

Qatar Airways Hosts Star-Studded Launch Party to Celebrate New York Flights



Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker and Ms. Diana Ross celebrate the first flight of Qatar Airways 5-star service to the New York City market. (PRNewsFoto/Qatar Airways, Brian Benson)

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NEW YORK, June 29 /PRNewswire/ -- Qatar Airways hosted a star-studded gala dinner last evening in New York to celebrate the launch earlier this week of scheduled flights to the United States.

Celebrities from across the New York social, business and entertainment scene joined Qatar Airways at the launch party, held in The Allen Room, a spectacular venue at the city's Jazz at Lincoln Center, just off Broadway.

Business tycoon Donald Trump, US Ambassador to the State of Qatar, His Excellency Chase Untermeyer, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard, Julianne Moore, Andie MacDowell, Chloe Sevigny, Gayle King, Olivia Chantecaille, CeCe Cord, Tara Subkoff, Stephen and Christine Schwarzman, Allen & Deborah Grubman, Nina Griscom, Dennis Basso, Marjorie Gubelmann, Sloan Lindemann Barnett, Eric Villency and Kimberly Guilfoyle, Anne Dexter Jones, Nina Griscom, Mary McFadden, Rufus Albermarle, Thom Browne were among guests at the lavish red carpet event.

New York's paparazzi were out in force as guests arrived for a night of entertainment with the sensational Ms. Diana

Ross performing many of the hit songs from her illustrious career. A magnificent visual symphony showcasing Qatar Airways' award-winning Five Star service and the sights and sounds of the State of Qatar, kept guests thoroughly enthralled.

Master of ceremonies for the event was renowned Hollywood star Andie MacDowell. She introduced the stellar line-up for the evening: First, comments by CNN International TV presenter and host of "CNN Business Traveler," Richard Quest. He was followed by the host of the event, Qatar Airways Chief Executive Office Akbar Al Baker, who spoke of the pride he takes in bringing Qatar Airways and its five star service to New York.

The evening ended with a standing ovation for Ms. Ross' performance. The event was organized by New York-based celebrity style guru and party planner Colin Cowie. A connoisseur of style, Cowie's impressive client list includes Oprah Winfrey, Jerry Seinfeld, Jennifer Lopez, Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, Michael Jordan and Hugh Hefner.

Quest, who logs in excess of 300,000 miles each year, spoke lovingly of the way travel has changed, with more and more people able to traverse the globe.

He said, "The addition of Qatar Airways' award-winning service to the United States means that we - the travelers and frequent fliers - all win."

CEO Akbar Al Baker spoke of the airline's proud moment as it flew into Newark from Doha on Tuesday night.

"This week Qatar Airways made history when we touched down in the United States for the first time," he said, adding, "it marked the first step of the airline's expansion into the US market."

"Tonight we are celebrating our inaugural services to New York with this wonderful gala dinner which I promise will keep New Yorkers talking for a long time. We have brought our Five Star hospitality all the way to New York with four flights a week and, from July 19, we will enter the Washington DC market with our renowned service, non-stop daily from Doha.

"Qatar Airways looks forward to growing our international network further in the US as we explore other route opportunities here in the world's largest aviation market. I promise we are here to stay and will further make our mark in the US with our new Washington services next month and more destinations in the pipeline."

Al Baker said that Qatar Airways' proposed code share partnership with United Airlines would give the traveling public greater choice with more destinations to fly to across the United States.

The award-winning airline, currently in its 10th year of operations, now serves 77 destinations across Europe, Middle East, Africa, Indian subcontinent, Far East and America with a modern fleet of 58 all-Airbus aircraft.

Qatar Airways is the only Middle East carrier flying to Newark Liberty International Airport, offering passengers from across the Gulf countries and feeder markets in the Indian subcontinent with excellent onward connections across the USA. The airline will also be the only Middle East carrier flying daily non-stop services to the US capital Washington, DC.