

**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA ATTENTION**

Contact: **[INSERT NAME]**

 TEL:

 E-MAIL:

 **[COMPANY]** **RECOGNIZED WITH 2025 WAVE AWARD FROM *TravelAge West***

**DATELINE HERE** — **COMPANY** was honored with the 2025 WAVE Award in the category of **[name of category here]** on June 5 in Marina del Rey, California as part of the *TravelAge Wes*t WAVE Awards.

## LOS ANGELES — More than 230 companies, individuals and destinations were celebrated by the readers of TravelAge West as part of the WAVE Awards held June 5 in Marina del Rey, Calif., at The Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey. Honorees were recognized across 77 categories, including cruise lines, river cruise lines, tour operators, airlines, hotels and resorts, destinations, rail vacation providers, theme parks, tourism boards, technology companies and travel insurance companies. The annual awards give travel advisors the opportunity to recognize the outstanding qualities and services of their travel supplier partners.

In addition, top travel advisors were honored in five categories as part of the 2025 Trendsetters Awards, also presented at the gala. Categories included: Best Use of Social Media, Upward Bound Rock Star Advisor Under 40, Best Group Booking Effort, Best Targeted Marketing Idea, and Saving the Day.

More than 7,200 travel advisor professionals throughout the U.S. and readers of TravelAge West voted on the best-of-the-best from a list of Editor’s Pick award recipients that were chosen after careful review by Ken Shapiro, Group Vice President and Editorial Director, Mindy Poder, Editor-in-Chief of *TravelAge West,* and the editorial team of TravelAge West. Review methods included product analysis, on-site visits, a survey of a select group of industry advisors and online research.

“This is the 20th anniversary of the WAVE Awards,” Shapiro said. “So, we are extra proud to be able to give travel advisors an opportunity to acknowledge the great supplier partners that help them make travel dream trips a reality.”

This year, *TravelAge West* once again awarded its Excellence in Leadership Award, which honors individuals who, in the course of their careers in travel and tourism, have consistently demonstrated leadership and insight, effected change or innovation and made extraordinary contributions to both organizations and the industry at large. The 2025 *TravelAge West* Excellence in Leadership Awards were given to Ray Snisky, ALG Vacations, and Mike Julius, Carnival Cruise Line.

“All of our Leadership Award winners show true dedication to the travel industry, helping to make their brands and organizations models for others to follow,” Shapiro said.

In addition, the second annual Legend of the West Award, sponsored by Azamara, was awarded to an individual who has made a significant impact on travel and tourism in the Western United States and beyond. This year’s recipient was Matthew Eichhorst, Expedia Cruises.

*TravelAge Wes*t will feature WAVE Awards coverage in the July 14, 2025, issue.

A list of this year’s WAVE Award winners, as well as a list of Trendsetter Award recipients, follows.

**[Insert quote here from your company representative.]**

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

**[Insert information about your company here]**.

*TravelAge West* ([www.travelagewest.com](http://www.travelagewest.com)) has been serving the travel industry for 55 years as a leading source of travel industry news and product information. For more information about *TravelAge West,* contact Melissa Cooper at mcooper@ntmllc.com.

For more information, visit **[Insert Company’s Web site here]** or call **[Insert Company’s phone number here]**.

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2025 WAVE AWARDS

WAVE CATEGORIES & WINNERS

**AIR**

Best Airline Vacation Brand

Delta Vacations

Best Airline, Domestic

Delta Air Lines

Best Airline, International

Emirates

Best International First/Business Class

Emirates

**CAR RENTAL**

Car Rental Company with the Highest Client Satisfaction

Enterprise

Car Rental Company Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support

Enterprise

**CRUISE**

Cruise Line with the Highest Client Satisfaction (less than 1,300 passengers)

Viking

Cruise Line with the Highest Client Satisfaction (more than 1,300 passengers)

Celebrity Cruises

Cruise Company Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support (ocean-going)

Royal Caribbean International

Expedition Cruise Line Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support

National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions

Expedition Cruise Line with the Highest Client Satisfaction

Seabourn

Small-Ship Cruise Line Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support

Windstar Cruises

Luxury Cruise Line Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support

Regent Seven Seas Cruises

Best New Ocean-Going Ship (less than 1,300 passengers)

Silver Ray, Silversea

Best New Ocean-Going Ship (more than 1,300 passengers)

Utopia of the Seas, Royal Caribbean International

Best Onboard Cuisine

Oceania Cruises

Best Cruise Line for Shows

Royal Caribbean International

Best Cruise Line for Nightlife

Virgin Voyages

Best Cruise Line for Families

Carnival Cruise Line

Best Cruise Line for Caribbean Sailings

Royal Caribbean International

Best Cruise Line for Alaska Sailings

Princess

Best Cruise Line for European Sailings

Celebrity Cruises

Best Cruise Line for Hawaii Sailings

Norwegian Cruise Line

Best Cruise Line Private Island

CocoCay, Royal Caribbean International

Best World Cruise

Holland America Line

Best Ship Within a Ship Concept

The Haven by Norwegian, Norwegian Cruise Line

Best Boutique Cruise Line

Emerald Cruises

**RIVER CRUISE**

River Cruise Line with the Highest Client Satisfaction

Viking

River Cruise Line Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support

AmaWaterways

Best New River Cruise Ship

AmaLilia, AmaWaterways

Best River Cruise Line for Luxury

AmaWaterways

Best River Cruise Line for U.S. Sailings

Viking

Best River Cruise Line for Multigenerational Groups

Avalon Waterways

**RAIL**

Best Rail Vacation Provider

Railbookers/Amtrak Vacations

**TOUR OPERATOR**

Escorted Tour Operator Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support

Globus

Packaged Tour Operator Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support

Apple Vacations

Best Escorted Tour Operator, Europe

Globus

Best Packaged Tour Operator, Europe

Classic Vacations

Best Tour Operator, Africa

Abercrombie & Kent

Best Tour Operator, Asia/South Pacific

Trafalgar

Best Tour Operator, Caribbean

Funjet Vacations

Best Tour Operator, Hawaii

Pleasant Holidays

Best Tour Operator, Mexico

Funjet Vacations

Best Tour Operator, USA

Collette

Best Tour Operator for Adventure Travel

G Adventures

Best Tour Operator for Multigenerational Travel

Adventures by Disney

Best Luxury Tour Operator

Abercrombie & Kent

Best Tour Company Foundation for Responsible Travel

The TreadRight Foundation, TTC Tour Brands

Best DMC, Europe

Titanium Tours

**RESORT/HOTEL**

Hotel/Resort Chain Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support

Marriott International

All-Inclusive Hotel/Resort Chain Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support

Sandals Resorts

Best All-Inclusive Hotel Chain, Caribbean

Sandals Resorts

Best All-Inclusive Hotel Chain, Mexico

Hyatt’s Inclusive Collection

Best New Resort or Major Renovation, Mexico

Secrets Playa Blanca Costa Mujeres

Best New Resort or Major Renovation, Caribbean

Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Best New Resort or Major Renovation, Hawaii

The Westin Maui Resort and Spa, Kaanapali

Best All-Inclusive Resort Brand for Romance, Mexico

Hyatt’s Inclusive Collection

Best All-Inclusive Resort Brand for Romance, Caribbean

Sandals Resorts

Best Hotel Brand, Hawaii

Outrigger Resorts & Hotels

Best Hotel Brand for Families, Mexico

Hyatt Ziva

Best Hotel Brand for Families, Caribbean

Beaches Resorts

Best Resort for Cultural Immersion, Hawaii

Outrigger Kaanapali Beach Resort

**THEME PARKS**

Theme Park with the Highest Client Satisfaction

Walt Disney World Resort

**DESTINATIONS**

Destination With the Highest Client Satisfaction, USA

Hawaii

Destination With the Highest Client Satisfaction, Mexico

Los Cabos

Destination With the Highest Client Satisfaction, Caribbean

Dominican Republic

Destination With the Highest Client Satisfaction, Europe

Italy

Destination With the Highest Client Satisfaction, Asia

Japan

Destination With the Highest Client Satisfaction, Pacific

Australia

Destination With the Highest Client Satisfaction, Central/South America

Costa Rica

Destination With the Highest Client Satisfaction, Africa

South Africa

Destination With the Highest Client Satisfaction, Middle East

Dubai

Favorite Three-Night Destination to Sell

Los Cabos

**TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Travel Insurance Company Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support

Allianz Partners

Travel Insurance Company Providing the Highest Client Satisfaction

Allianz Partners

**TOURISM BOARD**

U.S. Tourism Board Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support

Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau

International Tourism Board Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support

Jamaica Tourist Board

**TRAVEL TECHNOLOGY**

Best Travel Technology Provider

VAX VacationAccess

**Excellence In Leadership**

Ray Snisky

ALG Vacations

**Excellence In Leadership**

Mike Julius

Carnival Cruise Line

**Legend of the West**

Matthew Eichhorst

Expedia Cruises

2025 TRENDSETTER AWARDS RECIPIENTS

**Upward Bound, Rock Star Advisor Under 40**

Winner:

Sam Johnson

Prescription Travel

Runner-Up:

Mallory Wheeler

Kingdom Luxe Travel

**Best Use of Social Media**

Winner:

Katie Brown

Travelmation

Runner-Up:

Jamie Rumph

Love of the Magic Vacations

**Best Targeted Marketing Idea**

Winner:

Jennifer Buck

Love Travel Collection

Runner-Up:

Beci Mahnken

MEI-Travel

**Best Group Booking Effort**

Winner:

Lisa McCarl

McCarl Travel, LLC

Runner-Up:

Kaitlyn Metzler / Kelly Kirk / Aurora Brick

Travelmation LLC, Travel Leaders Network

**Saving the Day**

Winner:

Jackie Waechter

Blissful Vacations

Runner-Up:

Autumn Trussell-Murray

Abundant Travel - Dream Vacations