

## **[ASATA FINALISTS RELEASE]**

### **2014 ASATA Diners Club finalists announced**

*Monday 2 February, Johannesburg* – The Association of South African Travel Agents (ASATA) and Diners Club South Africa are proud to announce the finalists in the 2014 ASATA Diners Club Awards.

This year sees a 35% increase on last year's nominations, and the winners will be announced at a Gala Evening on 28 February at the Montecasino Ballroom in Johannesburg.

Otto De Vries, CEO of ASATA says the finalists come from a strong field of contenders. "We are very encouraged that this year saw a marked increase in nominations as well as a higher standard of motivations for candidates. We are impressed with the outstanding quality of the candidates, which made the task of deciding on the finalists that much more challenging for our judges.

"ASATA believes these awards are of great value to the industry in creating a professional environment. This industry awards programme is reflective of the excellence that we have in South Africa's travel sector. The awards recognise those travel professionals who continue to offer excellent service with passion and due care, and who improve the perception of this exciting industry."

Ebrahim Matthews, Managing Director of Diners Club South Africa, says Diners Club is delighted to be supporting the 2014 Awards event. "Diners Club is encouraged by the continued excellent service shown by travel agents. Travel is one of the key pillars on which Diners Club is built. With a member base of high achievers who view the world as their oyster, it stands to reason that we go the extra mile to ensure their travel plans are successful.

"In this regard, we have established a close relationship with the travel industry in South Africa and around the globe that is based on commitment, respect and open communication, and we look forward to celebrating this success at the end of February's gala event."

The finalists are, in alphabetical order:

#### **Exceptional Commitment**

- Gary Mulder, Club Travel Head Office, Cape Town
- Laurie Wilkinson, Sure Travel Studio, Pretoria
- Lidia Folli, Tourvest Travel Services Head Office, Johannesburg
- Mary Reynolds, South African Reynolds Travel Centre, Springs
- Matthew Fubbs, The Holiday Factory Head Office, Johannesburg
- Rene Haarhoff, University of Technology Free State, Bloemfontein

#### **Tomorrow's Leader**

- Archie Mabusela, Tourvest Travel Services, Johannesburg
- Minette Fourie, Club Travel Head Office, Cape Town
- Robyn Daneel, Sure Stellenbosch Travel, Cape Town

## **Leisure Consultant**

- Gillian McMaster, Flight Specials, Centurion
- Lydia Dando, Tourvest Travel Services, Johannesburg
- Marcha Lourens, South African Reynolds Travel Centre, Springs
- Riana Ferreira, Sure African Imprint Travel, Pretoria
- Sagren Narismulu, HRG Rennies Travel, Durban
- Tessa Hattingh, Sure Etunique Travel, Bloemfontein

## **Corporate Consultant**

- Celia Kluever, Sure African Imprint Travel, Pretoria
- Maria Simitopoulos, Sure Glenwood Travel, Centurion
- Razia Allie, Tourvest Travel Services, Cape Town
- Tammy MacFie, South African Reynolds Travel Centre, Springs
- Tommy Wolmarans, Tourvest Travel Services, Cape Town

## **Key Accounts Executive**

- Anisah Buffkins, Tourvest Travel Services, Cape Town
- Brigitte Gonggryp, Harvey World Travel, Kloof
- Cathy Koele, Travel with Flair, Pretoria
- Jackie Cabo, HRG Rennies Travel, Johannesburg
- Natasha Meyer, XL Bay Travel, Port Elizabeth
- Shanell Mowers, Tourvest Travel Services, Johannesburg

## **ITC Independent Travel Consultant**

- Dawn Neusinger, Ithuba Travel, Randburg
- Janine Corry, 24Point7 Travel Studio, Cape Town
- Lisa Du Chenne, the travelSHOPPE, Johannesburg

## **Wholesale Representative in a Tour Operator**

- Enid Maulin, Beachcomber, Johannesburg
- Jeannet Gordon, Travel Vision, Durban
- Tania Bezer, The Holiday Factory, Cape Town

## **Wholesale Consultant in a Tour Operator**

- Kuben Moodley, Thompsons Holidays, Durban
- Natalie van Wyk, Travel Vision, Johannesburg
- Yolande van Zyl, Beachcomber Tours, Cape Town

**For more information about the ASATA Diners Club Awards, please visit [www.asata-dinersclub-awards.co.za](http://www.asata-dinersclub-awards.co.za)**

## **About ASATA**

ASATA was formed in 1956 to create a representative forum in the industry to promote professional service and security for members and their clients. Currently members of ASATA (Southern African retail travel agencies, travel management companies, wholesale tour operators and partners) represent more than 85% of the industry including the head offices of most of the major travel brands. The make-up of the membership base is directly related to SA travellers heading outbound from Southern Africa.

The Association interfaces with key opinion leaders in the industry and senior Government officials in representing its members on all issues of common interest to ASATA Members. This includes policy, planning, operational and regulatory issues ensuring the ongoing sustainability of the travel industry.

For more information visit [www.asata.co.za](http://www.asata.co.za)

## **About Diners Club South Africa**

Diners Club South Africa is recognised as one of the top franchises in the world, wholly owned by Standard Bank. Diners Club International is owned by Discover Financial Services (NYSE:DFS), a direct banking and payment services company with one of the most recognised brands in US financial services. Established in 1950, Diners Club International became the first multipurpose charge card in the world, launching a financial revolution in how consumers and companies pay for products and services. Today, Diners Club is a globally recognised brand serving the payment needs of select and affluent consumers, offering access to nearly 500 airport lounges worldwide, and providing corporations and small business owners with a complete array of expense management solutions. Diners Club cards are accepted in more than 185 countries and territories at millions of merchant locations, and offer access to more than 1 million cash access locations and ATMs. Diners Club is uniquely qualified to serve its card members all over the world.

For more information, visit [www.dinersclub.co.za](http://www.dinersclub.co.za).