

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 HONORED FOR TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE TRAVEL AND THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT THE WORLD

Walt Disney Corporation, Element Hotels, Southern Foodways Alliance, + the Islamic Museum of Art Among Winners of *Travel + Leisure's* 2009 Global Vision Awards

New York, NY (October 19, 2009) – The latest and best efforts at cultural preservation, environmental conservation, and community-building through tourism are recognized in ***Travel + Leisure's* 2009 Global Vision Awards**. Selected by a jury of eight members including Dan Barber, Céline Simone Cousteau, Bruce Mau, and Dr. Joseph E. Stiglitz, the fifth annual Global Vision Award winners include the **Rainforest Alliance** for setting the bar for green travel, **Element Hotels** for its commitment to achieving LEED certification at all of its properties, **Ecoventura** for charting a new course for travel to the Galápagos Islands, and **Sassi di Matera Albergo Diffuso** in Italy for transforming abandoned cave dwellings of a UNESCO World Heritage site into guest rooms. Profiles of all 17 winners along with insights from the jury are featured in *Travel + Leisure's* November issue, available on newsstands October 23, and online at www.travelandleisure.com now.

Nancy Novogrod, editor-in-chief of *Travel + Leisure*, says: "The individuals and organizations recognized in T+L's 2009 Global Vision Awards epitomize the idea that travel is a force for good. Even in these challenging economic times, it is encouraging to see that important issues for our world and our industry are a priority for this year's winners. We applaud their outstanding efforts and hope that they provide inspiration for both travelers and others in the travel world."

Travel + Leisure 2009 Global Vision Award Winners

Environment

Corporate Sustainability
Eco Certification
Wildlife Tourism
Green Cruising
Green Hotels
Habitat Restoration

Walt Disney Worldwide
Rainforest Alliance, New York City
Northern Great Plains Restoration, United States
Ecoventura, Galápagos Islands
Element Hotels, United States
Vane Farm Sanctuary, Scotland

Culture

Arts Education
Cultural Heritage
Architectural Restoration
Culinary Heritage
Historic Preservation
Creative Redevelopment

Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar
Awamaki, Peru
Qianlong Garden, Beijing
Southern Foodways Alliance, Oxford, Mississippi
Banteay Chhmar, Cambodia
Sassi di Matera Albergo Diffuso, Italy

Community

Community Empowerment
Voluntourism

Koiyaki Guiding School, Masai Mara, Kenya
GAP Adventures, Toronto

Job Training
Disaster Relief
Grassroots Philanthropy

Sala Bai, Cambodia
Asia Transpacific Journeys, Boulder, Colorado
Spear of the Nation, Johannesburg, South Africa

2009 Global Vision Awards Jury

- **Dan Barber**, executive chef and co-owner of New York restaurants Blue Hill and Blue Hill at Stone Barns
- **Bonnie Burnham**, president of the World Monuments Fund
- **George Butterfield**, cofounder of the adventure-travel company Butterfield & Robinson
- **Céline Simone Cousteau**, contributor to PBS's *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*, spokeswoman for La Prairie, and ambassador to the Clean Up the World Campaign
- **Scott Harrison**, found of Charity: Water, dedicated to bringing clean water to developing nations
- **Bruce Mau**, chief creative officer of Bruce Mau Design and founder of George Brown College's Institute Without Boundaries, in Toronto
- **Dr. Joseph E. Stiglitz**, Nobel Prize-winning economist, Columbia University professor, and chair of Columbia University's Committee on Global Thought
- **Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi**, director and producer, most recently of the award-winning documentary *Youssou N'Dour: I Bring What I Love*, about the Senegalese singer

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Travel + Leisure and its website www.travelandleisure.com propel readers to travel now, travel smarter, and travel often. With an eye for the authentic, the innovative, and the irresistible, T+L fuses expert reporting on style, culture, food, and design with stunning photography to transport its readers to the places—and the experiences—that matter most. The long-standing authority in its field, *Travel + Leisure* has the largest, most affluent audience of any travel magazine and is an indispensable read for today's global citizen. *Travel + Leisure* has a network of international editions, including *Travel + Leisure Mexico*, *Travel + Leisure Australia/New Zealand*, *Travel + Leisure Turkey*, *Travel + Leisure China*, *Travel + Leisure South Asia*, and *Travel + Leisure Southeast Asia*.