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PRESS RELEASE

BANYAN TREE GROUP BAGS 8 AWARDS AT THE PRESTIGIOUS 2015 TRAVEL & LEISURE CHINA TOURISM AWARDS



Singapore, February 2016 – Banyan Tree Group welcomes the new year by clinching a grand total of 8 awards at the recent 2015 Travel & Leisure China Awards ceremony held in Shanghai at The House of Roosevelt on 26 January 2016.

Established in 2001, Travel & Leisure is dedicated to explore and advocate life and travel. Travel & Leisure organises the annual Tourism Awards, to recognise the best hotels, spas, airlines, destinations, golf and other categories in travel industry. Covering mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and overseas, the winners are recommended by a great number of readers, surveyed by their in-house editors and journalists, experienced by the third-party guests such as frequent travellers and travel experts. It is an important annual platform for brand recognition and a valuable travel guide for high-end Chinese tourists.

The wins include, **Best Spa Brand** won by *Banyan Tree Spa*, **Best Hotel Groups** won by *Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts*, **Best Newly Opened Spa** won by *Banyan Tree Spa Yangshuo*, **Best Spa Resort** won by *Angsana Xi'an Lintong* and *Banyan Tree Phuket*, **Top 10 Golf Courses** won by *Laguna Golf Phuket*, **Best Resort Hotel** won by *Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside* as well as **Best Newly Opened Hotel** won by *Banyan Tree Huangshan*.

“We are greatly honoured to have garnered the numerous accolades at the Travel & Leisure China Tourism Awards. Since Banyan Tree Spa’s first foray into the China market thirteen years ago, we continuously strive to deliver our brand’s promise to our guests. I would like to attribute this outstanding

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achievement to the support of our valued guests, our dedicated associates and spa therapists worldwide as well as the validation from fellow members of the travel industry. "says Ms Kanruethai Roongruang, Vice President/Executive Director – Global Operations of Banyan Tree Spa & Gallery.

More information on the awards garnered is as follows:

Best Spa Brand – Banyan Tree Spa

Banyan Tree Spa has been named the Best Spa Brand for the third consecutive year in 2016 for its strong emphasis on a distinctive approach of 'high-touch low-tech' that celebrates the intuitive human touch and the use of natural herbs and spices. Like the tropical and sacred tree from which it got its name, the Banyan Tree Spa offers guests a Sanctuary for the Senses – a place for physical, mental and spiritual renewal. To achieve this, the spa focuses on a non-clinical and holistic approach based on traditional Asian healing therapies.

All Banyan Tree Spa therapists worldwide are formally trained in the art of touch based on the stringent curriculum of the accredited Banyan Tree Spa Academies in Phuket, Thailand and Bintan, Indonesia. The Banyan Tree Spa Academies are renowned for its stringent in-house training and development programmes as well as development of its unique signature techniques and treatment recipes. In 2003, Banyan Tree Spa extended its reach into China to train dedicated Chinese spa therapists, to be well-versed to deliver high service standards in China. Master trainers provide intensive in-spa training at individual spa outlets worldwide including Greater China to coach therapists in all areas of Banyan Tree Spa and Angsana Spa service delivery.

Best Hotel Groups – Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts

Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts offers a sanctuary to rejuvenate the mind, body and soul in awe-inspiring locations around the globe. Guests can rediscover the romance of travel as each hotel experience brings them on unforgettable journeys to iconic destinations where authentic, memorable experiences await.

Best Newly Opened Spa – Banyan Tree Yangshuo

Banyan Tree Yangshuo is located in the ancient township of Fuli, on the Li River in Yangshuo county. Set amidst the stunning panorama of jade-green Karst Mountains and graceful Li River, Banyan Tree Spa Yangshuo beckons spa aficionados with its time-honoured Asian healing therapies in an ambience of romance and serenity.

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Best Spa Resort – Angsana Xi’an Lintong

Nestled at the foot of evergreen Lishan Mountain, Angsana Xi’an Lintong pampers leisure travellers with internationally acclaimed hot spring experiences set in tranquil and private surroundings. With sophisticated facilities spread across over 9,000 square metres, Angsana Hot Spring Xi’an Lintong features a dedicated two-storey Hot Spring Complex with a lush Outdoor Hot Spring Area offering 25 outdoor pools with three unique themes.

Best Spa Resort – Banyan Tree Phuket

Banyan Tree Phuket is the pioneer of the tropical garden spa concept which offers 173 luxuriously appointed villas surrounded by lush tropical gardens and Asian watercourts. The perfect haven to spend time with loved ones, Banyan Tree Phuket caters for romance, with its private pool villa, fragrant gardens and saltwater lagoons.

Top 10 Golf Courses – Laguna Golf Phuket

Proudly designed by Paul Jansen from Jansen Golf Design, the newly-renovated Laguna Golf Phuket was launched in January 2015. It is built to USGA specification and is gently contoured to add strategic interest and increase the fun factor for players of all abilities. The course highlights native Banyan Trees and natural water features inundated with water lilies attract a wealth of wildlife while strategically placed bunkers add character and aesthetic values to the course.

Best Resort Hotel – Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside

Located on the east bank of the Hai River and overlooking the urban cityscape, Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside provides easy access to Tianjin’s historical and cultural heritage sites. Staying true to the values of rejuvenation and modern Asian hospitality, the urban resort inspires guests with a new perspective of the vibrant port-side metropolis, through its rich history.

Best Newly Opened Hotel – Banyan Tree Huangshan

Banyan Tree Huangshan is the 10th Banyan Tree to be officially opened in the misty awe-inspiring landscape of Anhui Province, east of China, enshrouded by the great Mount Huangshan. The perfect harmony of nature and culture embodies Banyan Tree Huangshan’s dedication to create a Sanctuary for the Senses amidst picturesque landscapes and rich Chinese history.

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About Banyan Tree Spa

The leading Asian spa operator and pioneer of the tropical garden spa, **Banyan Tree Spa** first opened in 1994 in Phuket, Thailand. As the first luxury oriental spa in Asia, it re-introduced an exotic blend of time-honoured Asian healing therapies and beauty remedies.

Like the tropical and sacred tree that inspired its name, **Banyan Tree Spa** offers guests a **Sanctuary for the Senses** – a haven for physical, mental and spiritual renewal. Its spa philosophy focuses on a non-clinical and holistic 'high-touch, low-tech' approach that celebrates the human touch and the use of natural herbs and spices. **Sensing the moment, Angsana Spa** complements Banyan Tree Spa with its contemporary chic and vivacious treatments. Inspiring guests to live life spontaneously and savour time, its refreshing blend of treatments emphasises on the use of native flowers and fruits.

Banyan Tree Spa and Angsana Spa therapists are graduates of the accredited **Banyan Tree Spa Academy** established in May 2001 in Phuket (Thailand) and followed by Bintan (Indonesia). Master trainers will also provide intensive in-spa training at individual spa outlets worldwide including Greater China. Its rigorous theoretical and practical training ensures therapists deliver consistently high quality service that guests have come to expect from the evolving brand, in line with the Group's worldwide expansion plans.

To date, Banyan Tree Spa owns and manages a total of approximately 70 Spas in close to 30 countries under the Banyan Tree Spa, Angsana Spa and Elements Spa By Banyan Tree brands.

About Banyan Tree Gallery

As the retail arm of Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts, this lifestyle-oriented gallery offers traditional handicrafts, signature spa products and accessories, unique travel mementos, resort-style home furnishings and apparel. Acting as a global marketing platform, these initiatives help sustain village crafts and create sustainable employment for numerous communities. Affiliate brands include Angsana Gallery, Heritage Collection By Banyan Tree and Elements By Banyan Tree.

To date, the Banyan Tree Group operates approximately 80 retail galleries worldwide.

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