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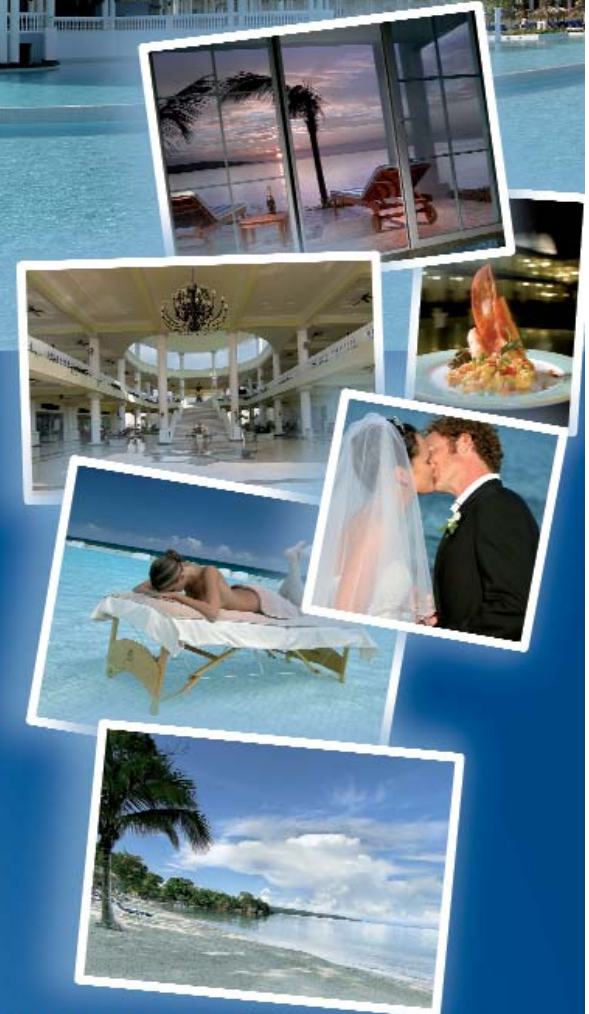

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Located in Lucea, the north coast of Jamaica, only 25 minutes from Montego Bay, the Grand Palladium Lady Hamilton Resort & Spa and the Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort & Spa offer a unique Caribbean setting for an unforgettable vacation or the celebration of any special occasion. Personalized services, exclusive suites, 7 thematic "a la carte" restaurants, 3 buffets, 13 bars, 5 large swimming pools and the biggest spa and fitness center in Jamaica measuring 3000 square meters.

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The Sands at Grace Bay

A Peaceful Spot on Turks & Caicos.

JUDITH GLYNN



THE SANDS AT GRACE BAY

You never have to leave The Sands at Grace Bay to relax beside the property's several pools or walk a few steps to its magnificent beach.

Some guests are so excited to be here, they don't care if their room is ready. They change into swimsuits and run to the beach until the end of the day," said Pierre Beswick, general manager of The Sands at Grace Bay. And who can blame them? The beachfront is part of a 12-mile stretch of calm, translucent-turquoise water and super-fine white sand. Both are complemented by nearby indigenous plant life, which the ecologically savvy Turks and Caicos government mandates cannot be removed. And lucky for The Sands that the 23 beachfront palapas shelters are grandfathered in since they are banned for new developments.

"We are one of the properties that caters to everyone," Beswick continued and mentioned families, couples and wedding parties as guests at the four-star resort. "You can be wealthy or not when you stay here. At other resorts you'll need a lot of money," he continued, acknowledging the deep pockets of most island visitors. Many stay on Providenciales, nicknamed "Provo" which is the largest of the Turks and

Caicos eight islands and 40 small cays within the country's 166 square miles of land.

The 114-room Sands at Grace Bay resort is located on six oceanfront acres with six, low-rise, Caribbean-style buildings grouped around several free-form swimming pools, some with connecting canals, cascading waterfalls, a Jacuzzi and small grottoes. Most guests will have a direct or "peek" ocean view. The lush grounds (cared for with recycled water) include meandering walkways, blooming gardens and a secluded three-hammock oasis under palm trees. A recent \$6 million rejuvenation throughout the property enhanced the open-air lobby and brought upgrades to all the accommodations, which are privately owned condos. Sizes range from studios to three-bedrooms and from 1,000-1,600 square feet. Furnishings are identical in all and include granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, dishwasher, washer/dryer (including detergent), microwave, dishware, cutlery, ceiling fans, air-conditioning, color TV with cable and free WiFi. Some amenities vary between the smaller and larger units;

however, all are decorated in muted blues and greens and have terracotta tile flooring. An added and most welcome feature is the screened-in patio; some wrap around to include living room and bedroom entrances.

Cost-cutting is chic and necessary these days, which makes the freebies offered at The Sands very appealing. Your clients have free use of non-motorized Hobie Cats, kayaks, windsurfing equipment, snorkel gear, plus daytime and evening use of the tennis courts (rackets provided), indoor fitness center, computer station and bicycles. Upon arrival, guests are greeted with a rum cocktail, and every Tuesday the manager hosts a sunset rum punch party with complimentary appetizers.

The onsite Ocean Vibes (www.oceanvibes.com) tour desk handles dives, charters and other equipment rentals not offered by The Sands. Most of the islands are surrounded with distant reefs that teem with fish, magnificent coral and even exotic medium turtles. The Spa Tropicale (www.spatropique.com) can tailor-make a treatment such as an in-room massage; one at poolside or on the beach. "We don't claim to be the best at everything so we brought in the best island companies that are service-oriented," Beswick said recently when he explained The Sands' decision to out-source certain guest services, in addition to having a knowledgeable staff man its Concierge desk.

Considering almost everything on Turks and Caicos is imported, dining-out costs might be higher than anticipated. Guests at The Sands, and especially families, have the benefit of a first-class kitchen in their residence to prepare home-cooked meals. Also on-site is a small convenience store, but the local food-shopping treasure is the nearby IGA supermarket where everyone goes to stock up – from food provisions to Cuban cigars (\$21) to the no-taxes liquor section. Turks and Caicos' locally produced rum, Bambarra Gold, sells for \$15 a liter. A twice-daily, round-trip shuttle from The Sands to the IGA is available at \$8 per person.

Hemingway's restaurant at The Sands is an al fresco, three-meal dining experience that is both a poolside and a beachfront experience offered seven days a week. "The high-end traveler knows good food," remarked Beswick when he observed the diners who were not guests but chose to eat at the property's restaurant. Its simple décor has ample spacing between the tables, soft piped-in music and a small, unobtrusive bar area. The genteel atmosphere of Hemingway's is like having a country club venue in your own backyard. Dress is casual to casual-chic with no outrageous bling to distract from the restaurant's understated, yet comfortable, ambiance. Also, Hemingway's does not automatically include a 10% service charge to the check, unlike some other island restaurants.

Special packages for your client's consideration are: Honeymoon Over Grace Bay costs \$1,250 for up to 10 partic-



THE SANDS AT GRACE BAY

All units have a screened-in patio, which guarantees insect-free comfort – day or night.

ipants and includes a beach wedding ceremony; processing of legal documents; services of a Justice of the Peace or Pastor, wedding cake and much more. The Luxury Romance Package costs \$550 or \$1,125 per couple and can include massages, cruises, a personalized photography session of 10 images in a hard cover story book (www.tropicalimaging.com), plus other amenities.

Room rates vary considerably and are seasonal: \$185 for a studio to \$1,200 for a three-bedroom, deluxe waterfront suite. There is a 10% government tax and a 10% service charge added to all rates. When visiting The Sands Resort at Grace Bay, there are a few tips to remember. The dollar is the local currency, and English is spoken. There are approximately five ATMs island wide and no traffic lights. Driving is on the left side of the road. Cab rides to other resorts cost about \$10 per person, each way, which makes a car rental more desirable. There is one semi-private, 18-hole golf course.

The Sands at Grace Bay, 877-77-SANDS, www.thesandstc.com

SUITE DEALS FOR THE NEW YEAR

- Book 4 nights and get the 5th night free for Studio and One-bedroom Units *
- Book 6 nights and get the 7th night free for Two- and Three-bedroom Suites *
- Hertz offers a 10% discount to The Sands' guests (year-round).

* Room offer applies to new bookings and for stays started and completed between February 1 – May 1, 2009.

TWO WIN COVETED SHOCO AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE AT BUCUTI BEACH



BERNICE DENNIS

Bucuti Beach Resort's Bernice Dennis along with Marguerita Osebourne were recognized at the Shoco Awards of Excellence ceremony presented by the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) in December.

AHATA's official recognition program focuses on excellence in service, hospitality and outstanding contribution to the sustainability of Aruba's tourism industry.

"We are so proud that these special members of the Bucuti family have been acknowledged for their efforts. It is well deserved," said Bucuti's Director of Sales and Marketing Susan Biemans.

Bernice Dennis, named Employee of the Year, has been a member of Bucuti's housekeeping team for more than 16 years, and is described by superiors and peers as professional, personable, caring and consistent. She's often in charge of training new associates because of her professionalism.



MARGUERITA OSEBOURNE

Marguerita Osebourne, awarded Supervisor of the Year, has since 2002 made noteworthy impact at Bucuti. As supervisor of the Tara Lounge and Mini Bar operations, she's exhibited the qualities of a top leader. She meets to discuss the resort's financial performance, offers feedback and direction to management, and assists with recruits and interviewing. Her staff retention rate is high, a testament to her management skills.

As additional incentive, agents are offered a 10-percent commission on all bookings made directly through the resort and 25-50 percent on individual stays.

Bucuti Beach Resort, www.bucuti.com

HERMITAGE BAY ANTIGUA APPOINTS NEW GENERAL MANAGER



RACHEL E. CHARLES-BROWNE

Hermitage Bay, the luxurious, all-inclusive resort and spa set upon a hillside in Antigua, announces the appointment of Rachel E. Charles-Browne as General Manager. Since joining Hermitage Bay in October 2007 as an Assistant Manager, Charles-Browne has been a reliable asset to the management staff.

"Rachel's youthful energy and dynamic personality made her a natural selection for the role of General Manager," said Andy Thesen, owner Hermitage Bay.

"Already considered a market leader in Antigua, Hermitage Bay is

always looking for new ways to stand out from the crowd. Rachel's hospitality experience and local perspective will give us that competitive edge."

A hospitality professional for over 18 years, Charles-Browne's experience ranges from manager to marketer. As Island Manager at Palm Island Resort, she was instrumental in opening the resort before joining Hermitage Bay.

She previously held a position as Marketing Manager at five-star Camelot Inn, St Vincent & the Grenadines as well as positions at Cotton House, Mustique; Sandy Lane, Barbados; and Galley Bay Resort, Antigua.

Charles-Browne won a USAID scholarship to pursue tertiary education in the USA where she earned a degree in Eco-tourism & Hospitality Management.

She also received training from the American Hotel & Motel Association. Her studies earned her a place as finalist in the Caribbean Hotels Association's Audrey Palmer Hawk's Memorial Scholarship for studies in hospitality management.

Hermitage Bay, www.hermitagebay.com

THE BARBADOS TOURISM AUTHORITY



The Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA) has created its own Travel Agent Advisory Board as part of efforts to increase trade awareness. Above, Richard Williams, vice president, The Americas and colleagues of the Barbados Tourism Authority, is pictured with members of the Barbados Travel Agent Advisory Board at its inaugural meeting held recently at The Mandarin Oriental, Miami. Two subsequent meetings have been planned for 2009, with one in June held in Barbados. Left to right, back row: Ryan Blackett, BTA; Gwen Trucco Pullman, Lake Forest Travel; Tiffany Thompson, BTA; Raschinda Findley, ProTravel International; Becky Veith, Becky Veith Travel; Becky Williams, Brownell Travel; Bill Whalen, Vacation Travel Center; and Richard Williams. Front Row: Fred del Pozo, Scheyer Travel, Inc.; Nick Raghavan, American Express Travel; Eusi Skeet, BTA; Harley Riak, Valerie Wilson Travel. Barbados Tourism Authority, 800-221-9831, www.visitbarbados.org

HOLIDAY INN SAN JUAN RETAINS 2008 RATES, ADDS VALUE FOR WINTER SEASON

Holiday Inn San Juan has welcomed the winter season with a host of fresh offerings for both leisure and business guests, as well as extending 2008 rates with value added for 2009.

Leading the cavalry is newly-appointed Executive Chef Damián Hernández, a classically-trained young star in Puerto Rico's culinary scene who blends 'haute cuisine' with his own homegrown spin using local ingredients such as root vegetables, fresh fruits and herbs.

His signature style features prominently in the hotel's new restaurant, Eighty20 Bistro, launched in November. Against the backdrop of a minimalist décor in shades of black, white, and orange, the contemporary bistro's menu ranges from modern interpretations of classics to full-on fusion dishes like Grilled Caribbean Jerk Shrimp with Coconut Risotto and Pineapple



'Pico de Gallo.'

New food and beverage features have also been introduced in the hotel's portfolio for groups and meetings. Some interesting new features are interactive chef tables where guests cook dinner, and guided chocolate tastings with champagne and wine pairings.

Holiday Inn San Juan will continue to honor 2008 rates this year, bolstering their value by welcoming up to two children through age 16 in the room at no additional cost (up from 12 years old). The "No

Excuses" package includes accommodations; a 15-percent discount off food and beverage at the hotel's three signature restaurants: Eighty20 Bistro, Coladas and J.H. Yeas; two 12" freshly-baked pizzas; a \$10 casino match-play coupon for nearby casino; and a complimentary welcome cocktail per adult.

The package starts at \$79 ppdo, plus government tax and resort fee, with a minimum stay of two nights, and is valid through this summer.

Holiday Inn San Juan, www.hisanjuan.com

CEIBA DEL MAR

Beach & Spa Resort








Golf & Spa Winter Special

plus 4th Night Free!

Price per Special for two starts at:

US\$ 1,707.00 plus taxes & service charge (17%), based on double occupancy. Additional Nights are available.

Special Includes:

- + 4 Nights in selected luxury ocean view accommodations, with the 4th night complimentary
- + Daily breakfast a la Carte for two
- + One romantic Dinner for 2 with one chilled bottle of wine on the beach
- + 1 Round of Golf at Jack Nicklaus Golf Course. (Includes transportation, green fee, golf cart & soft drinks)
- + Two 60-Minute Massage per stay to choose from our Spa menu
- + 20% Discount in Spa Treatments
- + Access to our Spa facilities the entire stay
- + Private Airport-Hotel round transportation
- + Free wireless internet in room
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www.ceibadelmar.com

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PUERTO MORELOS, RIVIERA MAYA

*Golf & Spa 4th Night Free Special is valid for Stays until December 22, 2009. *Average Daily Rate displayed already reflects the 4th Nite Free discount. Not combinable with any other promotions. Current published prices valid only for New Reservations.

CAYMAN AIRWAYS BEGINS NON-STOP FLIGHTS FROM DC TO GRAND CAYMAN



Principals celebrating Cayman Airways' new launch are (left to right): Dulles International Vice President and Airport Manager Christopher Browne; Acting Director of Tourism Shomari Scott; Cayman Airways CEO Designate Captain Olson Anderson; Cayman Islands Minister of Tourism Honorable Charles Clifford; and Chair of the Board of Cayman Airways Angelyn Hernandez.

In December, the Cayman Islands Minister of Tourism Honorable Charles Clifford attended a celebration in Washington, DC, of the launch of Cayman Airways' new non-stop service from the U.S. capitol region to Grand Cayman. Executives and representatives from the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism, Cayman Airways and Dulles International Airport all came together for the ribbon

cutting. Cayman Airways' twice weekly flights from Washington, DC, to Grand Cayman depart on Wednesdays and Saturdays and return on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

At the December 13 service at Dulles, Mr. Clifford stated, "Today's addition of direct, non-stop air service from Dulles International Airport underscores the strategic importance of the North East corridor for the Cayman Islands. The launch of this new route is a symbol of confidence in the potential business and tourism opportunities between Washington, DC and the Cayman Islands." He added, "As the capital city in the western world the DC area already provides a large percentage of our visitors to the Cayman Islands. This new route will simply enhance the business opportunities between the two locations and will make it easier for those persons who are traveling on business and who wish to bring their families with them."

Cayman Airways' schedule includes non-stop Boeing 737 jet service to Washington, DC; New York; Chicago; Miami and Tampa. There is also jet service to Cayman Brac, and Kingston and Montego Bay, Jamaica. Cayman Airways also operates frequent daily turbo-prop services via Cayman Airways Express between the three Cayman Islands, Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Cayman Airways, 800-4-CAYMAN (-422-9626), www.caymanairways.com

BERMUDA TOURISM TO GET BOOST FROM SALES FOCUS INCORPORATED

Bermuda Department of Tourism today announced it has signed a partnership agreement with Sales Focus Incorporated, an out-sourced sales organization with over 10 years' experience representing a wide variety of products and companies. Sales Focus Inc. will provide a dedicated team of sales representatives throughout the United States and Canada, who will focus efforts on increasing visitors to Bermuda.

"Our partnership with Sales Focus Inc. will enable us to reach an untapped market and drive new sales to Bermuda's tourism product, said William Griffith, Director of Bermuda Department of Tourism. "The company's vast network of contacts, seasoned sales force and broad experience in the industry made them the natural choice to provide representation throughout North America."

"Our relationship with Bermuda is focused on driving new visitors to one of the most beautiful islands in the world," said Tony Horwath, President and Founder of Sales Focus, Inc. "SFI has generated well over a \$1B in revenue for our clients and continues to grow through our proven processes. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Bermuda."

Sales Focus, Inc. is a sales outsourcing company that focuses strictly on tactical revenue generation for their clients while offering cost containment and profit enhancement solutions.

Sales Focus Incorporated, www.salesfocusinc.com;
Bermuda Department of Tourism, www.bermutatourism.com

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SIVORY PUNTA CANA LUXURY BOUTIQUE GETS PRESTIGIOUS WORLD TRAVEL AWARD

Sivory Punta Cana was awarded the 2008 World Travel Award for the leading Dominican Republic Boutique Hotel at the 15th annual World Travel Awards held in Turks & Caicos in December, according to President Manel Vallet. Sivory Punta Cana received three nominations for the 2008 awards including Dominican Republic's Leading Resort, Dominican Republic's Spa Resort and Dominican Republic's Boutique Hotel.

Described by The Wall Street Journal as the "Oscars" of the travel industry, the aim of the World Travel Awards has been to ensure that brands exceed expectations in many ways since 1993. Voting for the coveted awards came from 167,000 travel professionals worldwide and the nominees were judged on their ability to understand visitor needs and expectations, maximize business performance, value personnel, undertake enterprising product expansion and development, foster innovation and creativity as well as work together as a team externally and internally.

The 55-room all-suite private retreat on 125 acres of oceanfront and golden sand beaches is an exclusive high-end facility. Sivory Punta Cana has a full-service spa and three restaurants offering Caribbean-infused cuisines, gourmet fine dining, Asian-inspired dishes and continental island fare, with a wine library of more than 8,000 bottles and 250 brands from around the world.

With a design that incorporates the rich and historical culture of the Dominican Republic with Far Eastern accents, the retreat's philosophy is to 'create harmony with nature in order to transport guests to a state of total relaxation.' Many suites look out to the azure waters with personal plunge pools, and baths have oversized lavish soaking tubs with two-person multi-jet showers.

Sivory Punta Cana,
reservations@sivorypuncacana.com,
sivorypuncacana.com



Blue Haven
HOTEL

Hollywood legends made Blue Haven Hotel a favorite hideaway since the 1950's.



'As lovingly restored as a vintage film, historic Blue Haven is again making a big splash with beau monde. Elegant rooms overlooking the sea are so awash in sunlight that they positively glow.

The view is pure Technicolor.'

- Conde Nash Traveller

2007 Winner of
'Tobago's Leading Hotel' Award
World Travel Awards

2007 & 2008 Winner of
'Premier Boutique Hotel of the Year' Award
Caribbean World Magazine

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Where H^eaven Begins

CEIBA DEL MAR OFFERS GOLD, PLATINUM AND DIAMOND WEDDING PACKAGES



For those wanting a luxury beach destination wedding, Ceiba del Mar, a Riviera Maya resort, offers all-inclusive wedding packages. The resort combines powder white beaches, relaxing Caribbean waters, and suites offering ocean views with a unique holistic spa, complete amenities and service. It is located 20 minutes from Cancun Airport. The resort's Gold, Platinum and Diamond wedding packages range from simple, intimate ceremonies to lavish celebrations.

Ceiba del Mar is one of the only boutique resorts in the area with both excellent indoor and outdoor venues for private group functions. All rooms feature natural light and unique features such as cathedral ceilings and waterfalls to make the setting special. Choices include customizable ballrooms, spacious terraces and lounges, plus over half a mile of private beach.

The resort's Gold Package, beginning at \$16,430, is perfect for those desiring a simple, elegant celebration, and includes the ceremony venue as well as a special wedding dinner and wedding cake for 20 people at one restaurant. In addition, it provides the following: judge, legal permission, and blood test at hotel; wedding organization and coordination; marriage certificate (available only in Spanish); bridal bouquet for bride; boutonniere for the groom; 2 floral options for the 2 witnesses (one per witness); a ceremonial

table; flower arrangements for table centerpieces; a bottle of Moët Champagne for toast; a 15-percent discount on all spa treatments; a photographer for one hour; 36 gloss printed wedding photos 6x8; special handmade wedding album; Ten rooms in the resort's Deluxe Category are also provided, all-inclusive including taxes and service charges.

Ceiba Del Mar Beach & Spa Resort, www.ceibadelmar.com

SANDOS NURTURES EXPECTING MOMS WITH NEW SPA PACKAGE

With so much planning in place when one is expecting a baby, it's important to nurture the body, mind and spirit. Sandos Hotels & Resorts, with four all-inclusive products housed in two resort complexes on the Riviera Maya, Mexico, offers a Mom To Be package which includes three spa treatments designed to calm the body and rejuvenate the soul.

The Mom To Be package is priced at \$196, added on to the cost of an all-inclusive hotel stay, and includes:

Prenatal Massage (50 minutes)—Specifically created to ease discomforts sometimes caused by pregnancy, the massage concentrates on the back, gluteus muscles, legs and feet to promote circulation and relieve pressure.

Vitamin C and Royal Jelly Facial (50 minutes)—This treatment utilizes the oxygenating energy of Royal Jelly to relieve symptoms of fatigue, which include premature wrinkles and dark circles under the eyes.

Reflexology Treatment (30 minutes)—This specialized and relaxing massage is designed to provide relief in the feet and calves and stimulate certain pressure points to create a balance within the entire body. Spa treatments are scheduled with the spa coordinator upon arrival. Further spa services are available at an additional cost.

Booking can be done on the website, specifying the package at the time of booking. Sandos Hotels & Resorts has recently updated their booking system to allow clients to add airfare to their vacation package.

All-inclusive Sandos Hotels & Resorts vacations features all meals and beverages; sporting activities; daily activities program; supervised "Kids Club" and "Teen Club;" nightly entertainment and entrance to the disco; access to spa and fitness facilities; and all hotel taxes and service charges.

The Playacar Complex contains a new, full-service Spa Sandos facility with 23 indoor treatment rooms each with shower; hydrotherapy baths and shower; open-area hydro massage swimming pool; steam baths; solarium; separate men's and women's lockers and a sauna; fully-equipped LifeFitness gymnasium; and beauty salon.

The Caracol Complex also features a Spa Sandos facility complete with 18 treatment rooms; wellness program and thermal circuit; hydrotherapy zone; beauty salon on three levels; and eco-massage area in an outdoor palm shelter.

Sandos Hotels & Resorts, 866-887-5601, www.sandoshotels.com