



PRESS RELEASE

Saudia and ITA Airways Expand Codeshare Agreement and sign Partnership between 'AlFursan' and 'Volare'

Dubai/Rome, 3rd June 2024 - Saudia, the national flag carrier of Saudi Arabia, and ITA Airways, the reference carrier of Italy, announce the expansion of their codeshare agreement and the signing of a partnership between their loyalty programs, 'AlFursan' and 'Volare', also in light of the Italian carrier's new connections in the Middle East, which include the newly inaugurated Rome-Riyadh direct flight and the routes to Kuwait City and Jeddah, operational in July and August respectively.

The agreement between the two airlines was signed during the IATA Annual General Meeting and World Air Transport Summit held in Dubai by Amr Bakor, Head of Program Design and Airline Loyalty at Saudia, and Andrea Benassi, General Manager of ITA Airways.

The agreement will provide enhanced benefits, increased travel options, and a broader network of connections for guests traveling between Saudi Arabia and Italy, as well as other destinations within their respective networks.

Travelers on both airlines will enjoy a range of privileges, including booking a single ticket for itineraries with connecting flights, checking their luggage in to the final destination, as well as earning and redeeming points for class upgrades and other frequent flyer benefits, in addition to existing benefits available to SkyTeam Elite and Elite Plus members. Exclusive services include priority check-in and boarding, preferential baggage drop-off counters and additional baggage allowances.

Travelers can also benefit from transit visa that can be issued through digital channels in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia and stop over for up to 96 hours to enjoy the many events in the Kingdom's regions.

Specifically, Saudia's guests travelling to Italy can reach 12 domestic destinations including Venice, Bologna, Florence, Lamezia Terme, Palermo, Catania, Turin, Naples, Bari, Reggio Calabria, Genoa and Brindisi, and 15 international destinations such as Amsterdam, Athens, Frankfurt, Cairo, Geneva, Brussels, Madrid, Sofia, Tirana, Nice, Munich, Barcelona, Malta and London, and 9 intercontinental including Miami, San Francisco, Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo via ITA Airways' flights from Rome Fiumicino International Airport.

Conversely, ITA Airways' travelers can access 11 destinations in Saudi Arabia including Madinah, Dammam, Neom, AlUla, Abha, Jazan, Tabuk, Yanbu, Hail, Turaif and Taif, and 7 international destinations including Doha, Dubai, Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Dhaka and Manama, offered by Saudia network via Jeddah and Riyadh airports.

Amr Bakor, Head of Program Design and Airline Loyalty at Saudia, said: *"This partnership is designed to enhance the travel experience for our guests by offering increased connectivity and a wider range of destinations. AlFursan's members will also enjoy reciprocal benefits, allowing them to earn and redeem miles seamlessly across both airlines."*



He added: *"We are thrilled about this partnership and confident that it will bring significant value to our guests, and we look forward to serving them better together with ITA Airways."*

Andrea Benassi, General Manager ITA Airways, said: *"We are pleased to extend our codeshare agreement with Saudia Airlines. This partnership enhances ITA Airways' commercial strategy of growth and increases connectivity for our passengers. With this agreement, ITA Airways now boasts 37 codeshare agreements, achieved in less than three years since beginning of our operations. This collaboration underscores the importance of Saudi Arabia as a strategic market for ITA Airways, particularly for business travel, as highlighted by the recent launch of our Rome-Riyadh nonstop flight and the upcoming Rome-Jeddah flight in August."*

Emiliana Limosani, Chief Commercial Officer of ITA Airways and CEO of Volare stated: *"The collaboration with Saudia marks a significant milestone further expanding Volare's partnership portfolio and the offering for Members of both programs, who can accumulate and redeem points with ITA Airways and Saudia flights as well as access the benefits of the respective programs"*.

These codeshare flights are already available for booking on the respective websites of the two airlines, www.ita-airways.com and <https://www.saudia.com/>, as well as through travel agencies.

Codeshare agreements contribute to achieving Saudia's objectives by continuing its efforts to connect the world to the Kingdom, coupled with qualitative initiatives to enhance the travel experience through both ground and air services and products, in addition to aligning with the initiatives of the Saudi Aviation Strategy by increasing air connectivity to more than 250 destinations by 2030, and keeping pace with the targets of the Saudi tourism sector of reaching 150 million visits by 2030.

For ITA Airways, this collaboration comes alongside the launch of its new direct flight from Rome Fiumicino to Riyadh, inaugurated on 2nd June which represents the Company's first connection to the Middle East. The new middle eastern routes will be operated with the technologically advanced Airbus A321neo, which offers significant reductions in fuel consumption and CO2 emissions, as well as as enhanced comfort.

Per informazioni alla stampa:

Pietro Caldaroni, Head of Communication & Institutional Relations

Mail: media@ita-airways.co

Informazioni su ITA Airways

ITA Airways è una società partecipata al 100% dal Ministero dell'Economia e delle Finanze per l'esercizio dell'attività nel settore del trasporto aereo. L'obiettivo di ITA è quello di creare un vettore aereo efficiente, innovativo, che diventi il punto di riferimento nel garantire all'Italia una connettività di qualità sia con destinazioni internazionali, così da incentivare il turismo e il commercio con l'estero, sia all'interno del Paese, sfruttando anche la mobilità integrata. ITA Airways mette al centro della propria strategia il miglior servizio ai clienti (attraverso una forte digitalizzazione di processi che assicurino una esperienza best in class e servizi personalizzati), coniugato alla sostenibilità, declinata nel suo aspetto ambientale (nuovi aerei green e tecnologicamente avanzati, utilizzo di carburanti sostenibili), sociale (uguaglianza e inclusione per una compagnia genderless) e di governance (integrazione della sostenibilità nelle strategie e nei processi interni). ITA Airways è un membro SkyTeam da ottobre 2021.