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PRESS RELEASE

Recognising Excellence in Malta's Tourism Industry: The Malta Tourism Awards 2024

The Malta Tourism Awards 2024 proudly celebrated the outstanding contributions of individuals and organisations within Malta's tourism industry, honouring their commitment to excellence, innovation, and sustainable development. Held at the Westin Dragonara Resort on 29th April, the event spotlighted achievements that continue to reinforce Malta's position as a leading quality tourism destination.

Organised by the Malta Tourism Authority, the Malta Tourism Awards provide a platform to acknowledge and promote the efforts of businesses and professionals who are shaping the future of Maltese tourism. The event recognised exemplary performance across a range of categories, with particular focus on service excellence, responsible tourism practices, and professional development.

Four companies were awarded the Responsible Tourism Development Award in different fields of the industry, with six individuals winning the Tourism Worker of the Year Award, also in different tourism industry fields. Aside from these 10 winners in the two award categories, eight other companies and individuals were also recognised as runners-up.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Hon. Ian Borg, emphasised the importance of the Awards in supporting Malta's long-term tourism objectives. "These awards not only honour the highest achievers in the sector but also foster a culture of leadership, sustainability, and forward-thinking. Malta's tourism industry continues to evolve, and it is through innovation and responsibility that we will safeguard its future success," stated Minister Borg.

Commenting on the event, Mr Carlo Micallef, CEO of the Malta Tourism Authority, noted: "The launch of the Malta Tourism Awards represents a significant milestone for our industry. These awards highlight individuals and organisations that are not only delivering excellence today, but also contributing to a smarter, greener, and more resilient future for Maltese tourism. We are proud to recognise the passion, innovation, and dedication that drive our sector forward."

Responsible Tourism Development Award

One of the two main segments of the evening, the Responsible Tourism Development Award, recognised organisations demonstrating outstanding commitment to long-term sustainability and resilience in alignment with Malta's National Tourism Strategy 2021–2030. The awards focused on priority areas including digital transformation, workforce training, and decarbonisation. The award winners in this category were:

- **Grand Master's Palace** – Best Visitor Attraction
- **Rigo Malta DMC** – Best Travel & Tourism

- **De Mondion** – Best Catering Establishment
- **AX ODYCY Hotel** – Best Accommodation

Tourism Worker of the Year Award

The Tourism Worker of the Year Award acknowledged individuals across various sectors who consistently go above and beyond in delivering exceptional service and contributing meaningfully to Malta's tourism offering. Each winner exemplifies professionalism, dedication, and an active commitment to customer service, teamwork, and community involvement. Award recipients in this category were as follows:

- **Ms. Maria Mifsud from Alpha School of English** – English Language Learning (Schools / Host Families)
- **Mr Jürgen Hinsén from Octopus Garden Diving Centre** – Diving Centres
- **Mr David Caruana from Esplora Interactive Science Centre** – Visitor Attractions
- **Mr Mario Cacciottolo from Dark Malta Tours** – Travel & Tourism Services
- **Mr Joseph Mark Mercieca from Country Terrace** – Catering
- **Mr Christopher Tabone from Malta Marriott Resort & Spa** – Accommodation

The Malta Tourism Awards 2024 not only celebrated excellence achieved over the past year but also underscored the significance of responsible leadership, national pride, and continuous improvement within the tourism sector. By honouring those who demonstrate exemplary performance, the Awards inspire broader industry commitment to high standards in service, sustainability and innovation.

The dedication and achievements of the winners of the Malta Tourism Awards continue to play a pivotal role in enhancing Malta's global reputation as a world-class tourism destination while contributing to the sector's long-term growth and resilience.