



## PRESS RELEASE

### AIR ITALY SIGNS CODESHARE AGREEMENT WITH QATAR AIRWAYS

#### **Connections between seven major destinations in Italy, Qatar, Maldives and Singapore.**

*Olbia, 17 April 2018* – Effective April 17, 2018, Air Italy and Qatar Airways entered a codeshare partnership to offer customers enhanced connectivity and seamless connections between seven major destinations in Italy, Qatar, Maldives and Singapore.

Under the agreement, Air Italy “IG” code will be placed on Qatar Airways flights between Doha and Rome Fiumicino, Milan Malpensa, Pisa and Venice, as well as Singapore and Maldives. At the same time, Qatar Airways will put its “QR” code on Air Italy flights between Milan Malpensa and Rome Fiumicino, Naples, Olbia (Sardinia), Palermo and Catania (Sicily) and Lamezia Terme (Calabria), as well as from Rome Fiumicino and Olbia.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, said: “We are pleased to be announcing this codeshare with the newly-launched Air Italy. The new agreement will provide seamless connectivity for Qatar Airways passengers arriving at our Italian gateways, onto further domestic destinations, enabling them to explore this beautiful country.

“This codeshare between Qatar Airways and Air Italy demonstrates the strengthening ties between Italy and Qatar; two countries that share many economic affiliations.”

Air Italy Deputy Executive Chairman, Marco Rigotti said: “The commencement of our partnership with Qatar Airways is good news for passengers of both airlines. Our passengers can now benefit from a new choice for visiting Doha or to reach, via Doha, the white sandy beaches of Maldives and one of the most modern and busy Asian city, such as Singapore. Meanwhile, we are excited to welcoming Qatar Airways passengers on board of the new Air Italy flights to explore Italy, especially the Center and the South, which embodies the unique Mediterranean culture.”

Flight tickets for the Doha/Italy and Doha/Singapore-Maldives routes under the codeshare agreement are available for purchase at travel agents, or through each airlines website and call centers starting from today for departures from April 24th.

#### **For information:**

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## **About AIR ITALY**

AIR ITALY is an Italian airline fully owned by AQA Holding (51% Alisarda and 49% Qatar Airways), with its headquarters in Olbia. The company was established with the name of Alisarda on 29 March 1963, with the aim of promoting tourism to Sardinia. In 1991 the name was changed to Meridiana. Following a merger with charter carrier Eurofly and the acquisition of the charter company AIR ITALY the airline became the most important Italian player in international leisure flights.

In December 2017 growth towards new domestic, medium-haul and long haul destinations from Milan Malpensa were announced, reflecting a major strategic shift for the Company.

In February 2018 a new corporate identity was presented and the Company was rebranded as AIR ITALY.

Beginning from May 2018, AIR ITALY will add new domestic routes from Milan to Rome, Naples, Palermo, Catania, Lamezia Terme scheduled for connection to its newest long-range destinations including New York, Miami and Bangkok (starting in September 2018). Its network also includes direct international flights from Milan Malpensa to Accra, Cairo, Dakar, Havana, Lagos, Mombasa, Moscow, Zanzibar and, from its Olbia Costa Smeralda hub, year-round scheduled services to Rome, Milan Linate and seasonal ones to a wide range of domestic and regional destinations.

AIR ITALY's fleet, currently comprising 8 Boeing 737 NG and 3 Boeing 767-300, will be progressively renewed with 8 new aircraft 3 brand new Boeing 737 MAX 8 and 5 Airbus A330-200 joining during 2018 and with the full retirement of the B767-300 by the end of 2018.

## **About Qatar Airways**

Qatar Airways, the national carrier of the State of Qatar, is celebrating more than 20 years of Going Places Together with travellers across its more than 150 business and leisure destinations. The world's fastest-growing airline will add a number of exciting new destinations to its growing network in 2018, including Thessaloniki, Greece; Cardiff, UK and many more, flying passengers on board its modern fleet of more than 200 aircraft.

A multiple award-winning airline, Qatar Airways was named 'Airline of the Year' by the 2017 World Airline Awards, managed by international air transport rating organisation Skytrax. It was also named 'World's Best Business Class,' 'Best Airline in the Middle East,' and 'World's Best First Class Airline Lounge.'

Qatar Airways is a member of the oneworld global alliance. The award-winning alliance was named the World's Best Airline Alliance 2015 by Skytrax for the third year running. Qatar Airways was the first Gulf carrier to join global airline alliance, oneworld, enabling its passengers to benefit from more than 1,000 airports in more than 150 countries, with 14,250 daily departures.

Oryx One, Qatar Airways' in-flight entertainment system offers passengers up to 4,000 entertainment options from the latest blockbuster movies, TV box sets, music, games and much more. Passengers flying on Qatar Airways flights served by its B787, A350, A380, A319 and select A320 and A330 aircraft can also stay in touch with their friends and family around the world by using the award-winning airline's on-board Wi-Fi and GSM service.

Qatar Airways proudly supports a range of exciting international and local initiatives dedicated to enriching the global community that it serves. Qatar Airways, the official FIFA partner, is the official sponsor of many top-level sporting events, including the FIFA 2018 and 2022 World Cups, reflecting the values of sports as a means of bringing people together, something at the core of the airline's own brand message - Going Places Together.

Qatar Airways Cargo, the world's third largest international cargo carrier, serves more than 60 exclusive freighter destinations worldwide via its world-class Doha hub and also delivers freight to more than 150 key business and leisure destinations globally with more than 200 aircraft. The Qatar Airways Cargo fleet includes eight Airbus A330 freighters, 13 Boeing 777 freighters and two Boeing 747-8 freighters.