

*Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas Hosts*  
**CHA MARKETPLACE 2008**



# Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas Hosts CHA Marketplace 2008

Back in the Bahamas after eight years, the 2008 Caribbean Marketplace was one of the biggest and most successful events ever.

**A**tlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas, was host to Caribbean Marketplace, held January 13-15, 2008. Recognized as the most important tourism marketing event of the year for the Caribbean region, the event was presented by the Caribbean Hotel Association, the Islands of the Bahamas, and American Express.



PETER ODLE, PRESIDENT  
CARIBBEAN  
HOTEL ASSOCIATION

Held every year in January, Caribbean Marketplace sets the tone for travel packaging in the Caribbean.

The format of the event is two days of pre-scheduled business appointments.

Buyers and suppliers meet face-to-face to discuss existing contracts, develop packages, and contract for future business.

Beyond networking, Caribbean Marketplace is

above all business-making. It provides indications on how the tourism season will go, what the trends will be, and how offer will meet demand.

Buyers are wholesalers, incentive buyers, meeting planners, group buyers and dive shop owners from the U.S., Canada, Caribbean, Latin America, Asia/Pacific, Africa, and Europe.

Buyers can choose appointments with a range of suppliers from 36 different national hotel associations representing intimate inns, guesthouses and villas, business, meeting and incentive, time-share, all-inclusive and chain hotels from the entire Caribbean region.

One of the primary reasons that Caribbean Marketplace is successful and productive for its participants year after year is the active participation of the international buyers in the Matchmaker appointment scheduling process, which matches buyer and supplier mutual requests, buyer requests, and supplier requests, in that order.

International buyers are invited to attend Caribbean Marketplace based on their proven capability or potential to sell the Caribbean as a destination.

The Caribbean Marketplace International Buyer Screening Committees, overseen by the Caribbean Hotel Association, qualify and approve the buyers.

## Caribbean Marketplace 2008

This year's CHA Marketplace was one of the biggest and most successful events in years. 397 booths were on display at the Atlantis, up from 371 in 2007. 336 supplier companies registered, up from 330 from a year ago. These companies brought with them over 900 delegates, including 420 appointment taking delegates.

On top of all this good news, there were over 16,000 scheduled appointments for this marketplace, up nearly 4,000 from a year ago.

This marks the largest number of scheduled appointments ever at any marketplace.

"Looking at all these numbers, you can see that it is indeed 'Better in the Bahamas,'" said Peter J. Odle, President of the Caribbean Hotel Association.

"We are very pleased to be back here after eight years. We are indebted to the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, in particular Director General Vernice Walkine for her hands-on dedication to making this a successful event.

"We also appreciate all the detailed attention that Tommy Thompson, Deputy Director General provided to ensure that this would be the premier event that would make us all proud to be in the Bahamas," Mr. Odle continued.

"And we would be remiss if we didn't thank Warren Binder, Chairman of the Marketplace Government Committee and head of the Marketplace Host Committee, for his tireless efforts to bring Marketplace to the Bahamas and also ensure it's a success.

Finally, we would like to thank the Atlantis Hotel and its fine staff who have welcomed us with their fine hospitality. We in the travel and hospitality business are not easy to please and both the Bahamas Ministry and the Atlantis have succeeded in creating the kind of welcome atmosphere that will result in everyone wanting to come back."

"We are all delighted that you have chosen the Bahamas to host this premier event on the Caribbean region's annual marketing calendar," commented Rt. Hon. Hubert A. Ingraham M.P., Prime Minister Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

"The hosting of the event represents for the Bahamas a singular opportunity to showcase our people, our distinctive culture and our tourism products to buyers, colleagues and travel industry media, all of whom collectively represent or influence a significant portion of our market."

Caribbean Marketplace 2009 will be held in St. Lucia.

**Caribbean Hotel Association,**  
[www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com](http://www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com)



The annual gathering of past winners of the Caribbean Hotel Association's highest honor of Hotelier of the Year as they choose the winner for 2008. Front row, left to right: Stephen Sawyer, Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas; Robert Sherman, Chairman CHA Foundation; Sir Royston O. Hopkin, KCMG; Eustace "Guish" Guishard, Managing Director, Auberge Resorts; John Jeffries, Coco Reef Resort, Tobago; Berthia Parle, MBE, Past President CHA and Chairwoman of CHA, GM Bay Gardens Beach Resort; Edward Malone, CHA Past President; Peter Odle, CHA President; Jag Mehta, Senior VP SuperClubs Resorts, Jamaica and CHA Treasurer; Lorette Resch, (Hon. Director) CHA, Island Beachcomber Hotel, St. Thomas, USVI; George Myers, The Myers Group, CHA Past President; Prof. Heinz Simonitsch, C.D. (Hon. Chairman) and Chairman of Elegant Resorts International; Ewald Biemans, Owner, Bucuti Beach Resort, Aruba; Josef Forstmayr, Managing Director of Round Hill Resort, Montego Bay; Anthony Bowen, Managing Director, Windjammer Landing Villa Beach Resort, St. Lucia and Ralph Taylor, CHA Past President and Chairman and Managing Director of Almond Beach Resort, Barbados. Center back row: Richard Williams, Dir. USA Barbados Tourism Authority and Robert Dubourcq, Executive Project Manager, Sint Maarten Hospitality & Trade Association.

## CHA EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S 2008 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OPENS

The Caribbean Hotel Association Education Foundation (CHAEF), the non-profit subsidiary of the CHA, has announced the launch of its 2008/2009 Scholarship Program for Caribbean hospitality employees, educators, and students wishing to pursue studies or professional development courses related to the tourism industry.

This year, the Foundation has introduced a new online mentoring resource for applicants. Sponsored by Virgin Holidays, the mentoring program facilitates a system through which past and current beneficiaries of the Foundation provide advice and encouragement to people considering applying for a scholarship or grant from CHAEF. "CHAEF mentors can harness their experience to help others to make more informed decisions about education and career prospects," observed Jonathan Winfield, Responsible Business Executive at Virgin Holidays.

Scholarship application forms, application guidelines, a list of mentors, and additional information about the CHA Education Foundation are available on the CHF website, [www.caribbeanhotelfoundation.org](http://www.caribbeanhotelfoundation.org). The application deadline is March 15, 2008.

The CHAEF offers awards ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, available to worthy applicants who demonstrate a strong commitment to the industry and the potential for future success. Further, corporate awards sponsored by private entities include the Virgin Holidays Tourism Management Scholarship of \$10,000 a year for three years. Likewise, Johnson & Wales University, Miami Campus, offers two scholarships worth \$5,000 each for four years, while Interval International offers two scholarships of \$7,000 each.

Requirements to apply for the CHF Scholarship Program includes being a Caribbean national, having a high school (or equivalent secondary school) degree, pursuing a tourism-related educational degree, and demonstrated financial need, among others.

In 2007, CHAEF awarded 26 academic scholarships totaling \$86,500 to promising Caribbean students and industry professionals from 13 Caribbean islands. Among the successful candidates were high school graduates pursuing associate and bachelor degrees in tourism and hospitality, hotel personnel committed to their professional development, and tourism and hospitality university graduates looking forward to advanced degrees and certifications.

Since 1987, the Foundation has awarded close to \$1 million in scholarships and grants to applicants who demonstrate a strong commitment to the hotel and tourism industry.

**Caribbean Hotel Association Education Foundation (CHAEF), [www.caribbeanhotelfoundation.org](http://www.caribbeanhotelfoundation.org);**  
**Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA), [www.caribbeanhotellassociation.com](http://www.caribbeanhotellassociation.com)**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Following the opening ceremonies on Sunday, January 13, at CHA Marketplace in Nassau, Bahamas, Jamaica's Tourism Minister Hon. Edmund Bartlett hosted a special dinner at Sandals Royal Bahamas where he updated the media on the latest developments and tourist arrivals. Pictured above, left to right: Lionel Reid, Hotelier and Jamaica Tourist Board, (JTB) Board Member; Wayne Cummings, President; Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA); Hon. Edmund Bartlett, Jamaica's Tourism Minister; Carrole Guntley, Director General, Ministry of Tourism; Basil Smith, Director of Tourism, JTB and John Lynch, Chairman, Jamaica Tourist Board.



Above, left to right: Hon. Richard Skerritt, Minister of Tourism, Sports and Culture, St. Kitts; Hon. Edison Briesen, Minister of Tourism, Aruba; Hon. Neko C. Grant, Minister of Tourism, Sports & Culture, The Bahamas; Hon. Edmund Bartlett, Jamaica's Tourism Minister and Hon. Allen Chastanet, Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, St. Lucia.



Pictured left, left to right: Peter Odle, President CHA and Managing Director of Mango Bay, Barbados; Enrique de Marchena Kaluche, President Elect for CHA; The Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, MP, Prime Minister of the Bahamas; Berthia Parle, MBE, Past President CHA and Chairwoman of CHA and Alec Sanguinetti, Director General and CEO of CHA.

## SIRENA HOTEL: THE ULTIMATE HIDEAWAY ON ANGUILLA

Sirena Hotel is the ultimate hideaway overlooking Meads Bay on the island of Anguilla, British West Indies. The hotel, personally managed by the owner, blends in a unique way Mediterranean style with Caribbean colors.

The resort has two fresh-water swimming pools. The beach can be reached by walking through a comfortable path winding through the tropical garden. There are complimentary lounge chairs and thatched umbrellas on the beach. In the high season there is beach service available.

The lobby, reception area, boutique, restaurant and pool side bar are housed in one of the two main buildings. In the second building there are 20 hotel rooms all with balconies or a terrace facing Meads Bay.

The three individual villas, two of which have two-bedrooms/two bath and one with three-bedrooms/three-baths are spread out between the main buildings and the beach. All villas have a fully equipped kitchen and are provided with direct-dialing telephone service, radio-alarm clock, room safe and barbecue equip-

ment. Each bedroom has its own private bathroom and air conditioning and fan. Daily maid service is included. Laundry service, dishwashing, cooking and cable TV/VCR are available at an extra charge.

Two of their luxurious suites are situated on the second floor of the main building, the other four in a separate building in the gardens. Here guests can enjoy privacy and a spectacular view of the Caribbean Ocean and the tropical gardens. Suites have an extensive bedroom/living room area and a fully equipped kitchenette.

Their restaurant, Mahi Mahi, is situated next to the bar overlooking the upper swimming pool which creates a romantic atmosphere at night. The restaurant focuses on fine French cuisine influenced by Caribbean and Asian Flavors, among them the freshest seafood specialties.

Hotel room and Junior Suites net rates (double) per night start at \$125 (April 1-October 31); \$167 (November 1- December 14); and \$240 (December 15-March 31). Villas net rates start at \$250 (April 1- October 31); \$334 (November 1- December 14); and \$480 (December 15-March 31).

Sirena Hotel, [info@sirenaresort.com](mailto:info@sirenaresort.com), [www.sirenaresort.com](http://www.sirenaresort.com)

## RINCÓN BEACH RESORT JOINS HOLIDAY INN SAN JUAN FOR TOWN & COUNTRY GETAWAY



Pictured at left, Lourdes Martinez, Director of Sales, Rincon Beach with Deborah Nelson, Assistant Director of Sales, Holiday Inn San Juan conducting a press conference at CHA Marketplace in Nassau.

Rincón Beach Resort and its sister property Holiday Inn San Juan have joined forces to introduce their new winter and summer offers. The Winter Town & Country Getaway offers three nights and four days at Holiday Inn San Juan, located in Isla Verde, and three nights and four days at Rincón Beach Resort, valid from January 10 through April 8, 2008. The getaways include Superior accommodations and upgrade to Deluxe if available; government tax and resort fee; food & beverage credit of \$240 dollars; five days car rental; and a welcome gift at each hotel. Cost is \$378 per room/per night, based on double occupancy. Children under 12 stay free. The Summer Town & Country Getaway includes the same amenities for \$318 per room/per night valid from April 9, 2008 through December 21, 2008.

Holiday Inn San Juan offers their guests a Pillow Menu; Blu Zone complimentary Wi-Fi internet access; in-room hi speed internet access; and Inn-Mobility by MoviStar-cell phone rental. They have three restaurants to choose from: Coladas Café, J.H.Yee's Asian Bistro, and Fantasia. In addition, Holiday Inn San Juan has the famous Spray Park, a water park for children of all ages. A new fitness center is located in the rooftop of the main building. A business center is coming soon.

Rincón Beach Resort offers an array of adventures to discover, including the Arecibo Observatory; the Porta Coeli Church in San Germán; La Parguera Bioluminescent Bay; Ponce's Museum of Art and Serralles Castle. Guests can also plan an excursion to Desecheo Island for scuba diving and snorkeling, go surfing, visit Rincón's famous Lighthouse, go horseback riding, and more. In addition, there are two golf courses in the area. Amenities at Rincón Beach Resort include color/cable TV; refrigerator, safe deposit box, air conditioning and ceiling fans, and free wireless internet accessibility in the lobby and pool areas.

Holiday Inn San Juan, [reservations@hisanjuan.com](mailto:reservations@hisanjuan.com), [www.hisanjuan.com](http://www.hisanjuan.com), [www.holidayinn.com/sanjuanpr](http://www.holidayinn.com/sanjuanpr); Rincon Beach Resort, [reservations@rinconbeach.com](mailto:reservations@rinconbeach.com), [www.rinconbeach.com](http://www.rinconbeach.com)

## ST. MAARTEN/ST. MARTIN: AN APPETITE FOR LIFE—TANTALIZE YOUR TASTE-BUDS

St. Maarten/St. Martin offers a wide range of accommodations, from luxurious private villas that provide complete privacy, to small cottages and townhouses, to full-service luxury suite hotels and spas that offer every amenity. Whether traveling with family and children, alone, or as a couple, St. Maarten/St. Martin has the perfect accommodations to suit every visitor's needs.

Watersports are a main attraction. Scuba and snorkeling are offered at the coral reefs that surround the island, or at the two off-shore wrecks: the British man-of-war HMS Proselyte, which sank in 1801 and the freighter Teigland, which was sunk in 1993. Sport fishing is another big attraction, with the catch of the day often including yellowtail, snapper, grouper, marlin, tarpon, barracuda, snook, bonefish and jacks. Pleasure boat cruises are also available to see whales and dolphins, and private yachts and sailboats can be chartered to sail through the many coves.

For a "walk on the wild side," The St. Maarten Zoological and Botanical Garden, located in Dutch St. Maarten, is perfect for the whole family. Here, guests can learn about numerous plants and animals that are indigenous to the Caribbean and South America and see, up-close, golden lion tamarins, baboons and spectacled owls in their natural habitats. Lottery Farm, with its mountainous landscape and natural rain forest, offers thousands of plant and animals that are waiting to be discovered.

St. Maarten/St. Martin, [www.st-maarten.com](http://www.st-maarten.com), [www.st-martin.org](http://www.st-martin.org)

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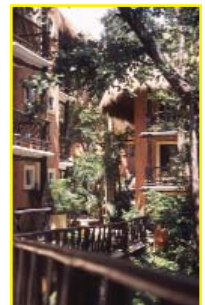
Whether you're looking to snorkel in the warm blue waters or just relax sipping a tropical drink at one of the many bars, there is something for everyone.

A variety of food & beverage outlets including an ice cream parlor, beach front restaurant, swim up bar and ocean lounge surrounded by lush vegetation are waiting for you.

Nestled on the white sandy beaches of Playa del Carmen, The Reef Playacar is a jewel in the Mexican Caribbean and the Mayan Riviera.

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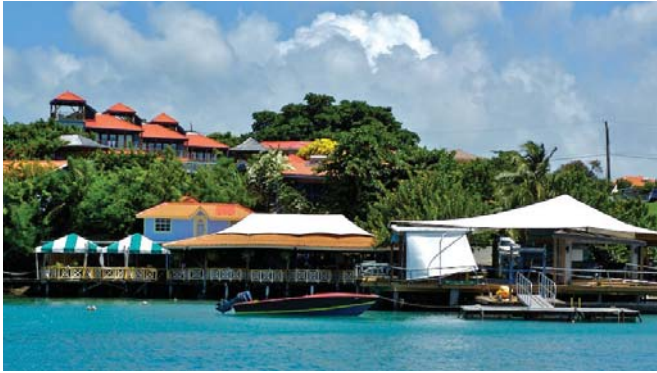
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## STAINED GLASS TEACHING WEEK AT TRUE BLUE BAY, GRENADA



True Blue Bay, Grenada is offering a unique holiday learning experience: Stained Glass Teaching Week from May 25 – June 1, 2008 where world famous glass artist Maria McClafferty, famed for her work within the Egyptian Hall in Harrods, will be leading a unique teaching week.

Price per person is \$1,850 (attending class, sharing double) or \$600 (non course rate, sharing double). Single supplement is \$490. Price includes seven nights accommodation with continental breakfast and four six-hour lessons at Maria McClafferty's studio. Package includes materials, carrying out and completing two projects, transportation to studio, lunch and coffee breaks at studio, and a graduation party with an exhibition of students' work at True Blue Bay.

True Blue Bay, Grenada is a boutique hotel is set among tropical gardens sloping down to True Blue Bay. Here guests will enjoy all the attractions of Grenada while preserving that special atmosphere only a small resort can achieve.

True Blue Bay offers 29 stylishly appointed True Blue standard rooms, three romantic junior suites and five luxurious villa homes. For a family vacation or for a friends' get together, their two bedroom Villa Homes with their own plunge pools provide exceedingly high quality accommodation. For a romantic getaway, guests can stay in the Tower Junior Suites with spectacular views of True Blue Bay, or in a Water Front Junior Suite (available from November 2008).

True Blue Bay, [info@truebluebay.com](mailto:info@truebluebay.com), [www.truebluebay.com](http://www.truebluebay.com)

## BACCARAT HOTELS AND RESORTS DEBUTS IN ANGUILLA

Flag Luxury Properties, a New York-based developer of luxury resort and residential properties, has announced that it has engaged Baccarat Hotels and Residences, a subsidiary of Starwood Capital Group, to operate its exclusive ultra-luxury hotel and residences on the island of Anguilla, British West Indies. The property will be named The Baccarat Hotel and Residences at Temenos, Anguilla and will be the first of its kind in the Caribbean.

The Baccarat Hotel and Residences at Temenos, Anguilla will include a 114-key ultra-luxury hotel, an 18,800-square-foot world-class spa, and a fitness center. Within the hotel there will be 50 oceanfront residences. Guests and residents will enjoy personal exclusive services and signature Baccarat aesthetics. The 286-acre

resort also includes 18 estate homes, 10 villas, and 38 Spa Villas along with a Greg Norman-designed championship golf course, Anguilla's first and only course.

Baccarat brings to the resort its reputation as one of the world's premier luxury brands. Barry Sternlicht, Chairman and CEO of Starwood Capital Group, is widely recognized as one of the lodging industry's leaders in building great brands, having led the creation of W Hotels and St. Regis brands and the reinvention of Westin when he served as Chairman and CEO of Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

"We are very excited to announce our participation in this outstanding resort which will quickly become one of the Caribbean's and the world's finest resorts," said Mr. Sternlicht.

"We have engaged Baccarat Hotels & Residences to help us take our project to completion and ensure that our vision for this unique property is completely fulfilled," said Paul C. Kanavos, Chairman and CEO of Flag Luxury. "We have always intended Temenos Anguilla to be one of the world's finest and most exclusive resorts - based not only on having the very best facilities, but also reflecting a superior level of service for our residents and guests that is unsurpassed anywhere."

Flag Luxury Properties, [www.flagluxury.com](http://www.flagluxury.com)

## JENNY'S PLACE IN GRENADA CELEBRATES THIRD BIRTHDAY

Jenny's Place, one of Grenada's most enticing new resorts will celebrate its third birthday in 2008. Jenny and her husband, Shaun, attended the World Travel Market (WTM) for the first time in early November. Situated 150 feet from the northern most end of Grand Anse beach, acclaimed as one of the 10 best beaches in the world, Jenny's Place, named after the owner, Grenada's first and only Miss World (1970), is a charming, laid back oasis in a perfect location. Here is one of the many Trip Advisor comments made about Jenny's Place: "I would thoroughly recommend this place to anyone wanting a real Caribbean experience and not just a soulless, chain hotel."

Jenny's Place was opened late in 2005, having been completely rebuilt after hurricane Ivan. This boutique hotel consists of four studio suites, all fitted with kitchenettes, two fully equipped apartments and one budget room. Each suite is based on a Caribbean flower theme: Rose, Sunflower, Hibiscus, Heliconia, Orchid, Bougainvillea and Oleander. All suites and apartments include baths and showers. One of the suites is specially adapted to suit physically challenged persons with a shower/no bath and handrails. All lower suites have wheel chair ramps. All suites are luxurious and spacious measuring approximately 470 sq. ft., including private verandas.

Jenny's Place is now being targeted for weddings. Its diner, situated on the beach, provides local cuisine for daily and special occasions. Live Jazz can be enjoyed on Thursday evenings and also with brunch on Sundays. Travel agents are welcome on a first come first serve basis.

Jenny's Place, [info@jennysplacegrenada.com](mailto:info@jennysplacegrenada.com), [www.jennysplacegrenada.com](http://www.jennysplacegrenada.com)

## BREEZES RESORTS INTRODUCES THE 'MINIMOON' FOR NEWLYWEDS



The Caribbean-based all-inclusive Breezes Resorts introduces the Minimoon, a new phenomenon where couples postpone the traditional, costly eight-day honeymoon and opt for shorter, more affordable weekend getaways instead.

While three-night Minimoon may be closer to home and easier on the nest egg, it doesn't mean newlyweds need to scrimp on luxury or romance.

At Breezes Bahamas, located on Nassau's Cable Beach, the couples' first vacation as husband and wife begins with a welcome gift of Champagne and chocolate-dipped strawberries, followed by a

couples massage at the resort's Blue Mahoe Spa. Languid days on the beach and romantic turndown amenities await in the Oceanfront room each evening.

The three-night/four-day minimoon land package starts at \$1,290 per room, and also includes private roundtrip airport transfers and a candlelit dinner at the Garden of Eden.

On the isle of Irie, couples celebrating their nuptials at Breezes Runaway Bay are whisked away in a private transfer to their verandah suite with private plunge pool for three nights. This Jamaican escape starts at \$1,644 per room, land only, and includes a couple's massage, a beachside candlelit dinner, and a gift of Champagne and desserts.

Breezes Runaway Bay reopened last year after a \$20 million renovation and welcomes romantics to lose themselves among its 27 acres of fragrant gardens and prime beachfront.

Minimooners can delight in Jamaica's natural beauty on a glass-bottom boat ride or a private snorkeling excursion off Breezes Montego Bay's beach.

After a day basking in the sun, newlyweds can unwind in their Oceanfront deluxe guestroom, and toast their new life together with chilled Champagne at the resort's rooftop Jacuzzi. Explore Montego Bay's vibrant nightlife, shopping and markets, all close to this intimate all-inclusive. Three-night/four-day Minimoon starts at \$1,236 per room, land only.

**Breezes Resorts, 800-GO-SUPER (800-467-8737), [www.breezes.com](http://www.breezes.com)**



MEXICO - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - SPAIN

BLUEBAY GRAND ESMERALDA \*\*\*\*\*  
RIVIERA MAYA - MEXICO  
PUNTA SERENA VILLAS & SPA BY BLUEBAY \*\*\*\*\*  
TENACATITLA - MEXICO  
BLUEBAY LOS ANGELES LOCOS \*\*\*\*  
TENACATITLA - MEXICO  
BLUEBAY VILLAS DORADAS \*\*\*\*  
PUERTO PLATA - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
BLUEBAY BEACH CLUB \*\*\*\*  
GRAN CANARIA - SPAIN  
BLUEBAY PALACE \*\*\*\*  
FUERTEVENTURA - SPAIN

#### Next openings

BLUEBAY GRAND RIVIERA MAYA \*\*\*\*\*  
RIVIERA MAYA - MEXICO  
BLUEBAY GRAND LOS CABOS \*\*\*\*\*  
LOS CABOS - MEXICO  
BLUEBAY GRAND PUERTO VALLARTA \*\*\*\*\*  
PUERTO VALLARTA - MEXICO  
BLUEBAY GRAND UVERO ALTO \*\*\*\*\*  
UVERO ALTO - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
BLUEBAY GRAND SAMANA \*\*\*\*\*  
SAMANA - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

#### Bookings

[booking@bluebayresorts.com](mailto:booking@bluebayresorts.com)

[bluebayresorts.com](http://bluebayresorts.com)

BY HOTETUR

**BlueBay**  
hotels & resorts

## JUNGLE BAY RESORT & SPA PLEDGES TO RAISE \$40,000 FOR 'HOUSE OF HOPE'



Jungle Bay Resort and Spa has committed to raise \$40,000 in 2008 for the new 'House of Hope' on the island of Dominica. This is the new extended care facility for severely disabled and impoverished children.

Some of the Jungle Bay Resort staff who were founders and volunteers of the original 'House of Hope' recently identified the need for an upgrade to the care center and home. The funds that are being raised will not only assist in building a new facility, but will also provide operation capital to finance additional caregivers and to acquire medical supplies.

Last year the Jungle Bay Family generously contributed \$53,000 EC dollars as a seed grant to begin the development of the community operated facility. The Jungle Bay family has pledged to continue to support this noble community initiative which is located in the neighboring village to the resort.

Jungle Bay is earning outstanding positive reviews from past guests for outstanding service and adventure spa programs. The resort was also the recipient of several social and environmental awards and nominations.


Jungle Bay is locally owned by Samuel Raphael and is operated with a strong commitment to community tourism which empowers the community and promotes authentic Caribbean cultural experiences. The 'House of Hope' project is only one of many causes that the resort supports and is an example of the growing movement of Travel Philanthropy.

Jungle Bay Resort & Spa is a rustic luxury resort with 35 cottages perched upon stilts amidst the rainforest. Highlights of the resort's signature 'Jungle Spa Adventure Package' include fine organic cuisine, an abundance of daily hikes and excursions, plus a spa treatment each afternoon. A new addition to the package is the Dive Add-On for scuba divers who wish to explore Dominica's world class coral reefs.

Jungle Bay extends a 10 percent commission to travel agents and will also give agents a 10 percent discount on a stay at the resort **Jungle Bay Resort & Spa, 767-446-1789, info@junglebaydominica.com, www.junglebaydominica.com**

## Winter Mega Sale


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**The booking Agent receives EZ Money: \$25 for Mazatlán and \$50 for Riviera Maya and Cozumel**  
Winter Mega Sale not valid for travel February 01 - 05, March 16 - 22 and December 21 - 31, 2008. EZ Money is valid year round and requires a minimum of 5 effective reservations of 3 and more nights. Record your reservations and call 1.877.283.8822 to claim your money. You may accumulate your bookings in 2008.

## JAMAICA FORECASTING STRONG 2008 TRAVEL BOOKINGS



Jamaica ended 2007 with a strong performance given the various challenges that faced the travel industry. Jamaican Tourism officials are expressing optimism that the resort island could well record its best ever year in stopover arrivals.

"Availability right now is beginning to get tight, however there are still some opportunities for travelers to book last minute winter getaways for the beginning of 2008 in January, February and March," stated Basil Smith, Director of Tourism for the Jamaica Tourist Board. "It is definitely not too late to plan a long weekend

Jamaican getaway for this winter."

The Director went on to note that, "There is a diverse range of accommodations available in Jamaica to suit any travelers' needs and Jamaica's tour operators and travel agent partners are equipped to do everything they can to find the right place for every traveler looking to take a break from the winter chill."

Jamaica is in the midst of a development boom right now throughout the island, a process that is creating a strong foundation for exponential growth in tourist arrivals in 2008. Wayne Cummings, President of the Jamaica Hotel Tourist Association acknowledged that, "Plans are already being implemented to increase the room stock by the thousands, ranging from high-end luxury properties such as Goldeneye, Palmyra and Harmony Cove, as well as Spanish chains such as Iberostar, Riu and Bahia Principe."

New attractions are coming on line as well including cultural centers such as the Outameni Experience in Trelawny and eco-exploration activities such as Mystic Mountain in Ocho Rios. Renovations of both airports have also been undertaken including construction of new jetways, shopping facilities and customs and immigration areas.

"I am very delighted at the encouraging reports of Jamaica's tourism performance so far for the season. This demonstrates the resilience of brand Jamaica and our determination to remain the best in the field," said Minister of Tourism, Edmund Bartlett.

The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB),  
800-JAMAICA (800-526-2422), [www.visitjamaica.com](http://www.visitjamaica.com)



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## CHUKKA CARIBBEAN ADVENTURES WINS WORLD TRAVEL AWARD



Marc Melville (left) and John Byles (right), Co-Managing Directors of Chukka Caribbean Adventures accepts the award for "Caribbean's Leading Nature Adventure Excursion Operator."

Marc Melville and John Byles, Co-Managing Directors of Chukka Caribbean Adventures were in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos on December 12 to accept the award for Caribbean's Leading Nature Adventure Excursion Operator.

"This is an incredible honor for Chukka Caribbean Adventures as we head into our 25th anniversary year," says Byles. "At Chukka we always take our lead from nature and develop our tours with sustainable tourism in mind; it's wonderful to be acknowledged by our travel partners for that effort. We also see this win as an opportunity for Jamaica to put itself forward as a leading nature adventure destination. As Jamaicans we know what a beautiful country we live in - we are lucky enough to be able to experience her natural wonders from the beaches to Cockpit Country everyday - and we'd like the rest of the world to know it too. It is a privilege for Chukka Caribbean Adventures to now share the stage with the other World Travel Award winners that have made Brand Jamaica one of the top tourism products in the world. Congratulations to all of Jamaica's winners."

Chukka Caribbean Adventures, 877-4-CHUKKA,  
[www.ChukkaCaribbean.com](http://www.ChukkaCaribbean.com)

## PACKAGES AVAILABLE AT JADE MOUNTAIN AND ANSE CHASTANET

Anse Chastanet Resort, located on St Lucia's southwestern Caribbean coast, is offering their One Night of Total Romance Package based on their all-inclusive Lover's Early Bird Total Romance Package for travel throughout 2008. A seventh night free is offered in all resort room categories.

Rates for the Lovers' Early Bird Total Romance Packages with seventh night free are: \$6,448/\$7,048/\$7,648/\$8,464 January 5 – April 5, 2008; \$5,632/\$6,232/\$6,658/\$7,474 – April 16–May 31 and November 1–December 19, 2008; and \$5,242/\$5,704/\$6,130/\$6,940 – June 1 – October 31, 2008 for Superior, Beach Deluxe, Hillside Deluxe and Premium accommodation respectively.

Travelers can take advantage of Anse Chastanet's "Delight" offers and enjoy a sixth night free in Anse Chastanet's Standard, Superior, and Beachside Deluxe room categories plus a \$150 per person, per stay, food and beverage credit.

The offer is based on Anse Chastanet's daily published rates which start from \$425 in the Winter season (January 3 – April 15, 2008); \$325 in the Shoulder season (April 16 – May 31 and November 1 – December 19, 2008); and \$280 in the Summer season (June 1 – October 31, 2008).

Jade Mountain is Anse Chastanet's new and exclusive resort within a resort. Enjoy the exclusivity and private setting of Jade Mountain with all of Anse Chastanet's spa, leisure and sports facilities, as well as two beaches which are available to Jade Mountain guests at all times. Guests can now enjoy a fifth night free at Jade Mountain for travel dates March 5 - September 30, 2008 when reserving a Star or Moon Sanctuary on either Jade Mountain's daily rate or the Total Romance Package.

Jade Mountain rates per couple, per night, are \$1,450/\$1,600 (March 5 - April 15); \$1,250/\$1,400 (April 16 - May 31, 08); and \$1,150/\$1,300 (June 1 - September 30) in Star and Moon sanctuaries respectively. The five-night total Romance Package rates on basis of this fifth night free offer are \$8,852/\$9,560 (March 5 - April 15) six-night stay add: \$2,053/\$2,230; \$7,908/\$8,616 (April 16 - May 31, 08); six-night stay add \$ 1,817/1,994; \$7,436/\$ 8,144 (June 1 - September 30); six-night stay add \$1,699/\$1,876 in Star and Moon sanctuaries respectively.

Anse Chastanet, 800-223- 1108, [www.ansechastanet.com](http://www.ansechastanet.com);

Jade Mountain, 800-223-1108,

[jademountain@ansechastanet.com](mailto:jademountain@ansechastanet.com), [www.jademountainstlucia.com](http://www.jademountainstlucia.com)

## COCONUT BAY OFFERS WINTER SAVINGS

Travelers can head south for the winter to St. Lucia's all-inclusive Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa for up to 50 percent off regular rates for travel before April 15, 2008. Between April 1-15, 2008 travelers save with a 50 percent discount off regular room rates. All-inclusive rates begin at \$285 a night for a Deluxe Gardenview, \$305 a night for a Deluxe Oceanview room and \$325 a night for a Premium Oceanview room. Individuals seeking an affordable spring break can enjoy 40 percent off regular rates for travel February 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008. Rates for travel during this time begin at \$342 per night for a Deluxe Gardenview room, \$366 per night for a Deluxe Oceanview room and \$390 per night for a Premium Oceanview room.

Coconut Bay's winter spectacular of 50 percent off is valid for travel April 1-15, 2008. Rates of 40 percent off are valid for travel February 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008. All rates are per room, per night and based on double occupancy.

Situated on 85 acres along St. Lucia's exotic south coast, a short transfer from the Hewanorra International Airport, Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa boasts 254-rooms, three swimming pools, a full-service spa, CocoLand Kidz Klub and the island's largest water park. With a recent multi-million dollar renovation, this all-inclusive resort caters to families, couples and honeymooners alike.

Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa, [www.cbayresort.com](http://www.cbayresort.com)

## TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY INVESTS \$17 MILLION TO ANCHOR THE CRUISE INDUSTRY

The Tobago House of Assembly has announced the grand opening of the Scarborough Jetty in Tobago. The \$17 million dollar (TT) Scarborough Jetty expansion project will facilitate larger cruise ships and encourage more cruise lines to include Tobago on their itinerary.

Tobago is an ideal eco-adventure destination offering cruisers an array of activities. Adventure seeking travelers can explore the Main Forest Ridge Rainforest, named the World's Leading Ecotourism Destination by The World Travel Awards four consecutive years in a row. It is the oldest rainforest preserve in the western hemisphere and home to an incredibly diverse biological eco-system. Bird lovers can migrate to Little Tobago Island, a 250-acre off-shore wildlife sanctuary where one can observe the Red Billed Tropic, Brown Booby and a myriad of hummingbirds in their natural habitat. Hikers can trek to Argyle Waterfalls featuring nature trails sheltered by tall trees and bamboo groves and a three-tiered waterfall.

Cruisers laying over in Tobago can dive into the deep on scuba and snorkel excursions. From the experienced to the novice, divers can venture beneath the waters of Tobago's coast in Speyside, Pigeon Point or Englishman's Bay to catch glimpses of barracudas, dolphins, whale sharks, parrotfish and queen. Tobago boasts the world's largest brain coral and is also one of the few locations in the world where divers can regularly swim with manta ray. For the beach bum, bask in the warmth of the Caribbean heat and tan at the pristine Pigeon Point Beach in Tobago.

Tobago, [www.visittobago.gov.tt](http://www.visittobago.gov.tt)

## WORLD CLASS DIVING AWAITS IN ST. EUSTATIUS

St. Eustatius, affectionately known as Statia, is a 12-square-mile Netherlands Antillean Island, positioned 38 miles south of St. Maarten.

Diving has become and is the main attraction of the island. For divers looking for new dive destinations unknown by many,

St. Eustatius is that spot and destination.

Dutch warehouses that have sunk into the sea over the past several hundred years are now underwater ruins. They serve as day-care centers for abundant schools of juvenile fish. Stingrays, eels, turtles, and barracudas live in the undersea Caribbean neighborhood where giant pillar coral, huge yellow sea fans, and reef fingers abound. There are no shortage of wrecks, old cannons and modern ships to explore.

Combing the Atlantic shoreline in search of blue beads is a favorite pastime. Legend has it that 30 of these 17th-century blue baubles, found only on Statia, were used to

purchase Manhattan. They were also currency for rum, slaves, tobacco, and cotton. The chance of finding one of these blue balls is slim, unless you visit the St. Eustatius Historical Foundation Museum.


Another popular activity is the long and windy climb to the Quill's perfectly formed crater. The trail to the top of the 1,968-foot extinct volcano is bordered by wild orchids, ferns, elephant ears and various other kinds of flowers. Contact the Statia Marine Park for a permit or a private guide. Statia also makes a fine day trip from St. Maarten.

St. Eustatius Tourist Office,  
[www.statiatourism.com](http://www.statiatourism.com)

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## AVILA HOTEL ANNOUNCES OPENING OF REMODELED LOBBY AND NEW SHOPPING ARCADE



The Avila Hotel, a privately owned four-star boutique resort on the Dutch Caribbean island of Curaçao, has announced the opening of its remodeled Mansion House lobby and a new shopping arcade located in the new Octagon Wing. The new lobby is the final phase of the ongoing re-branding activities at the Avila Hotel after having added the 68 room Octagon Wing earlier in 2007. It features a contemporary look which is balanced with scenes of the past including a back-lit, large scale photographic reproduction of the colonial city of Willemstad, the capital city of Curaçao.

Located on the ground floor of the new Octagon Wing, the Avila shopping gallery features a sundries/convenience store, a clothing boutique specializing in European fashions, a beachwear and accessories store, and a top-of-the line coffee shop. It is all anchored by the new Avila Boutique, which houses the hotel owner's 1926 Rolls Royce and offers a large assortment of Avila branded merchandise such as T-shirts, caps, books, bathrobes and hotel-commissioned reproductions of artwork by José Maria Capricorne.

Mrs. Tone Moller, Director of Commerce of the Avila Hotel said, "We are ecstatic about the completion of our new lobby in the historical Mansion House. Our guest will now experience the "new" Avila Hotel from the moment they arrive and check-in. The opening of the new shopping gallery at the Octagon Wing also enhances the overall experience for our guests with a level of convenience we have never previously been able to offer. We can confidently say that the Octagon Wing and its shops set new standards for the island of Curaçao and for many parts of the Caribbean region."

The Avila Hotel is currently offering FAM/Industry rates. From now through April 15, 2008 there is a special rate of \$175 for a Belle Alliance room (single or double occupancy). The regular rate is \$270/night. Other room categories have discounts on a case-by-case basis and subject to availability.

Avila Hotel, 800-747-8162, [www.avilahotel.com](http://www.avilahotel.com)

## JOLLY BEACH RESORT ADDS CASH AWARDS TO TRAVEL AGENT LOYALTY PROGRAM

Jolly Beach Resort in Antigua has expanded their Loyalty Program and have added cash awards for travel agents booking the resort. Travel agents will receive a \$25 cash bonus for every three bookings of three nights or more for travel January 1, 2008 through March 1, 2008. Cash awards will be made after travel is completed for individual bookings. These cash incentives are part of

the enhanced Jolly Beach Resort Loyalty Program. The resort has increased the commission it pays to travel agent partners to 15 percent on all year-round bookings made directly with the resort via their toll free number and in 2008 travel agents will continue to earn one free night for every five bookings of five nights or longer. These free nights can be redeemed from April 16-December 20, and there are no limits on the number of nights that can be earned.

Aspecial \$80 per person, per night, all-inclusive FAM rate for travel agents and one guest valid April 16, 2008 through December 20, 2008 was also announced. Rates are based on double occupancy and include accommodation in a Standard room, all meals, snacks and afternoon tea, house brand beverages, non-motorized watersports, as well as all taxes and service charges. Travel agents must present their valid IATA or CLIA card on arrival. Specify booking code TAUS08 when making reservation.

Jolly Beach Resort, 866-655-8800, 866-905-6559, [www.jollybeachresort.com](http://www.jollybeachresort.com)

## LODGE KURA HULANDA & BEACH CLUB TO BREAK GROUND ON KALKI CARIBBEAN VILLAS

Lodge Kura Hulanda & Beach Club, a five-star boutique resort on the west end of Curaçao, will break ground on its exclusive Kalki Caribbean Villas. This vacation home community within the Lodge Kura Hulanda's master planned neighborhood will feature 18 three bedroom, three bathroom villas slated for completion by December 2008.

"Curaçao is an easy island to fall in love with and the demand is certainly here for a second home on this incredibly unique island," stated Paul Siegel, Project Director. "In general, real estate sales continue to be quite strong throughout most of the Caribbean region and very strong on Curaçao in particular, despite the downturn in both sales and property values in the United States. When prospective buyers view our property and the development itself, they are impressed with the quality of the product and the comparative cost of ownership."

Each villa will afford sweeping ocean views. A two-story great room, marble floors, granite countertops, top of the line appliances, and designer furnishings are just a sampling of the quality and luxury these accommodations will offer. The master suite features a private oceanfront patio and a Jacuzzi. The villas, which are currently available for purchase, start at \$850,000. Owners enjoy all the privileges and amenities of Lodge Kura Hulanda & Beach Club including a free-form swimming pool, beach access, dive shop, business center, tennis courts, spa services, fitness center, restaurants and more. Homeowners have the option to place their villa in the hotel rental program when not in use.

In addition to the Kalki Caribbean Villas, the Lodge Kura Hulanda community also has plots of land available for purchase to build and design distinctive homes as well as the opportunity to purchase the individual studios and suites that make up the Lodge.

Lodge Kura Hulanda and Beach Club, [realestate@kurahulanda.com](mailto:realestate@kurahulanda.com), [www.kurahulanda.com](http://www.kurahulanda.com)

## 'ROMANTIC ESCAPE' PACKAGE AT SUN VILLAGE RESORT & SPA



Sun Village Resort & Spa is offering a Romantic Escape Package for guests to experience a rejuvenating and revitalizing romantic vacation in one of the Caribbean's most picturesque destinations in the Dominican Republic.

Guests can reduce stress and start relaxing with a holistic massage relieving sore muscles and abolishing fatigue. After the spa indulgence, enjoy a romantic dinner beachside with a personal waiter, a table for two, island tiki torches and fresh Caribbean ocean breezes. This all inclusive Romantic Escape Package also includes VIP Shuttle Service.

The Sun Village Resort & Spa Romantic Escape Package includes VIP Shuttle Service to and from the Puerto Plata International Airport; superior hotel accommodations; bed turndown presented with a bottle of sparkling wine and chocolate covered strawberries (first night of stay); 50-minute massage (one per person/per stay); unlimited use of the world-class spa featuring a fitness center, private swimming pool, 10 person outdoor hot tub, relaxation lounge, and men's and women's dressing rooms with private whirlpool and steam room (excluding spa menu services, spa cuisine and special beverages); private dinner on the beach for two; four course dinner with private waiter; daily breakfast, lunch and dinner; unlimited international and domestic brand alcoholic beverages; and taxes and gratuities.

Price is \$190 ppdo. Package is valid from February 1 to February 29, 2008 with a

three night minimum stay.  
Sun Village Resort & Spa, 888-446-4695,  
reservations@sunvillageresorts.com,  
www.sunvillageresorts.com

## PALMERA DESTINATION SERVICES TO HOST PUNTA CANA SPRING CLASSIC APRIL 2-9, 2008

Palmera Destination Services is presenting the Punta Cana Spring Classic Golf Tournament to be held in Punta Cana, the Dominican Republic April 2-9, 2008.

2008 will be the first year the event is hosted and managed by Palmera Destination Services. It is their goal to create an exciting tournament while putting the Dominican Republic on the map as one of the world's leading golf destinations.

The tournament consists of four rounds at four different championship golf courses: the La Cana Golf Course, the Punta Espada Golf Course, the Punta Blanca Golf Course, and the Cocotal Golf Course. P. B. Dye's La

Cana golf course was perhaps one of the first golf courses in the Dominican Republic to make this beautiful Caribbean island known among golfers worldwide. Most recently, the opening of Jack Nicklaus' breathtaking and challenging golf course Punta Espada has further established the Dominican Republic as a serious golf destination. The new Nick Price course Punta Blanca is another of the new championship courses in Punta Cana. Cocotal Golf & Country Club was designed by the six-times Spanish Champion José "Pepe" Gancedo.

Rates for the Spring Classic start at \$1,999 (double) and \$1,268 (double, non-golfer). Extra days are available starting at \$113. Children's prices are \$999 (non golfer) and \$1,700 (golfer). All rates for the tournament are commissionable by 20 percent.

Palmera Destination Services,  
info@puntacanaopen.com,  
info@palmera-golf.com,  
www.puntacanaopen.com

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## STARWOOD PROMOTES TIMOTHY RECTOR TO VP OF SALES AND MARKETING FOR CARIBBEAN



TIMOTHY RECTOR

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. has promoted 29-year hotel industry veteran Timothy Rector to the position of Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Starwood's Caribbean region.

In his new position, Rector is responsible for managing top line revenues for all of Starwood's Caribbean properties. His other responsibilities include providing leadership and direction to the newly-formed Caribbean group and leisure cluster sales teams, as well as to the directors of sales and marketing for each property in the region; providing owner relations support and strategic development and guidance in the implementation of related sales and marketing disciplines; and supporting property development and new openings in the region.

Most recently, Rector was Vice President of Sales and Marketing for the all-new Sheraton Cable Beach Resort, in Nassau, Bahamas.

"The success of the Sheraton Cable Beach Resort in Nassau and his many successes throughout his career clearly demonstrate Tim's expertise in the industry and the Caribbean," said Ross Hosking, Regional Vice President, Starwood. "The region represents tremendous growth potential for Starwood and Tim's experience and knowledge will be invaluable to our success there."

Rector had rejoined Starwood and Sheraton earlier this year after holding several executive sales and marketing positions from 1981-2000.

As Director of Sales in Starwood's Global Sales Office in Chicago, he managed the sales team in the Midwest region, represented the company at key industry conventions and conferences, and organized several major annual customer events.

Starwood Hotels & Resorts, [www.starwoodhotels.com](http://www.starwoodhotels.com)

## SANDOS PLAYACAR BEACH RESORT & SPA REOPENS AFTER RENOVATIONS

Following a three-month renovation, Sandos Playacar Beach Resort & Spa located in Playacar, Riviera Maya, Mexico, has reopened with completely remodeled guestrooms and a revitalized all-inclusive property.

The renovation project included a total overhaul of soft furnishings, ceilings, sliding doors and bathroom fittings in all guest rooms; the addition of a new Italian restaurant complete with modern kitchen facilities; a new coffee bar, theater, sports bar and an additional bar; newly-designed VIP Royal Club rooms; and a general "spruce up" of all property features.

"We are pleased to re-introduce the restyled Playacar property with enhanced facilities and amenities that are sure to provide the perfect vacation destination for families, couples or singles," said Jacques DePaep, Director of Sales and Marketing for Sandos Hotels & Resorts.

Sandos Playacar features 460 spacious accommodations,

arranged in several three- to four-story buildings that border the main swimming pool area. Rooms are available in four categories – standard, hacienda junior suites, sea-facing suite, and Sandos Royal Club. Dining pleasures abound with five restaurants offering Italian, Mexican, International, and Mediterranean fare, along with a buffet.

Those seeking daytime excitement can take advantage of the daily activities program, including volleyball, tennis, windsurfing, sailing, kayaking, snorkeling, in-pool scuba diving lessons and a video arcade room. The property has four swimming pools and five bars. Nightly entertainment is provided in a newly finished theater that seats 800 guests. The modern Renova Spa features 21 treatment rooms, sauna, steam room, two Jacuzzis, wellness program, thermal circuit, hydrotherapy zone, beauty salon, eco-massage area, and a fully-equipped gym. An all-inclusive Sandos Hotels vacation features all meals and beverages; sporting activities; use of exercise equipment in the fitness center, sauna, steam room and Jacuzzi; daily activities program; supervised "Kids Club" and a "Teen's Club"; nightly entertainment; and all hotel taxes and service charges.

Sandos Hotels & Resorts, 866-887-5601, [www.sandoshotels.com](http://www.sandoshotels.com)

## REEF PLAYACAR OFFERS EXCEPTIONAL DIVING SERVICES

The Reef Playacar Resort & Spa, located 10 minutes walking distance from downtown Playa del Carmen, offers their guests a Dive & Water Activities Center: the Reef Marina.

Playa del Carmen in the Mayan Riviera is a perfect dive destination, with different sites to suit all interests and experience levels. It is also a place with much more to do beyond diving, which makes it ideal for a group dive vacation, especially if non-divers are coming along too.

Reef Marina, operated directly on the hotel's beach and conveniently located 10- 15 minutes maximum boat distance from the most important reef in Playa del Carmen, offers PADI scuba diving courses and certifications, a wide range of dive trips for all levels of experience, snorkeling trips and water sports in Playa del Carmen. The professional and friendly staff offers the best service and experience.

For certified divers, Reef Marina offers daily dives for any skill level with ocean reef dives of all depths - shallow to deep, walls, wreck dives and cenote cavern dives.

Playa del Carmen Cavern Diving is a unique and unforgettable experience. Diving conditions are ideal: crystal clear freshwater, pleasant warm temperature, no current, incredible visibility and wonderful rock formations. There are a variety of cenotes with open entrance like Ponderosa, Car wash and Angelita or with room entrances like Chak Mool, Tajmahal, Dos Ojos, and Gran Cenote.

For those who don't know how to dive, the Dive Center has excellent instructors who conduct daily Discover Scuba Diving, a one day experience for beginners. They also offer certifications for all levels: Scuba Diver, Open Water Course, Referral Open Water Course, Advanced Course, Rescue and Dive Master Certification.

The Reef Playacar Resort & Spa, [www.thereefplayacar.com](http://www.thereefplayacar.com)

## H10 HOTELS LAUNCHES NEW BRAND IN THE CARIBBEAN: OCEAN BY H10 HOTELS



From January 2008 on, H10 Hotels will market its five Caribbean hotels under the brand Ocean by H10 Hotels. The chain's hotels on the Riviera Maya in Mexico, which until now have operated under the H10 banner, will be known from now on as: Ocean Coral, Ocean Turquesa (both just opened in December 2007) and Ocean Maya, while the Ocean Blue and Ocean Sand hotels, located in the Dominican Republic, will keep their current names.

These five establishments, with a total of more than 1,600 rooms between them, are part of the joint venture that H10 Hotels signed in November 2007 with the tour operator TRANSAT, under which the Canadian company took a 35 percent holding in H10 Hotel's Caribbean business.

The new brand will enhance the homogeneity of the H10's product portfolio in the Caribbean and raise awareness of the hotel chain in the main source markets, enabling the joint marketing of the hotels, as a fundamental part of H10 Hotels' expansion strategy in the Caribbean.

Ocean by H10 Hotels will represent a highly competitive product: high quality, beach-front resorts, fully equipped with every comfort, offering all-inclusive services, health and beauty centers, diving centers and themed restaurants with exclusive cuisine.

H10 Hotels, [www.h10hotels.com](http://www.h10hotels.com)

## VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM BRINGS BACK FANTASTIC FLIGHT PROMO AND INTRODUCES WINTER ESCAPE PROMOTION

The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism is bringing back its successful St. Croix Fantastic Flight promotion for travel to St. Croix this winter. From January 21 through March 16, 2008, the Department of Tourism is offering each visitor a \$250 airfare credit, based on double occupancy at participating hotels. And now, the stay requirement is reduced to five nights from seven, making it an even greater value. The St. Croix Fantastic Flight promotion is valid for travel between February 19 and April 2, 2008, and travel days must start on a Tuesday or Wednesday. The St. Croix Fantastic Flight promotion applies to new bookings only.

Setting it apart from other Caribbean destinations, St. Croix is rich in diverse history that remains alive in the architecture, national parks, historic landmarks, botanical attractions, food, music and traditions that are an integral part of island life. Along with this distinct cultural heritage, guests will also enjoy accommodations at some of St. Croix's finest hotels and resorts: The Buccaneer, Carambola Beach Resort, Chenay Bay Beach Resort, Club St. Croix Beach Resort, Colony Cove Beach Resort, Divi Carina Bay Beach Resort & Casino, the Hotel Caravelle, King Christian Hotel, the Palms at Pelican Cove and Sand Castle on the Beach.

The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism additionally is introducing its Winter Escape promotion. In addition to enjoying the ease and convenience of no passport requirements, travelers can enjoy a \$200 gift card to spend while on vacation, as well as a \$100 resort credit or a \$100 discount on the room from participating hotels during their stay. And as an added value, the Department of Tourism will throw in \$50 towards the purchase of gas when travelers return home. The Winter Escape promotion applies to new bookings only.

"As a U.S. Territory, we appreciate the value of the dollar, and we want to give our visitors a chance to enjoy their vacation without worrying about increasing expenses at home," said Tourism Commissioner Beverly Nicholson-Doty. "By filling their tank when they get home, we are hoping to help them hold on to the vacation bliss they experienced during their long-awaited U.S. Virgin Islands vacation and ease back into reality just a little bit slower."

The Winter Escape promotion is valid for bookings made February 3 - 16, 2008 for travel between February 19 and March 31, 2008. Participating hotels include Best Western Emerald Beach, Bolongo Bay Beach Resort, Holiday Inn Windward Passage, Frenchman's Reef Marriott, Pavilions and Pools, Point Pleasant Resort, Sapphire Beach Resort, Sapphire Village and the Wyndham Sugar Bay Resort and Spa in St. Thomas, as well as The Buccaneer, Club St. Croix Beach Resort and Colony Cove Beach Resort in St. Croix.

United States Virgin Islands, [usvitourism.vi](http://usvitourism.vi)

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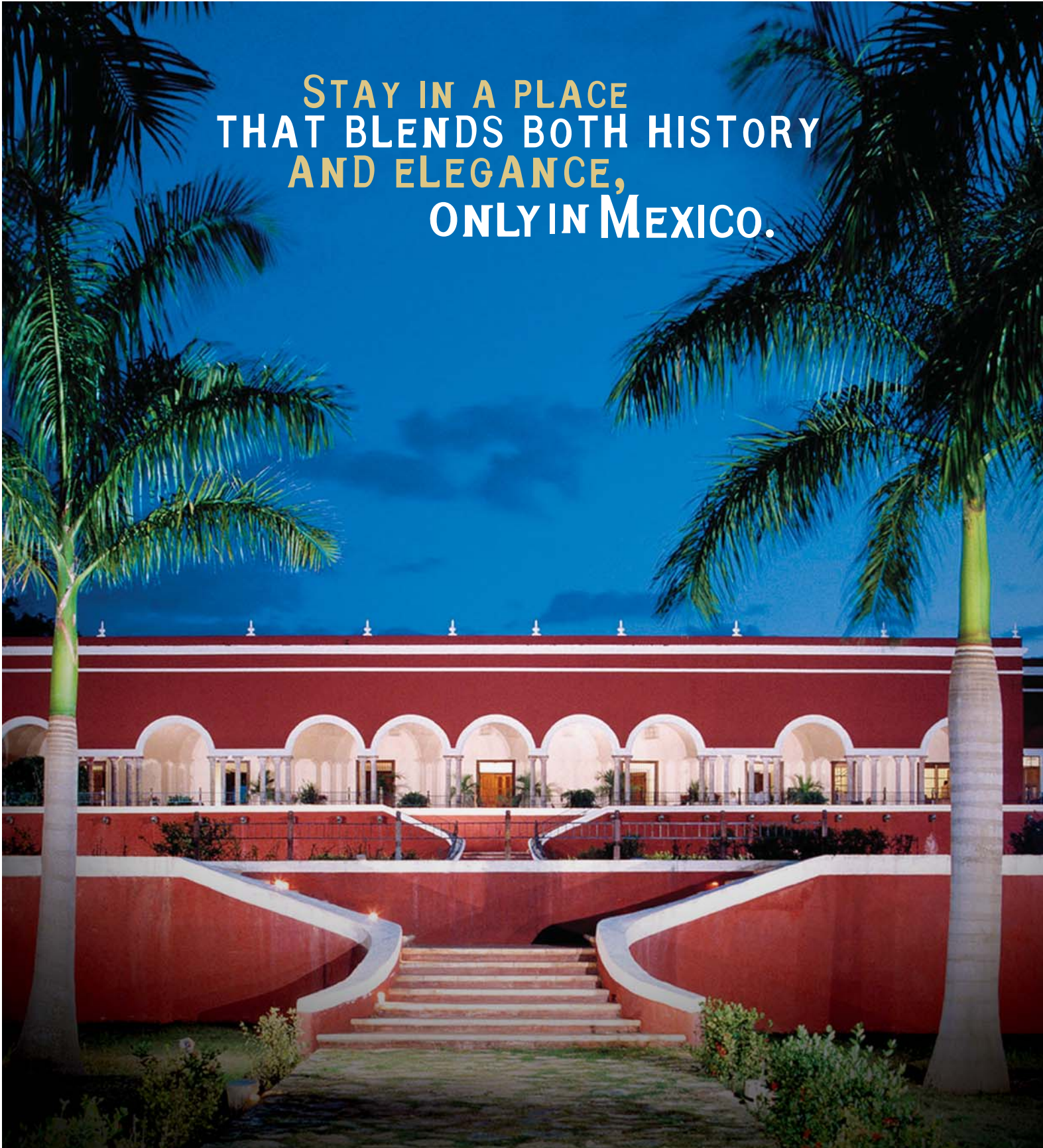
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