

**PONANT'S LE CHAMPLAIN WINS THE 'TRANSPORT' CATEGORY IN THE  
PRESTIGIOUS AHEAD AWARDS:**

**Interior design by the Studio Jean-Philippe Nuel**



London, 20 November 2019 – PONANT's *Le Champlain* was awarded a prestigious AHEAD award in the transport category, on Monday night in London. Shortlisted for his stellar work on the ship, Studio Jean-Philippe Nuel – also responsible for architectural landmarks including the renovation of the prestigious Hotel-Dieu in Marseille and in Lyon – the architect and interior designer of the PONANT fleet, was rewarded last night with the highest design in tourism award in Europe.

PONANT's *Le Champlain* is one of the new smaller-capacity yachts boasting elegantly-designed cabins, spacious suites with bay windows, and lounge areas opening onto the outside. Their design and size are the guarantee of a unique cruising experience in the comfort and elegance that are PONANT's hallmark. The warm and contemporary interior design by Jean-Philippe Nuel takes direct inspiration from the destinations and cultures explored during PONANT's stopovers and is punctuated with ethnic touches.

Jean-Philippe Nuel says: *"My team and I are delighted to share this prestigious award with PONANT. This is the accomplishment of a great human adventure, as well as a technology and aesthetic one. I think PONANT was able to create a real identity, between cruising and yachting, that has become today a true success."*

PONANT's CEO, Jean-Emmanuel Sauvée, adds: *"We have been working with Jean-Philippe Nuel and his team for almost 10 years – during which we have built together 10 state-of-the-art ships. Our ships are intimate in size and going to destinations where bigger ships can't*



**AHEAD**  
AMERICAS ASIA EUROPE MEA

**WINNER**

*access; we wanted their interiors to reflect that exclusive feeling of expedition and exploration and Jean-Philippe delivered this brilliantly.”*

AHEAD, the Awards for Hospitality, Experience and Design, comprises four annual, regional awards schemes run over a two year period, culminating in a global biennale. Running on a two year cycle, awards ceremonies in Singapore, Miami, Dubai and London will celebrate the most outstanding new hospitality projects in each region. The awards are entered, judged and attended by leading hotel owners, developers, operators, architects and designers from around the world.

**For more information, please visit [ponant.com](http://ponant.com) or call 0808 2343 802**

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**Notes to editor**

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**About Jean-Philippe NUEL**

*From a family of architects passionate about design and contemporary creations, Jean-Philippe Nuel graduated as an architect from the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and quickly made a name for himself by winning several competitions, including an international competition presided over by Kenzo Tange. After a first hotel project in Paris, subsequent iconic projects for upscale international hotel chains (Intercontinental Lyon and Marseille, Molitor Swimming Pool, La Clé Champs Elysées in Paris, Sofitel Roma Villa Borghese...) and many boutique hotels followed (for example Le Cinq Codet, Le Damantin, Le Belleval in Paris). Jean-Philippe Nuel has been collaborating with French Luxury expedition cruise line, PONANT, since 2010 with designing the interiors of the first Sistership-class of vessels, Le Boréal in 2010, and her sisterships, L'Austral (2011), Le Soléal (2013) and Le Lyrial (2014),*



**WINNER**

*as well as the PONANT Explorers-Class, Le Lapérouse and Le Champlain (2018), Le Bougainville and Le Dumont-d'Urville (2019), and Le Bellot and Le Jacques-Cartier (2020). He is also currently working on the creation of Le Commandant Charcot.*

#### **About PONANT**

*Created 30 years ago by a dozen officers from the French Merchant Navy, PONANT has made the bold move of proposing a new style of cruising, under the French flag, through a unique conception of sea travel. Accessing exceptional territories aboard small ships combining refined design with an intimate atmosphere, on which the art of living, discretion, attentive service and excellent cuisine take pride of place: such is the promise of a unique and authentic PONANT voyage.*

*Not only does PONANT take its profession and its commitment to promoting sustainable tourism seriously, it also wanted to further its efforts by creating, in 2018, a Foundation whose goal is to preserve the oceans and the polar regions and to encourage exchanges between peoples.*

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