

## PRESS RELEASE

**Malta Tourism Authority Launches Malta Tourism Awards, beginning in 2025**

The Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) is proud to announce the launch of the inaugural Malta Tourism Awards, a significant step in recognizing excellence within the tourism industry. The announcement was made during the prestigious STAR Awards event, which celebrates outstanding contributions by workers in the tourism sector.

The STAR Awards event, now in its 19th year, has been a platform for acknowledging the dedication and professionalism of individuals who go above and beyond in serving tourists visiting Malta. The final edition of the STAR Awards saw a record number of nominations, reflecting the high regard tourists hold for those working in the tourism industry.

These nominations were vetted by a STAR Awards select committee, chaired by MTA Deputy CEO and Chief Officer for Strategic Development Leslie Vella, together with Tonio Cini from the MHRA, Andrew Debattista from ITS, Marvik Borg from FATTA and Alexia Maggi from the Malta Tourism Authority.

Mario Psaila, from The Phoenicia Malta, was honoured with the Hotel Worker of the Year award. The other award winners were Kakoli Ghosh from the Mayflower Hotel in the room attendants category, whilst the hotel itself scooped up the Most Nominated Accommodation Establishment award. Joseph Mercieca from Country Terrace Restaurant and Lounge was given the award in the food and beverage category, with Country Terrace Restaurant and Lounge winning the Most Nominated Catering Establishment award. The Special Recognition Awards was given to Shyam Nara from Salini Resort.

MTA CEO Carlo Micallef unveiled plans for the Malta Tourism Awards, which will build on the objectives of the National Tourism Recovery Strategy and the European Union's Tourism Action Plan 2030. These awards will recognize initiatives that contribute to the resilience and sustainability of the local tourism industry, while also promoting leadership and innovation.

"The introduction of the new Malta Tourism Awards marks a significant milestone in our efforts to promote excellence and innovation across Malta's and Gozo's tourism sector. These awards will not only recognize outstanding service and initiatives but also to inspire others to strive for excellence in their respective fields. We look forward to receiving nominations from the industry to celebrate the achievements of our tourism ambassadors," said Mr. Micallef.



The Malta Tourism Awards beginning in 2025 will feature two categories: the Responsible Tourism Development Award and the Tourism Worker of the Year Award. Nominations for these awards will be accepted from operators in the tourism sector.

MTA Chairman Gavin Gulia highlighted the importance of recognizing the invaluable work done by workers in the tourism sector, emphasizing their role as ambassadors for Malta's tourism product. Dr Gulia expressed gratitude to all nominees for their dedication and contributions to making Malta a quality tourist destination.

Minister for Tourism and Public Cleanliness Clayton Bartolo said: "I am delighted to witness the launch of the Malta Tourism Awards, which signify a new chapter in recognizing excellence within our tourism industry. These awards underscore our commitment to fostering innovation and sustainability while acknowledging the invaluable contributions of individuals who make Malta a sought-after tourist destination."

The launch of the Malta Tourism Awards reflects the MTA's commitment to fostering excellence and innovation within the tourism industry. Detailed information about the awards, including nomination criteria and forms, can be found on the Malta Tourism Observatory website, which can be accessed from [www.mtobservatory.org](http://www.mtobservatory.org).