VICTORIA

VICTORIA, B.C. TAKES TOP HONOURS IN CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER'S 2023 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

British Columbia's Waterfront Capital Recognized as No. 1 Best Small City in the World and Ranks in Top Ten Best Cities for Food and Friendliest in the World

Victoria, British Columbia (Oct. 4, 2023) – Victoria, the waterfront capital of British Columbia, is rounding out the year with a trio of prestigious accolades, whose recognition comes from those who matter most – discerning visitors who have recently experienced the destination. The charming and innovative city has been recognized as the #1 <u>best small city in the world</u> as well as one of the <u>best cities</u> in the world for food and <u>friendliest</u> by Condé Nast Traveler's readers in the <u>2023 Readers' Choice</u> <u>Awards</u>.

The Conde Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards are a representation of the results from Condé Nast Traveler's annual Readers' Choice survey, where readers are invited to rate the world's most distinguished cities and islands, hotels and resorts, cruise ships and airlines. This year, the 36th annual awards received a record number of votes, with participation from more than 500,000 readers and only ten cities around the world were chosen as a favourite for each category. Victoria is located on the southern tip of British Columbia's Vancouver Island, which also made the <u>list</u> as one of the top islands in North America.

"It's an honour and a testament to this incredible city that travellers to Victoria are picking up on what we as locals and as an organization know makes this destination stand out - from the rich culture and history to the incredible hyper-local cuisine," said Paul Nursey, CEO of Destination Greater Victoria. "To be amongst some of the leading destinations in the world furthers our dedication to providing memorable and once-in-a-lifetime experiences that are unique to Victoria."

<u>Victoria</u> is a hub of creative innovation, sustainable living and a unique blend of old-world charm and new-world experiences. Home to expansive green spaces, abundant local wildlife, and seemingly neverending shoreline, it's easy to feel connected to the earth in Victoria. Taking "green" to another level as an international leader in environmental initiatives, the focus on sustainability from the destination is evident with Victoria's annual IMPACT Conference, which brings world innovators in sustainability together, and the recent achievement of <u>Biosphere certification</u>. For travellers in 2024 and beyond, Victoria should hold a top place on their must-see list for any traveller interested in an incredible and local food scene, cultural experiences, and eco-friendly activities and hotels.

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About Destination Greater Victoria (DGV)

Destination Greater Victoria is a Biosphere certified and climate positive accredited destination marketing and management organization (DMO) that has helped Greater Victoria grow to become one of the world's most popular destinations, with a visitor economy contributing \$2.3 billion annually to the local economy. DGV inspires the world to experience Greater Victoria's natural beauty, attractions, accommodations, Indigenous culture, culinary offerings, vibrant arts scene, and welcoming hospitality,

while providing governments, member businesses, travellers, meeting organizers, sports organizers, and other tourism stakeholders with a wide array of services and programs. For more information, please visit our <u>website</u>.

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