

## PAULA MUÑOZ IS SALES MANAGER FOR HOTETUR AND BLUEBAY RESORTS

Hotetur and BlueBay Resorts have appointed Paula Muñoz as their Sales Manager in the Dominican Republic.

Mrs. Muñoz has had vast experience as sales and marketing manager of prestigious international and local chains operating in the Dominican Republic and will be a great addition to Hotetur's sales team in the country.

She will be responsible for the sales efforts of the Hotetur Dominican Bay in Boca Chica and the magnificent BlueBay Villas Doradas in Playa Dorada, Puerto Plata.

Hotetur Dominican Bay, [pmunoz@hotetur.com](mailto:pmunoz@hotetur.com); Hotetur Hotels, [www.hotetur.com](http://www.hotetur.com); BlueBay Resort, [www.bluebayresorts.com](http://www.bluebayresorts.com)

## DOMINICA UNVEILS SPECIALS FOR ANNUAL DIVE FEST

Dominica has unveiled a series of unbeatable packages/specials for families, divers and single travelers visiting "the Nature Island," during Dominica's 16th Annual Dive Fest July 10–19. The island-wide event encourages visitors to dive down and discover the beautiful landscapes and colorful marine life in the waters surrounding the island. Among packages and deals to travelers are:

**Fort Young Hotel**—A "Dive Fest 2009 Package," offered July 10–19, includes seven nights' hotel accommodations, full breakfast daily, five days of two tank boat dives, tanks, weights and belts, roundtrip airport transfers, marine park fees and all taxes and service charges. Rates start as low as \$970 per diver.

**Anchorage Hotel & Dive Center**—The "Dive Fest Special" includes a welcome drink upon arrival, seven nights' accommodations, roundtrip airport transfers, seven continental breakfasts, five days of diving, marine park fees and unlimited shore diving on Anchorage Reef. Rates begin at \$855 ppdo.

**Calibishie Cove**—The Resort will be offering 10 percent off both room rates and dive packages purchased with Cabrits Dive Center, when booking accommodations at the property during Dive Fest. Room rates begin at \$125 ppdo.

**Caribbean Sea View Holiday Apartments**—A 20-percent discount will be offered to all guests who stay at the property during Dive Fest. Rates begin at \$50 ppdo.

**Sunset Bay Club & SeaSide Dive Resort**—One free night is given with "Book for Seven Pay for Six Nights" offer. The package includes breakfast daily and five morning double tank dives per diver. Rates begin at \$740 per person and are valid from July 1–31.

**The Tamarind Tree**—Save money with an "All Inclusive Dive Packages," which includes seven nights' accommodations, all meals, selected drinks, airport transfers, two complimentary dive fest activities of your choice; shore diving in the afternoon and five days/10 boat dives (includes boat, tank, weights and guide.) This package is valid from July 9–20, 2009. Rates begin at \$1,139 ppdo. Budget Rent a Car—Budget Rent a Car is offering

offer 20 percent off any vehicle rental to all guests during Dominica's Dive Fest. The Sponsors of this year's event include, but are not limited to: Dominica Watersports Association, Sealife Camera, Oceanic, Henderson Wetsuits and Dive Training Magazine.

Discover Dominica Tourism Authority, 866-522-4057, [www.discoverdominica.com](http://www.discoverdominica.com)

## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA HOST 2009 CELEBRITY DESTINATION WEDDING

Love was in the air at the Inn at English Harbor, the site of this year's Celebrity Destination Wedding held in Antigua. Winners of the Destination Wedding Sweepstakes, Adrienne Scales and Myreon Smith from Atlanta, GA, exchanged nuptials at sunset, at a romantic sand ceremony organized by the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with other key industry stakeholders. The unity sand theme that incorporated white sand harvested from south shores of Antigua with pink sand from Barbuda was designed to showcase some of the unique romantic assets that the destination has to offer.

Celebrity stylist and fashion designer Indashio was the "celebrity guest of honor," bringing his creative talents to "style" the bridal party and revealing his 2009 collection with a fashion show. Indashio, also known as the "Humanitarian Designer," made several local appearances at Colombian Emeralds, and at a charitable "Spa and Tea Party" at the Inn where he engaged in a motivational exercise with a group of young women from the Sunshine Home for Girls.

Derede Samuel Whitlock, Director of Tourism for the United States, was satisfied that "Despite the economic downturn, the wedding market is still thriving and we want to continue to promote some of the unique assets that the destination has to offer in the romance category. We are one of the only Caribbean islands with the ability to facilitate "same day" weddings, and this promotion allowed us to highlight this as a competitive advantage."

The CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) was the "Best Man" at the destination wedding and a signatory on the couple's marriage certificate. Among the guests that attended were ten travel agents from the U.S., as part of the Score 100 Familiarization Initiative aiming to spur business during the summer months by bringing 100 top producers to the destination to gain firsthand knowledge of the tourism product.

As in previous years, the wedding attire was provided by the internationally acclaimed fashion line Demetrios' Brides and wedding bands by Colombian Emeralds. Most of the wedding resources were donated by local suppliers including Photography by Photo Fantasy, Flowers by Exotic Floral, Wedding Cake by Olvana and music by Lacu Samuel. Ms. Carol Anne Skepple was the officiating marriage officer and prayers of thanksgiving were offered by Rev. J. Martin.

Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), [info@antigua-barbuda.org](mailto:info@antigua-barbuda.org), [www.tourismantiguabarbuda.gov.ag/](http://www.tourismantiguabarbuda.gov.ag/)

**HON. MCKEEVA BUSH, OBE, JP  
NEW MINISTER OF TOURISM FOR  
CAYMAN ISLANDS**



**HON. MCKEEVA  
BUSH, OBE, JP**

The Hon. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP was sworn in as Leader of Government Business (Premier Designate) and Minister of Financial Services, Tourism and Development for the Cayman Islands on May 27, after his United Democratic Party won the people’s confidence at the general election. Mr. Bush, who has been an elected member of the legislature since 1984, has previously served as Minister of Health and Human Services, Minister of

Community Development, Youth Affairs, Sports and Culture, and Leader of Government Business and Minister of Tourism, Commerce, Development and Environment.

According to the Minister, “We face an economic crisis that is shaking global travel and tourism to the core. Our small nation, a trio of islands, is certainly not exempt. The Cayman Islands tourism industry is one of the smartest, most resilient and hardworking in the Caribbean and I am confident that working hand in hand, sticking together despite our differences and special interests, we can weather the storm and come out stronger on the other side.”

Mr. Bush helped in the creation of the Monetary Authority, established the Cayman Islands Investment Bureau to bring investment in the country and set up satellite offices in other countries to develop investment and commerce for the Cayman Islands.

Named by the Queen as an Officer of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1997 for his work in the community and successes in government, Mr. Bush was instrumental in establishing the National Tourism Management Policy, which serves as the framework for the development of tourism in the Cayman Islands.

Chief Officer for the Ministry of Tourism, Financial Services and Development is Mr. Carson Ebanks, MBE, JP while an additional chief officer will be appointed to deal with Financial Services.

Cayman Islands, [www.caymanislands.ky](http://www.caymanislands.ky) or [www.divecayman.ky](http://www.divecayman.ky)

**SUPERCLUBS’ ‘GUARANTEED GETAWAYS’  
PROTECTS AGAINST HURRICANES AND  
RAINY DAYS**

While experts may be predicting an “average” hurricane season this year, SuperClubs goes above and beyond offering complimentary, comprehensive “Guaranteed Getaways” for anything Mother Nature may have in store. Easing wary traveler’s concerns since the inception of this program in 1996, guests booking a SuperClubs Super-Inclusive vacation can rest easy knowing their trips automatically include weather insurance, even during hurricane season. The all-encompassing Guaranteed Getaways include:

**No Hurricane Guarantee:** Should a hurricane happen to strike the resort, guests staying at the resort will receive a reimbursement for the total value of disrupted nights. In addition, a voucher

for a future stay will be issued for the same number of disrupted nights for use during the same month the following year, excluding airfare. This guarantee is offered at Grand Lido Resorts & Spas, Hedonism and Breezes Resorts in Jamaica plus Breezes Curaçao, Breezes Bahamas and Breezes Costa do Sauipe in Brazil.

**Sunshine Guarantee:** Every day is a “sun” day for guests staying at any Super-Inclusive property. For each and every day the sun doesn’t shine, guests will receive a credit voucher equal to that day’s Super-Inclusive room value, good for one year towards another SuperClubs vacation.

**Satisfaction Guarantee:** If a SuperClubs guest is not 100-percent satisfied with the holiday, she/he must notify the general manager of the problem immediately. If the general manager is unable to rectify the situation by the second night of the guest’s stay, SuperClubs will issue a credit voucher for the entire value of the unused portion of the hotel stay, good for up to one year at a SuperClubs resort. This guarantee is included at all SuperClubs Resorts in the Caribbean and Brazil.

SuperClubs, 800-GO-SUPER (467-8737), [www.superclubs.com](http://www.superclubs.com)

**CARADONNA SEEKS OUT SPECTACULAR  
DIVE TRAVEL**

Caradonna’s goal is to assist those travelers who look to explore, discover, experience, promote and protect the fascinating marine world now and for future generations. The company works hand-in-hand with environmentally alert agencies, and trains and develops successful dive travel partners who share its values.

Currently a Barbados resort partner, Butterfly Beach Hotel, is offering a dive travel package too good to be missed. The Butterfly Beach Hotel is located on the south coast of Barbados in an ocean-front setting, with access to two white-sand beaches, offering a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Barbados provides year-round diving conditions and is an ideal destination for divers. The island is home to a number of rare species difficult to see elsewhere in the world, such as the seahorse and frogfish and the reefs have schools of fish-like snappers, yellow goat fish, grunts and creole wrasse. Butterfly Beach Hotel’s dive partner, Barbados Blue Water Sports, provides fun, flexible, and personalized service on daily dive excursions over wrecks, reefs, night, drift, deep and sea turtle dives.

The budget-conscious dive travel package includes: roundtrip airfare from Miami (other departure cities available by calling). Seven nights’ accommodations (two free nights included in price), five days of two-tank diving, \$150 airfare credit included in price, breakfast daily, roundtrip airport transfers, an Oistins Fish Fry dinner voucher, a Barbados gourmet card per booking (25 percent off participating restaurants) and hotel taxes and service charges—all for only \$876 ppdo. The offer is valid for travel from September 4–30, 2009, and must be booked by July 3, 2009.

Caradonna Dive Adventures, 800-328-2288.  
[sales@caradonna.com](mailto:sales@caradonna.com), [www.caradonna.com](http://www.caradonna.com)

## BVI'S NEW SCRUB ISLAND RESORT OFFERS SPECIAL PRE-OPENING PACKAGE

Scrub Island Resort is treating guests to an exclusive pre-opening "Sneak Peek Bed & Breakfast Package" for bookings through August 31, 2009. Set for a January 2010 debut, Scrub Island Resort will offer 26 deluxe ocean view guest rooms and 26 one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites as well as a marina, luxury spa and fitness center, retail shops and spectacular dining establishments.

The Sneak Peek Bed & Breakfast Package is good for travel from January 3 to April 30, 2010 and includes: luxury accommodations, breakfast for two each morning and standard resort amenities including spectacular swimming at the pool and beaches, glorious nature trails and breathtaking snorkeling. Savings for the Sneak Peek Bed & Breakfast Package amount to up to 50 percent, with rates as follows: Ocean View room, \$450/night; one-bedroom Ocean View Suite, \$825/night; two-bedroom Ocean View Suite, \$1,175/night. Offer's not applicable to groups and can't be combined with other promotions. Rates are based on double occupancy, exclusive of tax and a \$50/night additional charge per night applies for a third person over 12.

Price is also subject to a government room tax and resort fee.

The resort's rooms evoke Old World Caribbean, with rich woods and vibrant colors. Guests are pampered with king-sized beds with Egyptian combed cotton 300 thread-count Fili d'Oro sheets with soft down bedding, 50-inch plasma televisions, bamboo ceiling fans, bathrooms with separate shower and bathtubs with LCD flat-panel televisions. Each unit has a full kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, including Wolf ranges and hoods and SubZero refrigerators.

Besides outstanding dining, the resort will include a full-service luxury spa and fitness center, as well as upscale retail shops; fabulous lagoon-style multi-level pool with waterfalls and swim-up bar; four

white sandy beaches; dive shop and boat rentals; fishing charters; non-motorized water sports; and island-wide Internet access.

Scrub Island provides for the harmonious co-existence of its guests with the island's indigenous wildlife. Discreet remote video cameras allow visitors the unique pleasure of monitoring birds' nests, bat houses and a turtle hatchery from the flat-panel television screens in their rooms—virtually undetected by the animals.

Scrub Island Resort, 877-890-7444,  
[www.scrubisland.com](http://www.scrubisland.com)

## VIRGIN LIMITED EDITION, BVI HOST CULINARY TOUR

Virgin Limited Edition, Sir Richard Branson's privately owned collection of award-winning luxury retreats, will collaborate with the British Virgin Islands (BVI) Tourist Board to offer guests a taste-infusing culinary tour with some of the world's leading chefs and winemakers.

Necker Island will host the first 2009 Winemakers Dinner on July 16, 2009, one of eight private dinners that will take place throughout July and December at selected locations. The dinner at Necker Island will feature a seven-course gourmet meal prepared by master chefs. Each course is paired with two fine wines selected by the best winemakers in the world. One of the wines will be the Pio Cesare Barolo 2004, ranked #6 by the Wine Spectator in the top 100 Wines of the World in 2008.

This special occasion takes place during only one of six 'Celebration Weeks' where Necker Island accommodates guests on an individual room basis.

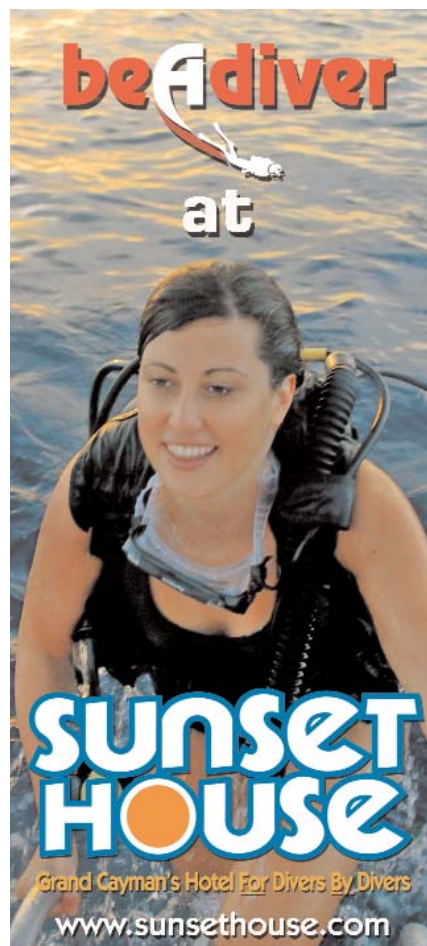
Jon Brown, Managing Director of Virgin Limited Edition, commented: "We're thrilled to support the BVI Tourist Board on this project. Not only will guests be able to combine a stay on one of the world's most exclusive islands with such an unforgettable and unique culinary experience as the Winemakers Dinner, but they will be supporting the local community, as all net profits made from the event will go to the

BVI charitable fund which benefits schools, youth programs and the local Red Cross organization."

To support the experience, Virgin Limited Edition has created a special 'free night' offer for guests wishing to participate in the Winemakers Dinner on Necker Island. For arrivals on July 15, guests can book four nights and pay for just three, or they can stay for eight nights and pay for seven. The offer is valid only for arrivals beginning July 15, 2009.

The price for a four-night stay for two guests starts from \$12,900 and includes accommodation, all meals and drinks, as well as two special Winemaker dinners—one on Necker Island and another on a neighboring island.

Virgin Limited Edition, 800-716-919,  
[molly.cangemi@virginlimitededition.com](mailto:molly.cangemi@virginlimitededition.com),  
[charlotte.tidball@virginlimitededition.com](mailto:charlotte.tidball@virginlimitededition.com),  
[www.neckerisland.virgin.com/offers](http://www.neckerisland.virgin.com/offers),  
[www.winemakersdinners.com](http://www.winemakersdinners.com),  
[www.virginlimitededition.com](http://www.virginlimitededition.com)



### LUXURY, COMFORT AND STYLE IN JAMAICA'S NEW SPANISH COURT HOTEL



The Crissa Group has launched the stylish Spanish Court Hotel in New Kingston, Jamaica's capital and thriving cultural center.

Heading up development is lawyer and "village architect" Christopher Issa. With a passion for his hometown and more of an interest in city hotels than resorts, he recognized the potential in the location and architecture of the former Spanish Court Shopping Centre, spending \$12 million to acquire it and transform it—using architect Oscar Garcia, into a 107-room boutique hotel.

Alison Antrobus, the designer for the hotel's public areas, has defined different zones of use without closing off the large open space of the hotel's first floor; teak pivoting louvers act as walls. Guests settle into leather couches and high-back chairs in the "library," or a zebra print lounge chair with a reading lamp. Bean-shaped leather benches and Martin Fluss chandeliers in the reception area radiate light against rich jatobá wood floors that run throughout.

Comfy, residential elements and Jamaican-made appointments with bold colors, patterns, shapes and materials grace public spaces, while ultramodern rooms and suites boast large flat-screen TVs and soaking tubs. An infinity-edge lap pool rises out of the hotel's second floor Sky Terrace and a sundeck offers a reminder that this metropolitan setting is in the Caribbean. In the evenings, guests can enjoy the Sky Bar, considered to be Kingston's newest and hottest bar, with distinct views of high-rises in the foreground and the beautiful Blue Mountains in the background.

The Spanish Court Hotel has private and semi-private meeting and party space, including the Sky Terrace, making it a perfect venue for small groups up to 50.

Summer Saver rates starting at \$145 are effective through August 31, 2009. Rates include continental breakfast and Internet access.

Spanish Court Hotel, [www.spanishcourthotel.com](http://www.spanishcourthotel.com)

### ST. KITTS TOURISM AUTHORITY APPOINTS JACINTH HENRY-MARTIN TO TOP US POST

The St. Kitts Tourism Authority has announced the appointment of Ms. Jacinth Henry-Martin to serve as Manager of U.S.

Operations, working out of the Authority's New York office. She will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day functions of the organization's offices in New York and Washington, DC.

Prior to assuming this position, Ms. Henry-Martin has worked in a variety of high-profile positions in government as well as the private sector. Most recently, she served as Deputy High Commissioner for the St. Kitts & Nevis high commission in the UK. She has also held the position of Elected Parliamentarian and Federal Minister of Government with responsibility for Information, Culture, Youth & Sports and has worked in the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & the Environment, first holding the title of Director of Culture and subsequently of Parliamentary Secretary for Culture. Holding a Master's degree in Technical and Specialized translations as well as various certificates including Cultural Management and Translation, Ms. Henry-Martin is highly recognized for her work on behalf of cultural development in St. Kitts. She is a native Kittitian who speaks multiple languages and has authored an anthology of poems entitled, "Dancing in Bondage" that was published by Ian Randle Publishers (Jamaica). Ms. Henry-Martin is married with three sons.

St. Kitts Tourism Authority, 800-582-6208,  
[info@stkittstourism.kn](mailto:info@stkittstourism.kn), [www.stkittstourism.kn](http://www.stkittstourism.kn)

### ST. LUCIA'S COCONUT BAY ADDS TRAINING, BOOSTS COMMISSION

Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa in St. Lucia is offering an increased commission of 15 percent through the summer when booking the St. Lucia destination by offering new training and support programs. The "Ask Me About Coconut Bay" training program enables agents to enhance their marketing skills and grow their business. Ask Me is a sales and marketing resource center for travel agents.

Travel agents can also benefit from upcoming company-wide contests, which include prize giveaways, free agency-wide dinners and seven-night stays at the resort for two or a family of four.

"Coconut Bay values travel agents and we know our partnership with Ask Me will strengthen our relationships in the agent community," said Mark Adams, president of National Continental Hotels, parent company of Coconut Bay. "Through Ask Me, we will provide agents with on-site staff trainings, promotional display materials, co-op advertising opportunities, co-branded marketing tools, bridal show sponsorship and a new incentive program designed to reward proactive and productive agent partners."

In addition to the tools, the resort also launched a U.S.-based call center where agents can speak directly to knowledgeable staff in English or Spanish. Ask Me will lead the sales, marketing, reservations and wedding initiatives and manage the toll-free number for Coconut Bay.

Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa, 877-352-8898,  
[www.cbayresort.com](http://www.cbayresort.com)

## CSHAE ELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



A number of Association executives and presidents attended the Leadership Conference to discuss important issues such as regional tourism, occupancy data, safety and security.

The Caribbean Society of Hotel Association Executives (CSHAE) recently elected a new executive committee headed by Frank Comito of the Bahamas Hotel Association at its annual Leadership Conference during the spring ARDA Convention in Orlando.

The new CSHAE Executive Committee was selected as executives from national associations across the Caribbean elected a new slate of officers and directors including:

President: Frank Comito (Bahamas Hotel Association); Vice President: Sue Springer (Barbados Hotel & Tourism Association); Treasurer: Marion Wilson (Bonaire Hotel & Tourism Association); Directors: Neil Forrester (Antigua Hotel & Tourism Association), Dee Smith (Bermuda Hotel Association), Donald B. Werdekker (Curaçao Hospitality & Tourism Association), Clarisa Jiménez (Puerto Rico Hotel & Tourism Association), Caesar Campbell (Turks & Caicos Hotel & Tourism Association), and Pancy Cross (Grenada Hotel & Tourism Association).

CSHAE also honored the Turks and Caicos Hotel & Tourism Association and St. Vincent and Grenadines Hotel and Tourism Association with the Electronic Newsletter Newsworthy Award and Printed Newsletter Newsworthy Award, respectively. The awards recognize the associations for communications by both print and online means.

The Awards Luncheon was sponsored by Choice Hotels International, who spoke about their Ascend Collection® and the opportunity represented for independent historic, boutique and unique properties. Choice Hotels Director of Membership Development Caroline Racine explained that the membership program allows hotels to retain their local identity, individuality and signage, while benefiting from Choice Hotels' strong marketing presence, global reservations system, award-winning rewards program, and industry-leading services and resources.

Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA), [www.caribbean-hotelandtourism.com](http://www.caribbean-hotelandtourism.com)

## SHARK WRANGLER STUART COVE FEATURED ON ABC'S GOOD MORNING AMERICA



With an estimated audience of 3.7 million viewers, shark wrangler Stuart Cove appeared on ABC's Good Morning America Weekend Adventure segment of May 17. Stuart Cove was interviewed regarding his famous Shark Dive Adventure at his Nassau, Bahamas operation. Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas is one of the few places in the world where divers and snorkelers can interact in a safe manner with the ocean's greatest predator, the shark.

According to Stuart Cove, "Sharks are portrayed in such a negative light and it was nice to show that the kinds of sharks we dive with in the Bahamas offer divers and snorkelers a safe, fun and high-adrenalin experience. I enjoyed the interview and was glad we were able to showcase a typical shark dive on national television, thanks to ABC."

The focus of the Weekend Adventure segment was 'Shark Diving' and the entire interview, and topside and underwater sequences took place at the Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas location. The interview also featured Chang Chin, one of Stuart's chief shark wranglers, and showed a typical Shark Adventure tourist dive at Mr. Cove's dive operation. Due to Stuart Cove's extensive experience working with sharks, he also owns and operates a legendary underwater film support production company, Underwater Hollywood, where he works with many feature films and television specials on sharks and diving.

Mr. Cove continues, "We have been fortunate to host and work on several Hollywood blockbuster film projects over the last few years, such as the recent James Bond Film Casino Royale, Open Water, Into The Blue, After The Sunset, and of course, every year for the last several years we have been featured on Discovery Channel's Shark Week. There is just no other place like Nassau, Bahamas for clear water and guaranteed sharks and great diving!" The Bahamas is unique for filming sharks, as the waters off Nassau offer filmmakers and tourist divers alike an amazing opportunity to dive close-up and personal with sharks.

Stuart Cove, [www.stuartcove.com](http://www.stuartcove.com); ABC News, [abcnews.go.com/video/playerIndex?id=7607426](http://abcnews.go.com/video/playerIndex?id=7607426), [www.underwaterhollywood.com](http://www.underwaterhollywood.com)

## ANDRE BOERSMA APPOINTED GM AT THE JALOUSIE PLANTATION



ANDRE BOERSMA

The Jalousie Plantation in St. Lucia has announced the appointment of Andre Boersma as General Manager of the 192-acre beachfront resort between the World Heritage-listed Pitons.

Andre, a Barbados-born Dutch citizen, brings with him almost 19 years' experience in the international luxury resort industry. Prior to joining Jalousie, Andre studied Hotel and Restaurant Management at the British Columbia

Institute of Technology in Vancouver, Canada, was the General Manager of One&Only Ocean Club on Paradise Island in the Bahamas and the Resident Manager of the One&Only Palmilla and Rosewood's Las Ventanas, both in Los Cabos, Mexico. Andre has also worked in Mallorca, Spain; the People's Republic of China, and Canada.

Andre comes to Jalousie from Querencia, a gated 1,800-acre luxury residential golf community in Los Cabos, where he was General Manager—Operations.

The Jalousie Plantation, managed by Kor Hotel Group, is currently undergoing a \$100-million enhancement project which will see the property rebranded and relaunched as The Tides Sugar Beach in time for the 2010/2011 season, and part of Kor's "chic by the shore" Tides brand. Andre will be overseeing this transition and ensuring guests enjoy the intuitive service for which Kor have become renowned.

"I am excited about this new challenge and welcome the opportunity to extend my experience in the Caribbean and to work with Kor Hotel Group and the hotel owner, Roger Myers, in transforming The Jalousie Plantation into a destination that is truly world-class."

The Jalousie Plantation, [www.thejalousieplantation.com](http://www.thejalousieplantation.com)

## SVGTA APPOINTS CEO, YVONNE ARMOUR-SHILLINGFORD



YVONNE ARMOUR-SHILLINGFORD

The newly formed St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tourism Authority (SVGTA) — created by the country's Ministry of Tourism to promote the destination and regulate quality standards for local service providers—has named Yvonne Armour-Shillingford Chief Executive Officer.

In her recent six-year tenure as a Caribbean Tourism Organization consultant to the European Union-funded "Caribbean Regional Sustainable

Tourism Development Program," she managed the Human Resource Development component of the \$10-million project.

"I am very pleased that Ms. Armour-Shillingford has joined and will head up the Tourism Authority," said Honorable Glen Beache, the Minister of Tourism. "She truly knows the Caribbean tourism industry—and the competitive marketplace—from the inside out."

Ms. Armour-Shillingford's focus as Chief Executive Officer of the SVGTA will be to increase St. Vincent and the Grenadines' profile as an off-the-beaten track destination. She brings 25 years of local, regional and international experience in the tourism and hospitality industry and has managed various development projects. Fluent in French and proficient in Spanish and Creole, she was Lead Consultant for planning, coordinating and implementing Pan American Health Organization/CTO Health and Tourism Sensitization workshops in Martinique and Guadeloupe. She also worked as an Education Administrator and Educator/Teacher Trainer in Dominica and Trinidad, and also with the UN Development Program in Haiti.

As a Certified Hospitality Educator by American Hotel & Lodging Association, Ms. Armour-Shillingford has educated all levels within the industry. In the private sector, she served as a Managing Director leading organizational change for a consortium of tourism and hospitality operators in Dominica.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tourism Authority (SVGTA), [www.svgtourism.com](http://www.svgtourism.com)

## LADERA NAMES WARREN 'WADDY' FRANCIS AS GENERAL MANAGER

Ladera has appointed Warren W. Francis, Jr. as the new General Manager for the open-air resort set above the dramatic Pitons overlooking the Caribbean.

Prior to Ladera, Mr. Francis served as the Interim General Manager at Abaco Beach Resort & Boat Harbour in the Bahamas. Throughout his career, Mr. Francis has managed luxury resorts in such coveted locales as the Turks and Caicos Islands, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Mustique, Antigua, Bermuda, and St. John.

Mr. Francis launched his hotel career in 1985 after earning a Master's degree in Hotel Administration from Cornell University in New York. After serving for a year as Assistant Manager at Caneel Bay in St. John, he set sail for Bermuda and subsequently signed on as Senior Assistant Manager at Coral Beach & Tennis Club. Mr. Francis went on to hold a number of hotel management positions throughout the Caribbean and Central America, including the Managing Director's slot at Antigua's Mill Reef Club & Properties, and GM of The Cotton House in Mustique, The Palms in the Turks and Caicos, and PSV Resort in the Grenadines.

"My family and I look forward to calling St. Lucia home and to joining the warm and welcoming staff that has made Ladera a must-experience for every discerning traveler," says Mr. Francis.

Mr. Francis and his wife have two daughters. Ladera, [www.ladera.com](http://www.ladera.com)

## NEWLY RENOVATED BEACH INN EXUMA WELCOMES GUESTS WITH SPECIAL PREVIEW PACKAGE



PATRICIA BARROW

A daily dose of island heaven is what visitors get at the newly renovated all-suite luxury hideaway, Beach Inn Exuma. Nestled along a pristine sand cove overlooking a kaleidoscope of colors from the time-honored Exuma waters, the newly-owned and operated "paradise found" is destined to captivate the senses of travelers from around the globe. Guests may enjoy a four-day/three-night preview package boasting luxurious suite accommodations in one of the 16 serene retreats all providing outstanding views of the beach and private pool deck; complimentary continental breakfast served daily in the charming clubhouse overlooking the water; free use of kayaks; hobie cat and snorkel gear for only \$450 now through September 30, 2009. This offer is on availability and based on one to two guests per suite who must stay a minimum three nights (third night is free). The offer is commissionable to travel agents.

In vogue with "back-to-basics" living, people of all ages will encounter the healing wonders of this island gem and according to Jeff Grene, Inn Keeper and Proprietor, "We want to be the kind of place you talk about with your friends and look forward to returning because you know...we remember you."

Conscientious attention to detail and personalized service combined with warm Bahamian hospitality are found throughout the barefoot elegant and casually intimate hideaway. Dark wood furnishings with bold designer fabrics are complemented with tile flooring and granite countertops with tropical island flair. The Beach Inn Exuma is home to a full-service restaurant and lounge and is one of the few venues on the island that will be serving breakfast, lunch and dinner all summer. Staff are happy to arrange boat tours, fishing and dive trips or private boat rentals, and golf and spa times can be secured nearby.

Beach Inn Exuma, [www.beachinnexuma.com](http://www.beachinnexuma.com)

### CAVEAT EMPTOR

Latin may be a "dead" language, but the English translation "Let the buyer beware" is still very much applicable today. The June 2009 edition of *Travel World News*, page 23, carried an advertisement from the company Interactive Marketing Services (IMS). This was an inadvertent insertion and all readers are informed to exercise caution when dealing with IMS.

## THE SANDS AT GRACE BAY HOSTS 'RELAX, RECHARGE & REJUVENATE' WEEKENDS

Responding to the increased need for balance and spiritual centering, The Sands at Grace Bay is hosting a series of "Relax, Recharge & Rejuvenate Weekends" in cooperation with *Fit Yoga* magazine.

Guests will enjoy four days/three nights on stunning Grace Bay Beach in Providenciales, Turks & Caicos for only \$1,695. The package includes: twice-daily yoga classes taught by *Fit Yoga* Editor-in-Chief Rita Trieger, a goody bag of spa products, one complimentary spa treatment courtesy of Spa Tropique at The Sands, a spa incentive good for 10 percent off one additional treatment, as well as healthy meals, island activities and plenty of time to rest and renew the spirit for 2009. Dates for the "Relax, Recharge & Rejuvenate Weekends" are June 26-29, and October 2-5.

Inspired by the natural elements and beauty of the Turks & Caicos Islands, each weekend will provide rejuvenation, renewal and personal discovery. Individual classes will focus on a wide range of intentions from building strength and improving flexibility to developing meditation practices that will help to cultivate abundance and reset goals.

All classes will be taught by Rita Trieger, editor-in-chief of *Fit Yoga* magazine, and the author of *Yoga Heals Your Back* (Fairwinds, 2005). She has studied with some of the yoga world's most renowned teachers, and incorporates many different traditions into her inspiring and challenging flow-style classes. Rita is also a certified Relax and Renew (restorative yoga) teacher as well as a Reiki practitioner. She lives, practices, and teaches yoga in New York City, and in Connecticut at Elements Yoga, Stamford Hospital's Health and Fitness Institute, and the Bennett Cancer Center. Participants will have the opportunity to snorkel "Provo's" pristine reefs, tour the island's world-class shops and attractions, and dine in its exceptional restaurants.

Sands at Grace Bay, 877-777-2637, [www.thesandstc.com](http://www.thesandstc.com)

## ANGUILLA'S CARIMAR BEACH CLUB HAS BRIGHT SUMMER SPECIAL DEALS

Summer is a special time of year at Carimar Beach Club in Meads Bay, Anguilla. One of the "real" beachfront properties on Anguilla, its sand is beautifully powder white and the water crystal clear.

At Carimar Beach Club, the stay for seven/pay for five Summer Special is a fantastic value for couples and families, available until November 15, 2009.

Prices are: for a Beachview one-bedroom unit, \$1,254; Beachfront one-bedroom unit, \$1,502; Beachview two-bedroom unit, \$1,857; and Beachfront two-bedroom unit, \$2,167.

One-bedroom units sleep two persons and a two-bedroom sleeps four with a fifth-person option using a rollaway at \$75 per night.

Carimar Beach Club's standard cancellation policy applies. The property will be closed August 16 through November 1, 2009 for upgrades.

Carimar Beach Club, [www.carimar.com](http://www.carimar.com)

## MEXICO'S MINISTER OF TOURISM RODOLFO ELIZONDO WELCOMES BACK CRUISES AT THE PORT OF COZUMEL



Welcoming the first ship to arrive at Cozumel's port is the Minister of Tourism Rodolfo Elizondo (shown in front row, third from left), among other government officials.

The Island of Cozumel, in the state of Quintana Roo, has initiated economic reactivation with the arrival of the cruise ship *Enchantment of the Seas* and its 2,446 passengers.

This Royal Caribbean International ship was received by a special welcome committee organized by Mexico's Minister of Tourism Rodolfo Elizondo; Governor Felix Gonzalez Canton; Mayor Juan Carlos Gonzalez and the CEO of the Mexico Tourism Board (MTB), Oscar Fitch, among other government officials.

Subsequently, the ship *Freedom of the Seas* arrived with 3,300 passengers on board followed by *Holiday* with 1,452, reactivating the tourist destination considered one of the main cruise ship ports in the world.

Elizondo emphasized that a recuperation of the destination is predicted as well as an economic stimulus of \$580,000 from the ships.

*Freedom of the Seas*, considered the largest cruise ship in the world, coincides with the launch of the promotional campaign "Vive Mexico," an initiative developed by the federal government with the goal of reactivating the tourism sector of the country.

Mexico Tourism Board (MTB), [www.visitmexico.com](http://www.visitmexico.com)

## BLUE TULUM RESORT & SPA EXPANDS FAMILY PRODUCT

Blue Tulum Resort & Spa, the Riviera Maya's premier five-star all-inclusive, has expanded its family product, adding a new Kids Club program and Spa Kids amenities just in time for the peak summer family travel season to Mexico.

The Kids Club program carries the Mayan name Baaxal Paala, which translates to "games for children." Certainly this new program lives up to its name, offering a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities, including darts, billiards, ping-pong, educational and video games featuring XBOX 360, and more. The Kids Club

boasts a staff of highly qualified childcare professionals, and its own snack bar with menu choices designed especially with kids in mind. The Club is open to children ages four–12, and operates 9–5.

Blue Tulum Resort & Spa is embracing the new "Generation Diva" trend recently espoused in *Newsweek*, with the introduction of a new series of Spa Kids amenities. Designed to promote family bonding through holistic treatments and relaxation, Spa Kids amenities enable children to enjoy professional spa treatments alongside their parents in an exclusive private environment. Mothers are paired with daughters; fathers with sons, for a full range of spa treatments, including massages, facials, scrubs, wraps, reflexology, manicures, pedicures, waxing, and more.

Spa Kids services are designed for children four–12, and range in price from \$30 for a makeup session to \$50 for a chocolate body wrap. Massages and facials are \$40.

Blue Tulum Resort & Spa, 866-336-2213,

[www.bluetulumresorts.com](http://www.bluetulumresorts.com)

## SANDOS CARACOL CONTINUES ECO TRANSFORMATION

Sandos Hotels & Resorts continues to transform the Caracol complex into the first Eco Resort & Spa on the Riviera Maya, Mexico, through the implementation of self-sufficient structures, designated wildlife areas, and highlighting the natural cenotes, gardens and streams on which the property was built.

The Caracol Eco-Resort & Spa aims to be an Eco-Versity in which guests will view, learn and engage in ecological techniques and practices. Transformations begun in the fall of 2008 are projected to be complete in 2010.

Through the use of alternative energy technologies, Sandos Hotels & Resorts now features 12 hotel rooms (housed within the same building) with a 75-percent CO2 emission reduction. The goal is to transform this structure into the world's first "zero emissions" building.

Upon completion, this technology will be used on additional buildings within the property.

The resort is pioneering a concept whereby each area of the property will be designated to a type of animal including bird species that roam freely throughout the resort. Many of the chosen species have been endangered in the area, and the resort will work with universities and other agencies to implement breeding programs. Once the chosen species settle in, guests will have the opportunity to attend free lectures and tours in order to learn about the wildlife, and they'll also be able to interact and feed certain animals.

Sandos Hotels & Resort will implement an interactive educational system whereby guests will have the ability to participate in ecological activities to earn points that can be redeemed for free nights at the property. Sample activities include beach clean-ups, saving tortoises in Akumal, and setting exotic bird species "free" into the wild.

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