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**for immediate release**

## **International Group Sales Named Maritz Travel Supplier of the Year**

International Group Sales (IGS), a trusted leader in the industry of incentive travel and group meetings, has been awarded the prestigious title of Maritz Travel Supplier of the Year for 2016. The award, given recently at the 5th Annual Maritz Travel Collaborative in New York City, recognizes excellence within the recipient's travel industry category and is voted upon by Maritz Travel employees.

This marks the first time IGS has won the award. IGS president Norma Alberico reflects, "Being named Supplier of the Year is a very important accolade for myself and for IGS. We cherish our partnership with Maritz Travel and strive for excellence in service to our clients by setting the bar high with Maritz Travel standards."

Each year, the Maritz Travel Supplier of the Year award measures nominees using a set of criteria that ensures the suppliers selected are the best of the best in their industry category.

This year, a total of four awards were presented at the event, recognizing hotels and destination management companies (DMCs), singling out large and small suppliers. IGS's award is for the small chain hotels category, while Hilton Hotels were named Supplier of the Year in the large chain hotels category.

The award reflects a strong partnership between the IGS team and Grand Velas Resorts. Grand Velas Resorts is a AAA Five Diamond Award winning hotel chain with properties in Riviera Nayarit and Riviera Maya and expanding to Los Cabos, Mexico in December 2016. IGS represents clients including Grand Velas and AMResorts in the group sales market, offering a wide range of options for their clients planning corporate group travel and meeting events at key destinations.

"The only way to win our Supplier of the Year award is to be the absolute best in providing service to our customers and their guests," said Rhea Stagner, vice president of sourcing and supplier relations at Maritz Travel. "We consistently heard from our team and clients that the IGS/Grand Velas team is supportive, flexible, responsive and delivers the best customer service and products. They are great partners and truly deserve this award."

Jose Villela, former president of IGS and Norma Alberico's father, adds, "This Award is a true honor for IGS. I started working with Maritz Travel in 1979 after they signed my first contract for Fiesta Americana in Puerto Vallarta. When I founded IGS in 2001, they opened their doors for me with great support and have become our most important client." Villela stresses, "The many

connections I have made through the years can be traced back to Maritz Travel and I attribute a big part of our success to our great partnership filled with friendships and key industry contacts.”

### **ABOUT International Group Sales**

Serving the corporate community for more than 30 years, IGS represents a portfolio of luxury resorts and hotels in Mexico, the Caribbean & afar each of which is fully capable of accommodating complex meetings and events. For more information, visit [www.internationalgroupsales.com](http://www.internationalgroupsales.com) or by emailing [norma@IGSales.net](mailto:norma@IGSales.net).

### **ABOUT Maritz Travel Company**

Maritz Travel – A Maritz Global Events Company creates exceptional experiences that inspire people to achieve extraordinary business results. By designing and executing innovative corporate events, meetings and incentive travel programs, Maritz helps transform businesses and people. They focus on individual business objectives to provide business meeting planning and group incentive trips that drive business results and improve customer, employee and channel partner engagement. For more information, visit [www.maritztravel.com](http://www.maritztravel.com) or follow them on Twitter @MaritzTravel.

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