the event and this is the first event since I joined that we are co-hosting together and it definitely would not be the last.”

— Fadel Wehbe, General Manager, Le Meridien Dubai Hotel & Conference Centre

The award was given to **Fadel Wehbe**, General Manager, Le Meridien Dubai Hotel & Conference Centre and **Saskia Evraert**, Complex Hotel Manager, Le Meridien Dubai Hotel & Conference Centre



# Celestial joy!





# Congratulating all our winners!



ARABIAN  
TRAVEL  
AWARDS

*Thank You*

for your  
overwhelming response

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