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LGBT Travel Takes Center Stage in Antwerp, 23-27 June *A snapshot of IGLTA's 27th annual global convention schedule*

Antwerp, Belgium (23 June, 2010)—For the first time in five years, the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association is bringing its premier networking event to Europe. The 27th annual IGLTA global convention runs June 23-27 in Antwerp, Belgium, coinciding with Antwerp Pride (www.antwerppride.com) and the city's first White Party.

"We are thrilled to be in Belgium for our annual convention," said IGLTA President and CEO John Tanzella. "Our membership has doubled in size in the last five years and spans more than 70 countries. Being in Antwerp not only allows us to strengthen our European base, but also to showcase a fantastic lesser-known LGBT destination to our membership."

Convention highlights:

- Guest speakers/panelists who are leaders in the tourism industry, including **Javier Blanco** (Executive Director/UN World Tourism Organization), **Peter de Wilde** (President/Tourism Flanders), **Martine Ainsworth-Wells** (Marketing Director/Visit London), **Jeff Guaracino** (VP-Communications/Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corp.), **Jan Vermeiren** (author *How to Really Use LinkedIn*/founder of Networking Coach), **George Carrancho** (LGBT Sales & Marketing Manager/American Airlines).
- Special networking opportunities for travel agents/tour operators, women, and first-time attendees (23 June)
- Educational breakouts: CEO Forum moderated by IGLTA's John Tanzella; Human Rights Panel; Straight Talk About the Gay Market; Reaching Out to the Lesbian Niche; Increasing Your Business Via Social Media Networks; The Power of Networking; and many more (24-25 June)
- Media Trade Show (25 June)
- Debut of IGLTA Honors for outstanding recent achievements in LGBT tourism (25 June)
- Gala dinner with presentation of IGLTA Chairman's Award and Hall of Fame Award (25 June)
- Consumer Travel Trade Show, free to the public on the Kammenstraat, one of Antwerp's hippest shopping streets (26 June)

For more detailed information and registration visit, www.igltaconvention.org.

IGLTA is the leading global organization dedicated to connecting businesses in the LGBT tourism industry. Its membership spans more than 80 countries and consists of accommodations, airlines, tour operators, travel agents, destinations, media and other key players in the tourism industry. IGLTA was founded in 1983.

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