

# TRAVEL+ LEISURE

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## A-list

Boating the backwaters of Kerala, India. Seeing Tanzania's Great Migration from a helicopter. Paddleboarding with locals off the coast of Colombia. A top travel advisor can help you turn a great vacation into a truly life-changing adventure. In *Travel + Leisure's* 14th annual A-List, we showcase the best specialists in the business—the people who have firsthand knowledge of destinations on the rise, can get you in to sold-out hotels, and provide the best insider travel tips.

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REPORTED BY STIRLING KELSO

### SUPER-AGENTS

Meet the travel industry's all-stars: experts with unparalleled experience and the ability to turn any dream trip into a reality.

#### Valerie Ann Wilson

Wilson is an industry influencer with 16 offices around the United States and more than 30 years of experience. She's chairman emeritus of Virtuoso's advisory board and a valued advisor for half a dozen luxury hotels and travel brands. She's also written two travel books and is on the road for more than a third of every year. Wilson and the staff of her top-notch agency (now also

under the leadership of her daughters, A-Listers Jennifer Wilson-Buttigieg and Kimberly Wilson Wetty) are well traveled and highly organized. But they still enjoy the collaborative nature of planning trips with clients. "Part of the fun is hearing their ideas and vicariously traveling through our customers," Wilson says.

*Valerie Wilson Travel, New York City; 212-532-3400; valeriew@vwti.com.*

### SPECIAL-INTEREST EXPERTS

#### BUSINESS TRAVEL

#### Jennifer Wilson-Buttigieg

Wilson-Buttigieg is praised for her discreet service, and she understands the pressures and priorities of travelers who visit three cities in three days or who are away two weeks a month. A self-described road warrior, she plans destination board meetings and executive-education programs in addition to working with individuals.

**OTHER SPECIALTY** Family travel.

*Valerie Wilson Travel, New York City; 212-592-1210; jenniferwb@vwti.com.*

### FAMILY-TRAVEL EXPERTS

#### Kimberly Wilson Wetty

The copresident of Valerie Wilson Travel has clients who have relied on her expertise for two decades. She logs their travel history, understands their goals, and keeps track of their interests so that she can make the right suggestion, whether it's a relaxed Caribbean getaway, a culture-focused European trip, or an adventurous vacation in Australia.

**OTHER SPECIALTY** Cruises.

*Valerie Wilson Travel, New York City; 212-592-1218; kimberlywww@vwti.com.*



**VALERIE ANN WILSON, CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
JENNIFER WILSON-BUTTIGIEG AND KIMBERLY WILSON WETTY, CO-PRESIDENTS**

## **IN THE PRESS**

### **CONSUMER**

#### **FORBES**

“The Largest Powerhouse Boutique Firm”

#### **THE NEW YORK TIMES**

“Are Travel Agents Back?”

#### **CONDE NAST TRAVELER**

“Top Travel Specialists”

#### **TRAVEL + LEISURE**

“A-List Travel Advisors”

#### **CRAIN’S NEW YORK BUSINESS**

“Handing Off A Family Business Smoothly”

#### **BUSINESS INSIDER**

“7 Road Warriors Reveal Their Travel Secrets”

#### **INC.COM**

“Secrets Of The Most Productive Travelers”

#### **LEADERS**

“A Guiding Force and Setting the Standard in Hospitality”

### **TRADE**

#### **TRAVEL WEEKLY**

“Power Rankings”, “Valerie Wilson receives Lifetime Achievement Award” and “Hyatt and Valerie Wilson Travel share their job experience”

#### **LUXURY TRAVEL ADVISOR**

“Lifetime Achievement Award Winner, Valerie Ann Wilson”, “One-Of-A-Kind Designer Travel” and “Celebrating 10 Years: Where Are They Now?”

#### **TRAVEL PULSE**

“AmaWaterways’ AmaPrima River Ship Christened by Valerie Wilson”

#### **TRAVEL AGENT**

“Providing Respect, Integrity, And Trust For 30 Years”

#### **BUSINESS TRAVEL NEWS**

“Top Travel Management Companies”

#### **MAGELLAN AWARDS - TRAVEL WEEKLY**

Gold Winner 2014

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