Samsung Deep Winter Photo Challenge Presented By GORE-TEX® Products Returns January 6, 2018

Six Professional Photographers Compete To Be Crowned King/Queen Of Storms

WHISTLER, BC January 2, 2018 – January is storm season at Whistler Blackcomb, which means plenty of snow and deep powder days on the mountains. The *Samsung Deep Winter Photo Challenge presented by GORE-TEX® Products* celebrates storm season each winter by showcasing the work of six top ski and snowboard photographers. Now in its twelfth year, the event continues to pay homage to this sacred occasion and to the skiers, riders and photographers who cherish it.

“When it's storming, there aren't many photographers out there on the mountains. Without doubt, that is one thing that impresses me most about The Deep Winter Photo Challenge,” says head judge, and original King of Storms, Paul Morrison. “Virtually none of the images created would ever exist without the event happening on those given days. This event has forced every competitor who has taken part over the years to push their limits in every respect.”

The *Samsung Deep Winter Photo Challenge presented by GORE-TEX® Products* gives six professional photographers 72 hours to shoot in-bounds at Whistler Blackcomb, capturing athletes in their natural mountain habitat of powder-filled bowls, glades, and après bars. Each photographer will then create a montage of their best images from the three days, and their slideshows will be shown in front of a live audience on January 6, 2018 at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler. The slideshows will be judged by a panel of industry professionals, with the top finisher taking home $5,000 and the coveted King/Queen of Storms trophy. Each photographer will receive a Samsung GALAXY Note8 courtesy of Samsung Canada for participating.

After the judges have made their decision and announced the 2018 King/Queen of Storms, the Deep Winter Photo Challenge People’s Choice Award Contest will go live on Facebook allowing the public to vote for their favorite competitor’s image. The contest will be active for 72 hours following the Deep Winter event, and the photographer with the most votes at the end of the three days will win a trip for two with Whistler Heli Skiing, $1,000 and a new Samsung device.

“This year’s lineup of professional photographers is really diverse—both in their backgrounds and shooting styles,” says Chris McLeod, senior brand equity specialist at Whistler Blackcomb. “Competing under the pressure of this event has lead to some incredible creativity by competitors over the years and I am really excited to see what this group creates during these stressful 72 hours.”

This year’s competitors are:

Jeremy Bernard – A freelance photographer born and raised in the French Alps, Jeremy spends most of his time up high in the mountains, looking for the best light and aestheticism.

Jessika Hunter – Jessika grew up exploring, snowboarding and travelling through the mountains. Since her first '3 frames per second' film camera, she has been documenting this mountain adventure lifestyle and the spaces in between.

Justin Kious – Raised in the Pacific Northwest Justin fell in love with the mountains at a young age. His goal of shooting photos is to convey action in a natural way, like he is not even there.

John Entwistle – John is a lifelong skier and self-taught photographer born and raised in the mountains of British Columbia. He is now based out of Whistler, where he spent much of last winter shooting for Whistler Blackcomb's Magnetic Movie.

Florian Breitenberger – Growing up south of Munich, Florian was always highly influenced by the Alps. Now based in Innsbruck, Austria, he has had numerous photos published in magazines all over the world.

Rob Lemay – Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Rob is the senior content creator at King Snow Magazine.

Tickets to the Samsung Deep Winter Photo Challenge presented by GORE-TEX® Products on January 6 are $25 and are available online at whistlerblackcomb.com/deepwinter. Doors open at 7pm and the slideshows start at 8pm.

The Deep Winter Photo Challenge is presented by Samsung Canada, GORE-TEX® Products, and Whistler Blackcomb. Additional sponsors included Kokanee, Smirnoff, Coast Mountain Culture Magazine, The Pique Newsmagazine, Atomic, Whistler Heli Skiing, The Fairmont Chateau Whistler and Mountain FM.

Guests looking to plan a trip to the consistently rated No. 1 Mountain Resort in North America can visit whistlerblackcomb.com/purchase/deals-packages or call 1-888-403-4727.

About Whistler Blackcomb
Whistler Blackcomb, the official alpine skiing venue for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, is situated in the Resort Municipality of Whistler located in the Coast Mountains of British Columbia 125 kilometres (78 miles) from Vancouver, British Columbia. Whistler and Blackcomb are two side-by-side mountains which, combined, offer over 200 marked runs, 8,171 acres of terrain, 16 alpine bowls, three glaciers, receive on average 1,170 centimetres (461 inches) of snow annually, have one of the longest ski seasons in North America, and are a part of the premier mountain resort network, Vail Resorts. In the summer, Whistler Blackcomb offers a variety of activities, including hiking and biking trails, the Whistler Mountain Bike Park, and sightseeing on the PEAK 2 PEAK Gondola.

Proud to be a venue for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games

Media Notes: Whistler Blackcomb is pleased to provide high resolution photographs available for editorial use, downloadable at the following link: http://ww1.whistlerblackcomb.com/media/photos/photos.asp

Please credit – Photographer Listed, Location: Whistler Blackcomb, British Columbia.

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About Vail Resorts, Inc. (NYSE: MTN)
Vail Resorts, Inc., through its subsidiaries, is the leading global mountain resort operator. Vail Resorts' subsidiaries operate 11 world-class mountain resorts and three urban ski areas, including Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone in Colorado; Park City in Utah; Heavenly, Northstar and Kirkwood in the Lake Tahoe area of California and Nevada; Whistler Blackcomb in British Columbia, Canada; Perisher in Australia; Stowe in Vermont; Wilmot Mountain in Wisconsin; Afton Alps in Minnesota and Mt. Brighton in Michigan. Vail Resorts owns and/or manages a collection of casually elegant hotels under the RockResorts brand, as well as the Grand Teton Lodge Company in Jackson Hole, Wyo. Vail Resorts Development Company is the real estate planning and development subsidiary of Vail Resorts, Inc. Vail Resorts is a publicly held company traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: MTN). The Vail Resorts company website is www.vailresorts.com and consumer website is www.snow.com.

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