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## California Couple Crowned *The World's Greatest Travelers*<sup>™</sup> Following World Travel Championship Event

**Montréal, CANADA (6 May 2023)** – Vivian Reyes, along with her travel partner, Salvatore Iaquina, both of Marin, California (*aka* team Order & Chaos), were crowned *The World's Greatest Travelers*<sup>™</sup> Saturday afternoon in Montréal at a winners reception following the conclusion of the 16th edition of the 23-day around-the-world travel championship, known as *The Global Scavenger Hunt*<sup>™</sup>.

"We're thrilled, surprised, and gratified," said Marin County emergency room physician Vivian Reyes, after winning the around-the-world competition—*their Team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 2019 event.* "We work well together but needed to depend on the kindness of strangers. Just an awesome adventure in which you learn about others while testing yourself."



*Team Order & Chaos: Sal & Vivian*

Their second time participating in the elite world travel championship event, Sal & Vivian depended on the kindness of strangers in strange lands while trusting in their combined *travel IQs* to finally take home the gold. It was a challenging 40,000-kilometer 23-day adventure marathon against some great global competitors. And in addition to the medals and trophies, they get to return for free next time to defend their title.

"We felt fortunate to win this event against some other great travel teams," said Sal Iaquina, also a



Marin doctor, "We literally went on a blind date with the world. From floating in the Dead Sea, searching out ancient Korean tombs, taking fast trains along the ancient Silk Road in Uzbekistan to bargaining in the bazaars of Jerusalem and Bethlehem—it was truly amazing! The Global Scavenger Hunt proves the journey is more rewarding than the destinations. We are humbled to have beaten some hardy, well-traveled competitors."

And indeed, they did. Sal & Vivian beat six-time defending champs—Zoe Littlepage & Rainey Booth (*aka* team Lawyers without Borders), along with eleven other worthy competing teams.

As revealed on The Global Scavenger Hunt [event blog](#), teams touched down in a dozen countries on the 2023 event, including: South Korea, Uzbekistan, Georgia (*the country*), Israel & Palestine Territories, Turkey, and the Balkans—where they managed to efficiently traverse seven countries in five days, from Albanian to Zagreb—over the three-week event that ran between 14 April and 6 May. The 16<sup>th</sup> annual *world travel championship* event took contestants from the starting gate in San Francisco to the finish line here in Montréal—the *long way!*

The Teams of two were tested hourly in the competition, overcoming language, cultural and logistical obstacles, dealing with team dynamics (we all know what it is like traveling with someone else), steep international competition, and maintaining physical stamina for the 23-day marathon-like around-the-world event. Their tasks were to seek out and answer cryptic clues that sent them on to other more challenging *site-doing* interactive cultural scavenges on their global quest—ferreting out answers to exotic locations and remarkable places, doing equally extraordinary things, all while eating mysterious foods, experiencing strange local festivals...and overcoming several major international holidays.

Sal & Vivian were crowned *The World's Greatest Travelers* in the spirit of true Indiana Jones and presented with twin crystal trophies for winning The Global Scavenger Hunt at the ultra-hip Humaniti Hotel in Montréal on Saturday afternoon after completing over 350 global scavenges.

"I am proud of Sal & Vi. They outworked and outhustled everyone from beginning to end. Decision-making is crucial to traveling efficiently and wisely—making quick decisions and living with them. Vi and Sal do that all day as doctors; they thrive in that environment. Whereas others might get paralyzed with too much handwringing uncertainty," stated William D. Chalmers, the annual event's Director (*aka* Ringmaster). "The Global Scavenger Hunt isn't just the world travel championship; it's an enrichment exercise in humanity. We believe travel brings people closer together, fosters global understanding, and improves compassion for all involved," continued Chalmers.

The Global Scavenger Hunt has garnered a tremendous amount of global attention:

- *Outside* magazine calls it "...one of the most amazing trips in the world!"
- *NPR's Savvy Traveler* thinks it, "...is just such a great idea!"
- *Time* magazine says, "...would-be Indiana Joneses will have a chance to follow in his footsteps...an international event that restores the curiosity and adventure."
- *Peter Greenberg* says, "Unlike *The Amazing Race*, this challenge is more about your ability to connect with cultures than speed and agility."



• *National Geographic.com* says, “...like *Survivor*, the *Amazing Race* and the *Eco-Challenge* all rolled into one except with much more cultural interaction...”

To date, the annual travel world championship event has visited 94 countries with travelers from over 60 countries who have applied to join the yearly-held adventure, which combines a treasure hunt with the style of the 19th Century Grand Tours and the jet-setter reality of 21st Century travel.

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Please visit [GlobalScavengerHunt.com](http://GlobalScavengerHunt.com) for additional press information, including: travel photos, contestant bios, (VNR), and event e-Media Kits. To schedule interviews with contestants or event organizers, please contact:

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