



PRESS RELEASE

And the Winner is ...

From Sylt to the Indian Ocean: Hotels of the year honoured at festive gala at the ITB Berlin - seventh Connoisseur Circle Hospitality Awards

Berlin (cc) - Glamorous highlight for hotel operators all over the world and one of the most prominent industry events at the international tourism trade fair ITB Berlin: the annual Connoisseur Circle Hospitality Awards. On Wednesday (06/03/2019) the prestigious prizes for top performance and innovations in the international hotel industry were awarded in Berlin for the seventh time. 40 hotels from all continents were nominated in eight categories for the Connoisseur Circle Hospitality Awards 2019. The award is particularly significant: the award for the "best of the best" sets a trend barometer for travellers with the highest demands.

Severin*s Resort & Spa on the North Sea island of Sylt was awarded "Best Hospitality Boutique Hotel" 2019. General Manager Christian Siegling was clearly moved when he accepted the first award of the night. The Sani Dunes Resort as the most spectacular hotel resort in the Greek Aegean was awarded "Best Hospitality Design Hotel". Sani Resort-CEO Dr. Andreas Andreadis had travelled to the river Spree to collect the award for his team in Greece. The "Best Hospitality Grand Hotel" of the year is located in Switzerland: the award went to the Kulm Hotel in St. Moritz. The "Best Hospitality Spa & Health" resort is situated in Asia: the Como Uma Canggu on the Indonesian island of Bali was honoured with the award. The Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort by Anantara in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates received the award "Best Hospitality Hideway". The award "Best Hospitality Newcomer" went to a resort in Malaysia, this year's partner country at the ITB Berlin: the Datai Langkawi. General Manager Arnaud Girodon celebrated the award with Berlin PR Lady Christina Bastian.

The jury decided that the "Best Hospitality Indian Ocean" is located on the Maldives: the Kudadoo Maldives Private Island. Lars Petre, the Swedish owner of the exceptional private island with its 15 villas, and his son Filip personally accepted the glass trophy with its golden glimmer. The Connoisseur Circle's readers honoured two resorts with the award "Best Hospitality Readers' Choice". In Europe, Connoisseur Circle readers favoured the St Nicolas Bay Resort on Crete. The special focus of the award was the host quality of the resort and General Manager Costas Sp. Zarbalas. On an international level, the Coco Bodu Hithi

Maldives featured at the top of the reader's hot list. The prize was accepted by Sarah Hilmy and Shafa Shabeer, two powerful women from the Hilmy family who own the resort.

The jury also honoured top performance in the international travel and mobility industry with their "Special Awards". Qatar Airways was awarded "Airline of the Year" for the second time. Alfredo Spadon, Managing Director Europe and Asia accepted the "Cruise Line of the Year" award on behalf of Silversea Cruises. This year, the award "Best City Break-Destination Award" goes to Valetta, Malta's cultural capital 2018. The popular destination Thailand, represented by Tanes Petsuwan, Deputy Governor of the Tourism Authority, was honoured with the award "International Destination of the Year".

The gala which is considered one of the society highlights at the ITB Berlin, the world's largest travel fair, has been a fixture since 2012. This year, the actress and presenter Jennifer Boone hosted the festive night at the Sheraton Berlin Grand Hotel Esplanade. Musical entertainment was provided by the singer Ellen Kärcher whose performance at the event was secured by the gala's hosts and initiators, Simone and Andreas Dressler, as well as Silke Spieske, the new CEO of the "Sheraton Berlin Grand Hotel Esplanade". Christopher Kümper from the hotspot "Schwein" in Berlin, shooting star of the year at the "Berliner Meisterkoch 2017" (Berlin Master Chefs 2017), was responsible for catering. Veuve Clicquot, Ronnefeldt, Padre Azul and Willy Opitz Weine offered their exquisite specialties to the guests.

Since 2006, over 1,000 luxury hotels all over the world have been examined by Connoisseur Circle: the hotels are assessed independently and objectively by top journalists. The results of these tests are presented four times a year in lavish magazines and are also available online at www.ccircle.cc on an ongoing basis. A jury of 16 - consisting of independent travel connoisseurs - determines the winners.

Download press photos:

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For more information on the Hospitality Awards 2019 see:

www.ccircle.cc/awards/award-2019

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