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MEDIA RELEASE -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALIS CALA Deal of the Year Award Winners Announced

Miami, Florida, USA – ALIS CALA announced its winners for the prestigious ALIS CALA Deal of the Year Awards. Among these finalists are hotels and companies who are responsible for the most influential hotel industry deals. The winners were announced on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, during the morning plenary session at the Loews Coral Gables Hotel in Florida.

Nekajui, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve – Peninsula Papagayo, Costa Rica was named Development of the Year 2025. Nekajui is a 107-key ultra-luxury resort in Costa Rica, developed by The Athens Group on behalf of Gencom and Mohari for approximately US\$365 Million. Opened in February 2025, it marks the first Ritz-Carlton Reserve in Central and South America and reflects strong institutional conviction in a high-barrier, supply-constrained market. The resort's 36 branded residences fully sold prior to opening, underscoring exceptional demand for hospitality-integrated ownership in the region. Featuring ocean-view accommodations, treetop tents, seven dining concepts and a world-class spa, Nekajui delivers long-term economic impact through 2,500 construction jobs and 270 permanent roles.

Finalists in this category also included Rosewood Mandarin – Riviera Nayarit, Mexico and Zemi Miches Punta Cana All-Inclusive Resort, Curio Collection – Miches, Dominican Republic.



Playa All-Inclusive Resort Real Estate Portfolio – Mexico, Jamaica, Dominican Republic was named Transaction of the Year 2025. On December 30, 2025, Tortuga Resorts completed the acquisition from a wholly owned subsidiary of Hyatt Hotels Corporation (NYSE: H) of the 14-asset Playa all-inclusive resort real estate portfolio across Mexico, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic for approximately US\$2 Billion. The transaction includes potential earnouts of up to US\$143 Million payable to Hyatt, which also retained US\$200 Million of preferred equity. Concurrently, the parties entered into 50-year management agreements for 13 properties, supporting Hyatt's asset-light strategy while positioning Tortuga as a scaled, luxury beachfront hospitality platform across Mexico and the Caribbean. Finalists in this category also included Devossion by Live Aqua, Playa del Carmen – Riviera Maya, Mexico and Tabacon Thermal Resort & Spa – La Fortuna de San Carlos, Costa Rica.



We would like to express our gratitude to those who served on the Deal of the Year Awards Committees. For the ALIS CALA Development of the Year Award, we thank

Rogério Basso (Chair), Patricia Boo, Gary Brough, Liam J. Day, Marie Dexter, John Fareed, JP Ford, John McCarthy, and Darrin Phillips. For the ALIS CALA Transaction of the Year Award, we thank Fernando Garcia-Chacon (Chair), Letvia M. Arza-Goderich, Raul Calvet, Alexandra Lalos Church, David Larone, and Ricardo Mader Rodrigues.

ALIS CALA is being held at the Loews Coral Gables Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida on Tuesday-Thursday, April 28-30, 2026. For more information about the conference, please visit the [ALIS CALA website](#).

[About ALIS Caribbean and Latin America \(ALIS CALA\)](#)

ALIS Caribbean Latin America (ALIS CALA), debuted on April 29-May 1, 2025 (Tuesday-Thursday) at the Loews Coral Gables Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida. The merger of the Caribbean Hotel & Resort Investment Summit (CHRIS) and Hotel Opportunities Latin America (HOLA) conferences into ALIS CALA creates an enriched and more comprehensive conference experience for sponsors and attendees alike, bringing together the best of both events. This approach has led to the overall continued growth and collaboration connecting investors, owners, and developers throughout the vibrant Caribbean and Latin American regions and the continued focus on local equity, debt, and development firms will ensure that ALIS CALA remains a key platform for fostering connections and driving growth in the region. ALIS CALA is produced by Northstar Travel Group's Hotel Investment Group. Visit the [ALIS CALA website](#) for more information.

[About Northstar Travel Group \(www.northstartravelgroup.com\)](#)

Northstar Travel Group is the leading B-to-B media company providing information and marketing solutions for the global travel industry. The company owns 14 media brands connecting 1.3m industry professionals through a comprehensive portfolio of digital, social, print and more than 100 events in 13 countries. Northstar Travel Group is owned by JTB. Northstar Travel Group is based in Rutherford, NJ, and more information is available at [northstartravelgroup.com](#).

[About the Hotel Investment Group by Northstar](#)

The Hotel Investment Group by Northstar is a global leader in convening the hotel investment community through high-impact conferences and insight-driven media. With more than three decades of experience, the group has produced over 190 events worldwide, attracting more than 130,000 senior executives, investors, and decision-makers. Its portfolio includes the Americas Lodging Investment Summit (ALIS), ALIS Law, ALIS DESIGN+, ALIS CALA, and the Hotel Investment Conference Asia Pacific (HICAP). The group also publishes *Hotel Investment Today*, a digital media platform focused on the ROI of hotel investment, delivering timely intelligence and analysis to the global hospitality investment market.



[ALIS CALA](#)

April 28-30, 2026

Loews Coral Gables Hotel

Coral Gables, FL

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