

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**28 February 2018. The France Travel Media Awards 2018 at London's cultural hub Carousel**

**This year's France Travel Media Awards were unveiled last night (27 February) during a glamorous evening at Carousel in Marylebone, following a voting selection by a six-strong jury panel. Making up the panel were Ian Murray, Executive Director of the Society of Editors; Nigel Wonnacott, Head of Communications at Brittany Ferries; Charlotte Wilmots, founder of Charlotte's Web Public Relations; and Anne Pedersen and Rachel Johnston, Head of PR and PR Officer respectively at Atout France. A total of seven awards were given out in categories including City Breaks, Wine & Gastronomy, Art & Culture, and Family.**

From action-packed city adventures to winter sports and soaking up the sun *en famille*, and from Lyon's foodie scene to the culture of Lascaux, the different lifestyles and destinations of France were brought to life by an inspirational variety of articles. A shortlist of between four and six articles per category was selected from a total of 125 entries, before being independently assessed by each of the jury panel members on criteria including topic originality and creativity of expression.

The winners were announced at a celebratory evening in the stylish surroundings of Carousel in Marylebone, which adopted a seaside theme with a supporting exhibition of photography by Maia Flore and delicious fish on the menu. The evening was attended by 52 print and online journalists and supported by 13 French partners – Brittany, Normandy, Le Havre, Atlantic Coast-Loire Valley, Nouvelle Aquitaine, Dordogne-Périgord, Occitanie-Sud de France, Top French Cities, Visit French Wine, Brittany Ferries, easyJet, Eurostar and National Express, 10 of which had representation.

And the winners were...

**BEST DESTINATION FEATURE**

**Rory Goulding for 'Hidden France' in Lonely Planet magazine**

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*(Nominees: Bex Hughes & Saskia Wilson, Suitcase Magazine; Anthony Peregrine, The Sunday Times Travel; Carolyn Boyd, Sunday Times Travel Magazine; Judy Armstrong, FRANCE Magazine; Mary Novakovich, Lonely Planet)*

**BEST FAMILY FEATURE**

**Ian Vogler for 'My Family Tree' in The Sunday Mirror**

*(Nominees: Alice Beer, The Mail on Sunday; Anthony Peregrine, The Sunday Times Travel; Ben Lerwill, The Guardian; Fiona Whitty, The Sunday People)*

**BEST CITY BREAK FEATURE**

**Liz Edwards for 'Second To None' (Marseille) in The Sunday Times Travel Magazine**

*(Nominees: Frank Barrett, The Mail on Sunday; Paul Wade, The Telegraph; Ronan O'Shea, The Independent; Tim Robey, Lonely Planet magazine)*

**BEST GOLF FEATURE**

**Adam Ruck for 'Atlantic Golf: Long drive on the golf coast' in FRANCE Magazine**

*(Nominees: Clive Agran, Voyage magazine)*

**BEST ART & CULTURE FEATURE**

**Gillian Thornton for 'Living Lascaux' in France Today magazine**

*(Nominees: David Atkinson, The Telegraph; Frank Barrett, The Mail on Sunday; Marion Sauvebois, France Today magazine; Stephen Davy-Osborne, France Today magazine; Sean Thomas, The Times)*

**BEST WINE & GASTRONOMY FEATURE**

**Audrey Gillan for 'Eat Lyon' in National Geographic Traveller**

*(Nominees: Alicia Miller, Sunday Times Travel Magazine; Fiona Sims, The Times; Philip Sweeney, The Independent; Rhiannon Batten, Olive Magazine)*

**BEST WINTER FEATURE**

**James Stewart for 'Deep Freeze' in The Sunday Times**

*(Nominees: Cat Weakley, The Telegraph Ski; Elizabeth Hotson, TNT Magazine; Michael Cranmer, Consensio magazine; Tom Robbins, The Financial Times)*

**Atout France – FTMA 2018**

In addition to the media awards, the purpose of the evening was to launch the second year of Atout France's pan-European #Feel campaign to the UK media. Digital activity for the campaign commenced on 29 January and will be divided into four phases through 2018.

**ENDS**

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