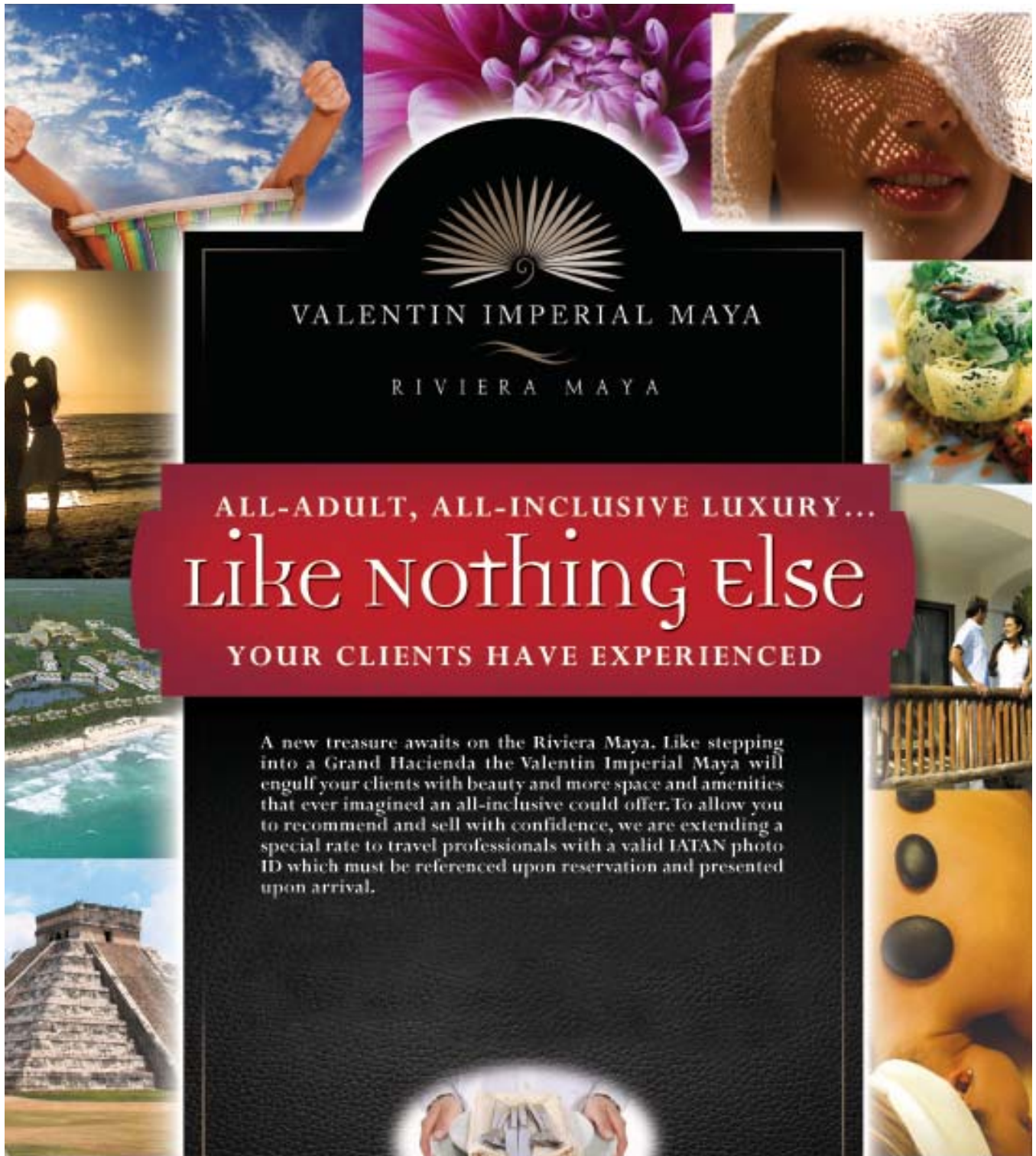


▶ **JAMAICA**
JAPEX '08
Attracts
International
Interest

▶ **TURKS &
CAICOS**
Sands at
Grace Bay
Unveils
New Look

▶ **BARBADOS**
Cobblers Cove
Appoints
Randall Wilkie
GM



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JAPEX '08 Attracts International Interest

Scores of international wholesalers participated in the recent Jamaica Product Exchange (JAPEX) in Kingston, April 25-27, 2008, signaling mounting interest in Jamaica as a tourist destination. The much anticipated travel trade show brings together leading suppliers of the Jamaica tourism product to meet with travel wholesalers and tour operators from Europe and the Americas.

President of the Jamaica Hotel & Tourist Association (JHTA) which hosts the show annually in association with the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB), confirmed that over 104 buyer delegates representing 71 buyer companies participated in the local hospitality and tourism industry's most important marketplace – a virtual shop window to the world in which local suppliers, large and small, “market” their products in one venue.

Mr. Cummings said that, “buyers came from traditional markets like the U.S.A., Canada and the UK as well as emerging markets including Mexico and Spain and there is phenomenal interest from the Russian Federation and South America.”

Supplier delegate registration hit the 250 mark for the trade show which also played host to over 100 international travel agents as well as international and local media.

Mr. Cummings said that the local suppliers – operators of hotels, attractions and allied services and overseas participants, all proclaimed JAPEX '08 a success.

He noted that “the Jamaica hospitality and tourism industry is constantly innovating and expanding with accommodations and attractions designed to cater to current and emerging trends and the JHTA is doing its part to ensure we are driving forward in the most responsible and effective way.”

Mr. Cummings said that while Jamaica enjoys a healthy local tourism market “we need a strong collaborative partnership with international players to help grow our share of the global tourism market to an all time high.”

JAPEX is a “critical vehicle” he said, “and in this regard, it offers an opportunity to all of our local suppliers, large and small to present the buyers with the many reasons why they should choose Jamaica as a favored destination.”

Kingston Takes Center Stage

The capital city of Kingston was abuzz with excitement during the 18th staging of JAPEX.

Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett, in his first JAPEX as Minister, was pleased that the capital city was afforded yet another reason to showcase why it remains “the heartbeat of Jamaica.” He expressed tremendous satisfaction at the level of interest and with the meetings conducted during JAPEX. Following the trade show, the Tourism Minister hosted mem-



Hon. Ed Bartlett (right), Minister of Tourism in conversation with Wayne Cummings (left), President, Jamaica Hotel & Tourist Association (JHTA) at the official opening ceremony for JAPEX 2008 at the Hilton Kingston Hotel on Friday, April 25, 2008. Looking on are (2nd left) Desmond McKenzie, Mayor of Kingston and Camille Needham, Executive Director, JHTA.

bers of the North American, Latin American and UK trade media on a press trip where he played tour guide for a day, giving them a first hand update on the various developments and attractions which he has been promoting since assuming office.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

UNSPOILED



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And fortunately, completely unchanged.

Several months and \$6 million later, there's a gracious new open-air lobby, elegantly redesigned suites with luxurious bathrooms, alluring new lighting and stunning new landscaping. The low-key pleasures of The Sands have become a bit more refined, but the breathtaking views of Grace Bay Beach, the considerate service and sense of peace, privacy and tranquility remain unchanged. Some things should never be tampered with.

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JAPEX 2008 FROM PAGE 3

By way of development, journalists visited the recently opened Gran Bahia Principe in Runaway Bay, the renovated Rose Hall Resort and the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay.

They also had the opportunity to visit a number of the island's attractions including Dolphin Cove in Ocho Rios, Chukka Adventures in Montpelier, St. James and Outameni Experience in Trelawny.

Director of Tourism Basil Smith was equally pleased with the outcome of this year's event and believes it augurs well for the capital city. "Kingston is always an exciting place to visit. It provides rich and varied cultural offerings from music to theatre to galleries, and can satisfy any gastronomic taste," noted the Tourism Director.

One of the highlights of the three-day trade show was 'Many Moods of Kingston,' held against the backdrop of the harbor at the Bank of Jamaica Auditorium in downtown Kingston and sponsored by the Kingston Chapter of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association.

The evening saw a number of Kingston hotels and food establishments providing a sampling of their menus coupled with great entertainment by Errol Lee and the Bare Essentials Band and a number of other Jamaican entertainers.

Delegates were also treated to a preview of Caribbean Fashion Week, which takes place at the National Indoor Sports Centre in Kingston, June 11-16, 2008.

**JAPEX, www.jhta.org/japex.htm;
The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB), 800-233-4JTB
(800-233-4582), www.visitjamaica.com**

SUPERCLUBS PREMIERS NEW ROOMS RESORT IN NEGRIL

July 15 will see the premiere of ROOMS on the beach, Negril. The 57-room Continental Plan (CP) hotel faces the Caribbean on Negril's seven-mile beach. SuperClubs bought the three-acre site of the former Negril Inn last year, shuttering its doors for a year of upgrades and improvements to the tune of \$4 million.

"ROOMS in Negril is SuperClubs' 10th property in Jamaica, and our second CP hotel," said John Issa, Executive Chairman of SuperClubs Resorts. "And with nightly rates starting at \$100 per room, visitors will be hard-pressed to find a better deal in Jamaica."

ROOMS is a convenient base to such popular haunts as Rick's Café and Alfred's, as well as within walking distance to local restaurants, boutiques, and gift shops. The hotel features ocean-view, beachfront and spacious family rooms, plus a swimming pool, onsite restaurant and bar, fitness center and Internet café. SuperClubs launched the ROOMS brand in January 2005, with ROOMS on the beach, Ocho Rios.

Beyond the shores of Jamaica, SuperClubs continues its westward expansion in Latin America with four resorts in the works: Breezes Playa Blanca – SuperClubs' first resort in Panama; Breezes Buzios in Brazil; Breezes Recife along the northeast coast of Brazil; and

Breezes Parati in southeast Brazil.

These resort additions in Brazil and Panama effectively double SuperClubs' resort holdings in the region, where it currently operates Breezes Costa Do Sauipe in Bahia, Brazil; Starfish Ilha de Santa Luzia, near Aracaju; and two Sonesta-flagged / SuperClubs-managed city hotels in Sao Paulo and Brasilia.

**SuperClubs, 800-GO-SUPER (800-467-8737),
www.superclubs.com, www.breezes.com**

CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL UPBEAT ABOUT JAMAICA



Caroline Racine (second from left) chats about Choice's small hotels model with Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, Edmund Bartlett at Jamaica Product Exchange (JAPEX) event in Kingston. Looking on are Carrole Guntley, Director General in Jamaica's Ministry of Tourism and Wayne Cummings, President of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association.

Caroline Racine, Director of Caribbean Franchise Development of Choice Hotels International, is upbeat about opportunities to help small hotels improve their business operations in Jamaica.

Smaller hotels are often locally-owned so their survival and success is crucial for an economically and socially sustainable tourism industry in the Caribbean.

Choice Hotels International, the strategic hotel partner of the Caribbean Hotel Association, provides marketing and booking tools that assist small hotels become more viable.

These include state-of-the-art revenue management systems, a powerful reservations system, a \$175 million marketing campaign, and dedicated Brand Performance Consultants.

Choice Hotels International franchises more than 5,300 hotels, representing over 430,000 rooms in the United States and 40 other countries and territories. Their brands include Cambria Suites, Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality, Clarion, Sleep Inn, Econo Lodge, Rodeway Inn, MainStay Suites and Suburban Extended Stay Hotels.

**Choice Hotels International, 800-870-1904,
www.choicehotelsfranchise.com**

COYABA BEACH RESORT & CLUB KEEPS GUESTS CONNECTED

Although it is better known as a place to 'disconnect' in pristine natural surroundings, the Coyaba Beach Resort & Club is now tapping into vacationers' demands to feel connected, even if they are there solely for the purpose of fun and relaxation. Coyaba's newest amenity - wireless Internet - has become a popular accompaniment to the beach-front luxury and all the peaceful, private places to rest and hideaway.

Located in Jamaica's Montego Bay, Coyaba Beach Resort and Club is a four-star Caribbean beach hideaway and rated one of the great Small Luxury Hotels of the World.

According to Kevin Robertson, Coyaba Beach owner: "Although our guests are attracted to all the peace and privacy here, people today are more comfortable when they have the option and ease to communicate with work and home. Almost all of our guests now make use of our wireless Internet. We have a growing congregation in the lobby and down by the pool of guests with their laptops."

Various-sized rooms are available to suit any family composition and the resort offers a unique blend of activity offerings and private places to relax for singles, couples and families alike.

For the activity-minded, they offer snorkeling, windsurfing, kayaking, pedalboating, tennis, horseback riding at a nearby stable, golf (four championship courses are located within 10 minutes of the hotel), a swimming pool, Jacuzzi and a well-equipped fitness room.

In addition, the proximity to Montego Bay affords easy access to historical sites, such as the plantation homes as well as to a wide variety of shops, restaurants and bars.

There is a billiard room, board games, on-site movie library, and a spa. Organized tours and excursions (sailboat and fishing charters, sail cruises, glass bottom boat tours, snorkeling and diving expeditions) are also available through the Tour Desk.

Coyaba Beach Resort & Club, 877-232-3224,
www.coyabaresortjamaica.com

SOLÍS THE PALMYRA RESORT & SPA TO OPEN AUTUMN 2008

On-target for an autumn 2008 opening, The Palmyra Resort & Spa announced that premier management company Solís Hotels & Resorts is set to operate the Caribbean retreat to be known as Solís The Palmyra Resort & Spa.

Launched by legendary hotelier and former president of The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company Horst Schulze, Solís Resorts & Hotels is a collection of resorts, hotels and residences offering a convergence of unparalleled designs, settings and experiences. Said Schulze, "In essence, Solís The Palmyra will redefine luxury living and luxury travel in the Caribbean based on input from world travelers and guests."

Set on 16 oceanfront acres on the grounds of a former Jamaican plantation within the elite enclave of historic Rose Hall, Solís

The Palmyra offers beautifully appointed suites, penthouses and villas. Surrounded by three championship golf courses, Solís The Palmyra boasts the added indulgence of Jamaica's first branded ESPA destination spa.

A world-class chef delivers culinary excellence and internationally inspired dishes at the resort's four on-site restaurants, while the Gourmet Shop offers the convenience of gourmet-to-go with prepared foods as well as pantry staples. Add to this luxury, 24-hour in-room dining and a full-service staff for an exceptional level of attentive care.

Two swimming pools overlook the sea, swimming cove and private beach, while dining choices include four restaurants ranging from white-tablecloth to beachside casual dining.

"Our guests are high-profile individuals who maintain demanding, hectic schedules. Solís The Palmyra is a private retreat, designed to welcome guests with staff and amenities that anticipate every need so that time here is both restorative and productive," said Schulze.

"Our goal was to create a destination that rivaled the world's finest. With Horst Schulze and the Solís team, The Palmyra is firmly on the map as a true luxury travel destination," said Bob Trotta, developer of The Palmyra Resort & Spa.

For people who want to live the Palmyra lifestyle, private residences are available for ownership.

Solís The Palmyra Resort & Spa, 800-861-4740,
www.solisthepalmyra.com



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ROSE HALL RESORT & COUNTRY CLUB COMPLETES RENOVATION



The Rose Hall Resort & Country Club has completed a remarkable transformation that has touched every aspect of the hallmark Jamaican retreat. More than \$40 million in renovations have re-energized the resort to create a sophisticated yet casual beachfront presence. Rose Hall's comprehensive renovations include the top-to-bottom refurbishment of all 488 guestrooms, redesigned and re-configured reception and resort areas, remodeled meeting space and restaurants, and the debut of the new Soothe Spa and an innovative Poolscape experience.

"We wanted to create a very stylish and contemporary design, yet still maintain the true spirit of Jamaica. The resort's new look is a clean, fresh approach that is completely different from anything else on the island," said General Manager Dermot Connolly. "Rose Hall will continue to appeal to travelers looking for a relaxed beach getaway, but also provide a certain sense of sophisticated and modernized luxury – something more and more of our guests have begun to expect."

All of the resort's spacious guest accommodations have undergone a metamorphosis that melds a polished style with the distinctive Jamaican laid-back ambiance. Every guestroom is supplied with pillow-top mattresses fitted into custom beds. High-end amenities speak to the needs and services expected by today's modern travelers – from flat-screen televisions with satellite cable, to

iHome clock radios, large electronic safes, built-in refrigerators, dual-line telephones and wireless, high-speed Internet access.

Soothe, the new Rose Hall resort spa incorporates a clean, fresh style purposefully meant to cool and soothe both mind and body. Spa guests may choose from a menu of classic, European and Jamaican-inspired therapies. And, the resort's newly upgraded fitness center includes new state-of-the-art cardio machinery with personal televisions and headsets and strength training equipment.

Rose Hall's 7,800 sq. ft. grand ballroom has been completely transformed into a bold and dramatic new space. Rose Hall now boasts a total of 14,000 square feet of meeting space.

Rose Hall Resort & Country Club, 877-831-1313,
www.RoseHallResort.com

SUMMER PROMOTIONS AT ROUND HILL

There is no better time than the spring and summer seasons to experience a luxurious break from the ordinary at Round Hill. Located on a secluded bay and beach in Montego Bay, Jamaica, this exclusive retreat features suites decorated with plantation-style elegance with guests' comfort in mind. From a rejuvenating spa experience to tennis courts and resort watersports, there is truly something for everyone.

Special Spring & Summer offers include the Fourth Night Free; a Weekly Villa Special, an ideal way to experience a villa holiday for your family or friends traveling together; and a Family Plan: bring two children up to 12 years of age and save 50 percent on the accommodation. Tennis Clinics are included during July and August.

Round Hill Hotel and Villas, 800-972-2159,
reservations@roundhilljamaica.com,
www.roundhilljamaica.com

RIU MONTEGO BAY OPENING SEPTEMBER 2008

The Spain-based resort company Riu Hotels & Resorts will open its fourth beachfront resort in Jamaica this September. Riu Montego Bay, the first Riu resort in Montego Bay, will offer 701 rooms and will join sister resorts Riu Negril and Riu Tropical Bay (both located in Negril) and Riu Ocho Rios, located in Ocho Rios.

"Riu Tropical Bay was the first hotel we opened in Jamaica (March 2001) and the response from our guests has been so positive that we have opened more hotels in order to meet the demand for this beautiful island," stated Mr. Luis Riu, CEO of Riu Hotels & Resorts, the third generation Riu family member to run the global hotel company, "Our success is due to our quality product and because of the people who work at our resorts."

There are an estimated 1500 employees at Riu Hotels & Resorts in Jamaica.

Riu Montego Bay will employ an additional 500 people. Riu Montego Bay, opening September 2008, will offer 701 rooms, three specialty-themed restaurants, five bars and a conference room. With the addition of Riu Montego Bay, Riu will offer 2,393 rooms in Jamaica.

Riu Hotels & Resorts, www.Riu.com

HILTON CANCUN GOLF & SPA RESORT HOSTS WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ON LATIN AMERICA



President Felipe Calderon greeted by General Manager Carlos Abaunza during his visit to the Hilton Cancun Golf & Spa Resort.

The Hilton Cancun Golf & Spa Resort recently hosted the World Economic Forum on Latin America, which brought over 500 senior global leaders from business, politics, government, academia, civil society

and the media from 46 countries. The meeting was co-hosted by the Government of Mexico under the patronage of President Felipe Calderon. Hilton Cancun's General Manager, Carlos Abaunza, greeted President Calderon as well as the President of Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, who was also in attendance. More than 100 of the most influential companies in the world participated in the event.

Hilton Cancun Golf & Spa Resort,
www.hiltoncancun.com

MEXICOMAYANRESORTS.COM INTRODUCES "FUN FOR ALL" PACKAGE

MexicoMayanResorts.com is introducing a new "Fun for All" Package at The Grand Mayan Wyndham Alliance Resorts in Nuevo Vallarta, and Acapulco, Riviera Maya and Cabo – ideal for families with bonus inclusions including free buffet meals for kids, a free round of golf, and a free spa service.

With these added-value inclusions, travelers enjoy a savings of up to \$350 on their

vacation at The Grand Mayan Wyndham Alliance Resorts. Plus, there is no per person pricing or extra charge for additional guests up to the selected accommodations' maximum occupancy - representing a significant per person cost savings on comparable accommodations.

The "Fun for All" package is valid on new bookings with a minimum stay of three nights for travel by October 31, 2008.

At the Grand Mayan Wyndham Alliance Resorts in Acapulco or Nuevo Vallarta package rates start from \$159 for a standard room and \$239 for a one bedroom with a full kitchen that sleeps up to five guests. At the company's properties in Riviera Maya or Los Cabos, package rates start from \$199 for a standard room and \$278 for a one bedroom with a full kitchen that sleeps up to five guests.

The "Fun for All" offer includes free buffet meals for all kids, one free round of golf and 50 percent off for following rounds, and one free spa treatment.

MexicoMayanResorts.com,
877-999-3223, MexicoMayanResorts.com

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Summer Sale is valid for travel April 01 to December 20, 2008. Black out dates may apply. Up to two children per room Stay & Eat Free sharing room with paying parents. Children ages: Mazatlán and Cozumel: 14 & under; Cancun – Riviera Maya: 12 & under. Discount may vary by destination and travel dates. Call for details.

SUMMER DEALS AT AQUA HOTEL & RESORT

Aqua Hotel & Resort, Mexico's newest hotel resort in Cancun, opened in February 2008 and caters to couples, families, sophisticated singles and business parties alike. They incorporate Mayan customs and rituals in all aspects of your stay.

Amenities include luxury rooms with ocean views, commitment to traditional hospitality, and cabana selections throughout the property (beach cabanas, pool cabanas, swing cabanas). Their spa features multi-sensory treatments firmly rooted in Mayan culture, and aromatherapy is incorporated throughout the entire property. A customized soundtrack of over 40,000 songs sets the mood at different locations and times of the day throughout the hotel. Daily rituals include red parrots that fly to you on call and a nightly blessing to the moon and a rain dance. There are three main restaurants, and each one is characterized by distinct qualities from their renowned chefs.

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ROYAL HIDEAWAY PLAYACAR NAMED CLASSIC MEXICO HOTEL OF THE YEAR



Royal Hideaway Playacar received the Classic Mexico Hotel of The Year award for 2007 from Classic Vacations at Tianguis in April. The award-winning resort was selected by Classic for its communication skills, responsiveness, creative marketing efforts and quality of product and service. Also, Classic Vacations' customer service and reservations teams also weighed in and deemed Royal Hideaway Playacar to be the most supportive, top-selling, all-inclusive resort in the country. Pictured from Left to Right: Federico Nickerson-Moreno, Director of Caribbean & Mexico product development for Classic Vacations; Richard Rodriguez, Director of Sales and Marketing for Occidental Hotels & Resorts; Jorn Kaae, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Occidental Hotels & Resorts; Tim MacDonald, President of Classic Vacations, and Jonna Jackson, Senior Director of Product Development for Classic Vacations.

Royal Hideaway Playacar, www.occidentalthotels.com/royalhideaway

off the nightly rate plus 25 percent off food and beverage plus 25 percent off Spa services all throughout the stay. The booking window is April 1- August 31, 2008 and the travel period is April 1 - September 16, 2008.

Aqua Hotel & Resort, 866-931-AQUA, www.fiestamericana.com/ springsummeraqua

GROUP OFFER FROM EUROSTARS BLUE TULUM RESORT

Eurostars Blue Tulum is a luxurious resort located in the Mayan Riviera. This spectacular five-star deluxe complex has 96 exclusive suites and is perfect for incen-

tive groups.

For group and FAM trips, Eurostars Blue Tulum Hotel & Spa is offering four-days/three-nights in a Garden View Suite including all facilities and amenities of the resort; one 50-minute massage per person; luxury amenities for adults delivered every night; private group dinner; round trip transportation hotel-airport (optional); welcome cocktail; transportation and certified guide; and meeting lounges and coffee breaks for \$1,150 per room. Extra night \$350 per room (based on double occupancy, sixth night complimentary).

Eurostars Blue Tulum, reserve@eurostarsbluetulum.com, www.eurostarsbluetulum.com

FREE DESTINATION WEDDINGS AT TURTLE BEACH RESORT



Through December 2008, couples can receive a free wedding package when they book seven or more nights in an Ocean View Junior Suite, or any higher-category room, at Turtle Beach Resort in Barbados, an all-inclusive property situated along 1,500 feet of beach on Barbados' lively South Coast.

Rates for Ocean View Junior Suites based on double occupancy start at \$527 per night during the low season (May 1 - December 14) and \$951 per night during the peak season (December 15-31). To receive this offer, guests must book their stay by December 14, 2008, for travel April 1 through December 31, 2008.

The "Love Doesn't Cost a Thing" wedding package includes the services of a wedding coordinator; decorated wedding area; coordination of marriage license and registration; services of a Magistrate/Priest/Minister; local transportation to and from license authorities; bouquet and boutonniere; best man, maid of honor and/ or witnesses, if required; bottle of champagne for the wedding ceremony; wedding cake; all taxes and gratuities; and special wedding memento upon departure.

Turtle Beach Resort features 164 spacious junior and one-bedroom suites. Guests at Turtle Beach Resort enjoy all activities, meals and beverages among beachfront settings and lagoon-style pools. The resort also features Asiago's, which is ranked as the top Italian restaurant on the island, according to the 2008 Zagat Guide Barbados.

Turtle Beach Resort, www.turtlebeachresortbarbados.com

MANGO BAY OFFERS RENEWAL OF VOWS PACKAGE

Rekindle romance and years of love and marriage together with a special Renewal of Vows package at the 76-room, deluxe Mango Bay in Barbados.

"Mango Bay's Renewal of Vows package was created to inspire married couples to make new memories and give them a chance to

remember their special day without having to do all the work and organizing," said Peter Odle, owner.

"With our hassle-free planning, couples can relax and remember why they fell in love in the first place."

Mango Bay's Renewal of Vows package features personalized services of a wedding coordinator; clergyman; decorations; boutonniere and wedding bouquet; bottle of champagne; and a cake.

The Renewal of Vows package is priced at \$600, which is added on to the cost of a hotel stay at Mango Bay. Couples can add to the package with a photo album, digital photos, music, video, additional champagne and flowers.

Located in the historic Hometown area on the Gold Coast of Barbados, the 76-room Mango Bay is known for its casual sophistication and all-inclusive value.

An all-inclusive vacation at Mango Bay features hotel accommodations, all meals, afternoon tea, all local and brand name drinks including wine with dinner, watersports (waterskiing, hobiecat sailing, kayaking and snorkeling), nightly entertainment, and off-property sightseeing excursions such as a glass-bottom boat trip, a shopping trip into the capital city of Bridgetown and a catamaran sail.

Off-season prices now through December 14, 2008 start at \$385 in Standard accommodations; \$415 in Superior accommodations; \$460 in a Deluxe room; and \$525 in an Oceanfront room. The cost of the Penthouse Suite is from \$1,500 per night.

Mango Bay, reservations@mangobaybarbados.com, www.mangobaybarbados.com



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COBBLERS COVE APPOINTS RANDALL WILKIE NEW GENERAL MANAGER



RANDALL WILKIE

Widely-renowned Caribbean hotelier Randall Wilkie has recently been appointed General Manager of Cobblers Cove, Barbados, one of the leading hotels in the West Indies.

Wilkie, who graduated in Hotel Management at London's Westminster College, was previously General Manager of the prestigious Blue Water Hotel and Cove Suites in Antigua.

"My accumulated knowledge of running a number of high quality properties in Barbados, Antigua and Jamaica has equipped me perfectly for the exciting new role ahead. I'm delighted to be involved in one of the Caribbean's best loved hotels and my aim is to create memories for our guests in an environment where only the best is good enough," Wilkie says.

Cobblers Cove, the only member in Barbados of the Relais & Chateaux, (a collection of the world's finest restaurants and hotels) is situated in the parish of St. Peter on the West Coast of the island near Speightstown. The small and intimate property blends the elegance of an English Country House with the tropical beauty and charming character of Barbados, with its 40 beautifully appointed suites set in tropical gardens near the ocean. Among other amenities, Cobblers Cove features the award-winning Terrace Restaurant and new Chattel House Treatment Rooms, both highlighting the grace and sophistication Barbados exudes.

Cobblers Cove, reservations@cobblerscove.com, www.cobblerscove.com

ALMOND CASUARINA OPENS; SPECIAL RATES FOR TEAM ALMOND AGENTS



Almond Resorts' new Casuarina Beach Resort in Barbados welcomed its first guests on May 1, 2008.

"We have developed this resort with great care and attention, we know that we've made you wait, but the wait will be worth it," says Almond's Chairman and Managing Director, Ralph Taylor. "The location is fabulous, on the famed Dover Beach with miles of white sand and where you can watch the turtles nest in season in their natural habitat. The proximity to the St. Lawrence Gap area

makes it an exciting destination for everyone who wants to experience Barbados' nightlife."

"As an eco-friendly resort company, I am especially proud to see our efforts come to fruition so handsomely. Our \$30 million expansion and total refurbishment of the existing property blends in gracefully with the nine acres of precious tropical forest, which are part of Casuarina's grounds. This spacious, superbly family-friendly hotel has all the top quality facilities that are the hallmark of Almond Resorts. The layout also allows privacy for guests who need to hide away and refresh themselves," continued Taylor.

"As part of the opening special for the resort, while we're putting the finishing touches on the new room block and additional pool, we're inviting all our Team Almond agents to experience Almond Casuarina Beach at a special introductory all-inclusive rate of \$50 per person per night. This special offer is valid for travel until June 30, and if agents are not members of Team Almond, this is the perfect opportunity to sign up," said Wendy Cole, VP Marketing & Sales North America.

Almond Casuarina Beach offers fine dining at three restaurants, four bars, a fitness center, tennis courts, golf, swimming pools, a range of water sports with free lessons, and a fully equipped Kids Club, all as part of the resort's all-inclusive program. Spa services are available.

Almond Casuarina Beach Resort has a special opening rate for guests this summer of \$568 per person, all-inclusive, for a three-night stay.

Almond Resorts, 800-4ALMOND, www.almondresorts.com

NEW RADISSON ST. MARTIN RESORT, MARINA & SPA TO OPEN SUMMER '08

The new luxury Radisson St. Martin Resort, Marina & Spa, scheduled to open in late summer 2008, will feature Caribbean colors, comfortable furnishings, open-air architecture and classic French West Indies design details. The 18-acre, oceanfront property is located at Anse Marcel, one of the best-preserved and most secluded coves on the French side of St. Martin.

Currently in the final stages of an \$80-million transformation, the landmark property originally opened as Le Meridian in 1986 and most recently operated as L'Habitation de Lonvilliers.

The approach to Radisson St. Martin sets the stage for one of the Caribbean's most provocative new luxury resorts. An open-air design seamlessly unifies the main house with its surroundings, inviting guests to savor the Caribbean immediately upon entering the resort.

The resort's dining venues are equally distinctive in design. C Le Restaurant, which will feature fine French cuisine paired with island flavors, is sure to be popular with resort guests, island visitors and locals alike; the free-standing, open-air venue is set on a stone terrace that overlooks the sea. Le Marché, a casual, open-air brasserie with white shutters and louvered walls, offers views of tropical gardens and the resort's expansive pool and will serve brick oven and rotisserie selections buffet-style.

Radisson St. Martin Resort, Marina & Spa, 800-333-3333, www.radisson.com/stmartin

THE SANDS AT GRACE BAY UNVEILS NEW LOOK AND POSITIONING

Situated on Grace Bay Beach, The Sands at Grace Bay has re-opened following a \$6 million facelift that includes a new open-air lobby, as well as elegantly re-designed suites with spacious travertine baths, stainless kitchen appliances and granite counter-tops, and sumptuous bedding and other soft goods.

"The Sands has always been a unique property," said Darren Law, Vice President of Operations and Asset Management for The Hartling Group, owners of The Sands, "which is why we have chosen as our new tagline: *Unspoiled * Uncommon * Unpretentious*. We believe that it's the little things that set The Sands apart from other resorts on Provo. As one of the original resorts on the island, The Sands offers unique amenities such as low-rise buildings with screened patios that offer breathtaking views of world-famous Grace Bay Beach, permanent beach Palapas that provide year-round shade for careful sunbathers, and a popular beachfront restaurant that serves island specialties on a deck that literally sits on the sand."

"With the completion of our renovation, The Sands is now the finest four-star resort on the island," added General Manager Pierre Beswick. "In addition to our elegant new look, we believe that service sets us apart at The Sands. We specialize in welcoming guests with a familiar embrace and the special touches that turn a vacation into a celebration. Whether it's a wedding or anniversary, a new family addition, or simply a family get-together or reunion, our staff prides itself on making each moment memorable."

The Sands at Grace Bay features studios as well as one, two and three-bedroom suites. Accommodations are distributed throughout six three-story buildings. The Sands at Grace Bay houses Hemingway's Restaurant and Bar, a legendary beach-side venue and local favorite.

Spa treatments are available. Guests are also welcome to enjoy the resort's fitness center, non-motorized water sports, tennis court, and bicycles as well as complimentary WiFi. The Provo Golf Club offers



THE SANDS AT GRACE BAY

guests one of the best and most challenging courses in the Caribbean.

The Sands at Grace Bay, 877-777-2637, www.thesandstc.com

GRAND OPENING GALA FOR HYATT REGENCY TRINIDAD

Hyatt Regency Trinidad hosted a formal Grand Opening gala the evening of April 4, 2008, becoming the first full service hotel to open in the dual island nation of Trinidad & Tobago in 46 years. While the hotel welcomed its first guests on January 29, 2008, the elegant Grand Opening marked a celebratory occasion to announce its upscale accommodations, dining, Spa Esencia and business services to the world.

Attending dignitaries included: Trinidad & Tobago Prime Minister Patrick Manning; Trinidad & Tobago President George Maxwell Richards; Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding; Caricom Secretary General Dr. Edwin Carrington; Prime Minister of the Bahamas Hugh Ingram; Ambassador of the United States Roy Austin; and Heads of Government and

of State of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The event was filled with a night of local entertainment that paid tribute to the variety of cultures that comprise the diverse ethnic population of Trinidad & Tobago. Steel pan music, Asian dragon fire dancers in costumes and a finale of fireworks were some of the highlights.

"It's an occasion that demonstrates the coming of the vision of the people of Trinidad & Tobago," said Chief Operating Officer, International Operations, Global Hyatt Corporation Rakesh Sarna. "A vision that has given birth to a development that is poised to become the pride of the Caribbean." He continued: "The Hyatt Brand signifies quality and dedication to customer service and wherever we go we seek to be in a location that understands and identifies with these attributes. For us, Trinidad and Tobago is that location."

Hyatt Regency Trinidad, 800-233-1234, trinidad.hyatt.com



Pictured from Left to Right: Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago; Russell George, General Manager Hyatt Regency Trinidad; Carlos Cabrera, Senior Vice President – Operations North America, Hyatt Hotels & Resorts and Chuck Floyd, COO-North America Operations Global Hyatt.

GRENADA SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS

Grenada and its sister island of Carriacou, two Caribbean islands rich in culture and tradition, will feature several unique events in the spring and summer this year including the Gouyave Fisherman's Birthday, Carriacou Regatta and Carnival. Each event will offer its own special taste of Grenada and Carriacou's rich cultural heritage.

FISHERMAN'S BIRTHDAY

On June 29 every year, Grenada celebrates the birthday of St. Peter, the patron saint of Fisherman.

The historic fishing village of Gouyave, where the weekly Fish Friday Festival takes place, is the main venue for these activities. In recent years, it has grown to include community sporting and cultural events during a week-long celebration leading up to June 29.

The day itself features fishermen, vendors and their families attending church services, followed by a procession to the bay, where the priest blesses brilliantly decorated boats. This is followed by exciting boat races, eye-catching displays of the various species of fish, a lively DJ competition and joyous late evening parties.

Fisherman's Birthday celebration,
www.gougouyave.com/fisherman_birthday.htm

CARRIACOU REGATTA

The Carriacou Regatta began in 1965 as a local boat race using traditional fishing workboats, to continue the indigenous art of boat building, handed down by Irish and Scottish ancestors on the island of Carriacou. It has evolved into a major Caribbean event, with keen competition among sailors from many of the neighboring islands like Tobago, Martinique, Antigua and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In 2008, the Carriacou Regatta Festival celebrates its 43rd anniversary from August 1 - 4.

Carriacou Regatta,
www.cariacouregatta.com

CARNIVAL

Every year, during the second weekend of August, Grenada brings out its French and African traditions as music, dance, and



CARNIVAL, GRANADA

pageantry combine to create the island's Carnival celebration. This annual affair, which features festivities like the "Parade of the Bands," masquerades, Calypso, Soca and Steel Band competitions, is the hottest event on the island's calendar.

Beginning on August 8 and continuing through to August 12, visitors and residents attend nightly events and join in street jump-ups culminating with the 'Las Lap' jump-up where hundreds of masqueraders parade through the streets of Grenada.

**Carnival, www.spicemasgrenada.com;
Grenada Board of Tourism,
800-927-9554,
www.grenadagrenadines.com**

TURKS & CAICOS MUSIC AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES LINE-UP

The Tourist Board of the Turks & Caicos Islands has announced a sparkling assembly of music and comedy's biggest stars scheduled to perform at its fifth annual Turks & Caicos Music and Cultural Festival. Taking place July 28 – August 4, 2008 on the island of Providenciales, thousands will enjoy stellar performances by music legends Lionel Richie and Anita Baker, along with some of today's hottest R&B artists including Ne-Yo and T-Pain.

The Turks & Caicos Music and Cultural Festival's line-up includes Lionel Richie,

Anita Baker, T-Pain, Ne-Yo and LL Cool J, JT Taylor, former lead singer for Kool & The Gang, Russell Thompkins & The New Stylistics, Lou Gramm, vocalist from the rock band Foreigner, and local Turks & Caicos artists.

Ralph Higgs, Director of Tourism, Marketing at the Turks & Caicos Tourist Board, expressed his excitement, "This illustrious event is the perfect time for visitors to experience the best of the Turks & Caicos Islands – its rich cultural heritage, spectacular beauty and world-class luxuries. We invite guests to enjoy an unforgettable vacation getaway including sun-filled days relaxing on famed Grace Bay Beach, evenings dining at the Islands' renowned restaurants, and nights spent celebrating with music and comedy's top performers."

Now in its fifth year, the annual Music and Cultural Festival is seen as the largest and most popular entertainment event of the year in Turks and Caicos. Produced by TurnKey Productions for the second year in a row, the event includes four nights of live music and concerts, a boat regatta and cultural happenings.

Turks & Caicos Music and Cultural Festival,
visit www.musicfestival.tc;
Turks & Caicos Islands Tourist Board,
800-241-0824,
www.turksandcaicostourism.com

HYATT REGENCY ARUBA ANNOUNCES SUSAN SANTIAGO AS NEW GENERAL MANAGER



SUSAN SANTIAGO

Hyatt Hotels & Resorts has appointed Susan Santiago as General Manager for Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino. A seasoned veteran of the luxury hospitality industry and a long-time member of the Hyatt team, Santiago most recently served as General Manager at sister Caribbean property Hyatt Key West Resort and Spa. In her new position, Santiago will oversee all aspects of resort operations, including food and beverage,

staff service training, public relations and marketing. In particular, she will work to take the newly renovated Aruba resort to its next level of excellence by deploying the skills she has acquired in her previous roles. Prior to her position at Hyatt Key West, she was Corporate Food & Beverage Director for the company, overseeing operations of the F&B Division for all of Hyatt's domestic properties, implementing division promotions and developing budgets. Santiago began her career with Hyatt at Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport in 1992. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Physical Education from Florida International University before pursuing her passion for hospitality. Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino, 800-55-HYATT, www.aruba.hyatt.com

CAP JULUCA ACQUIRED BY NEW INVESTOR SYNDICATE

An investor syndicate led by noted travel industry executive Adam M. Aron has formed Cap Juluca Properties Ltd., an Anguillian company, and on April 9 acquired the Cap Juluca resort located on the island of Anguilla. Terms of the purchase were not disclosed.

The new ownership's plans include a massive investment of monies to fully renovate the much heralded resort including the addition of new guest amenities, as well as the sale of a limited number of residential villas at the property. Aron, 53, formerly served as Chairman and CEO of Vail Resorts, including its RockResorts luxury hotel company; President and CEO of Norwegian Cruise Line Ltd.; Senior Vice President of Marketing of United Airlines; and Senior Vice President of Hyatt Hotels and Resorts.

The Government of Anguilla is expected to have significant ownership in the future of Cap Juluca, as Aron expects to offer the Government of Anguilla a 20 percent ownership stake in Cap Juluca Properties Ltd. This public ownership will mean the people of Anguilla will fully share in the economic progress and financial returns of the Cap Juluca renovation and residential development.

Commenting on the acquisition, Aron said, "Cap Juluca is without question one of the finest and most beautiful resorts in the world. With our extensive planned renovation, and with the help of Cap Juluca's extraordinary employees, I have every confidence Cap Juluca will find itself in an even more special place."

Cap Juluca, www.capjuluca.com

THE DESIGNATION OF THE EAST COAST/CENTRAL REGION OF PUERTO RICO AS A TOURIST REGION



Terestella Gonzalez-Denton, Executive Director, Puerto Rico Tourism Company, and Ponce Mayor Francisco Zaya sign agreement pledging support of the Porta Caribe tourism industry.

The Puerto Rico Tourism Company, alongside the Government of Puerto Rico, is making strategic investments in the development of tourism throughout the island. After a \$1.3 billion investment by the Government of Puerto Rico four years ago, the East Coast/Central Region of Puerto Rico will have over 5,000 new hotel rooms by the end of 2008 and will create 3,774 new jobs.

The Porta del Sol Region has seen a tremendous increase in travel due to its unique offerings for surfers. This surf season has seen unprecedented growth as the waves in towns like Rincón have been especially favorable. This upward trend will surely be stimulated by the creation of travel packages to the region by JetBlue Airways and Spirit Airlines. Porta del Sol is also the focus of a substantial spend as the city of Mayaguez prepares to host the Central American and Caribbean Games in 2010. Furthermore, the Puerto Rico Tourism Company will be investing an additional \$1.5 million in marketing and promotional efforts, specifically targeting Porta del Sol. Governor Aníbal Acevedo Vilá has signed an Executive Order designating 24 municipalities as part of the East Coast-Central Area Tourism Region (East-Central Region), a region which will receive local and international promotion to foster economic development and create new jobs.

The East-Central Region is home to some of Puerto Rico's leading hotels, including El Conquistador, Palmas del Mar, Río Mar and the new Trump International Golf Course at Coco Beach.

The Porta Caribe Fair drew a crowd of 30,000 visitors to the Guancho district of Ponce for a celebration of the region's history and culture. The fair was also the setting for the signing of an agreement between Puerto Rico Tourism Company Executive Director Terestella Gonzalez-Denton and the mayor of Ponce, Francisco Zaya, as well as leaders from the tourism industry, pledging support for the region's tourism industry.

As Puerto Rico's second largest city, Ponce continues to attract large numbers of travelers. With this in mind, the Puerto Rico Ports Authority invested \$2.5 million to renovate the Ponce Mercedita Airport (PSE). Further, the Americas Port in Ponce now accommodates leading cruise liners following a massive investment in the modernization of the city's seaport.

Puerto Rico Tourism Company, www.gotopuertorico.com

USVI DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM UNVEILS "SIX TO SIX" PROMOTION



As part of its on-going efforts to stimulate business and increase overnight stays in St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John, the Department of Tourism has launched a new "USVI Six to Six" promotion, aiming to convert cruise ship passengers visiting the destination for six hours to land based vacationers who will stay at least six nights. Encouraging longer visits with a complimentary sixth night, the vacation package also includes a free bottle of Cruzan Rum, a sixth-day free car rental, \$60 gift card and a coupon book valued at up to \$626. Along with dining and shopping coupons, the coupon book will include discounted entry into places where cruise visitors ordinarily may not have been exposed to on short port visits. Those booking the package become eligible to win one of six return trips to America's Caribbean.

"As home to one of the most popular cruise ports in the Caribbean, the U.S. Virgin Islands welcomes thousands of visitors to its shores each year," stated Beverly Nicholson-Doty, U.S. Virgin Islands Commissioner of Tourism. "We recognize the potential for return visits and overnight stays from cruise visitors, so the department is providing them with incentives to return and extend their stay and truly immerse themselves in our islands' rich culture, local hospitality and natural beauty."

The USVI Six to Six promotion, set to launch on June 1, 2008, will be offered through December 31, 2009. The offer can be booked directly with participating hotels. Participating hotels on St. Thomas include: Anchorage Beach Resort, Best Western Emerald Beach Hotel, Bolongo Bay Beach Club and Villas, Crystal

Cove Beach Resort, Holiday Inn Windward Passage, Frenchman's Reef Marriott, Island Beachcomber Hotel, Pavilions and Pools, Point Pleasant Resort, Sapphire Beach Resort, Sapphire Village Resort and Wyndham Sugar Bay Resort & Spa. On St. Croix The Buccaneer, Carambola Beach Resort, Divi Carina Bay Resort & Casino, Hibiscus Beach Resort, Holger Dankse Hotel, The Hotel Caravelle, The Palms at Pelican Cove and Sugar Beach Resort are participating. On St. John, the Maho Bay Campground is participating. Request package USVI Six to Six or use booking code 626CP.

United States Virgin Islands, usvitourism.vi

CSHAE SETS SIX POINT PLAN TO STRENGTHEN REGION

The Caribbean Society of Hotel Association Executives (CSHAE) gathered for its annual Leadership Conference May 4-6 in Trinidad and agreed on a number of issues designed to strengthen the national associations and benefit the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) membership throughout the region. They also re-elected Susan Springer, Executive Director of the Barbados Hotel & Tourism Association as President of CSHAE for another year.

The two-day meeting and educational symposium concluded with the group of association executives agreeing upon a six point action plan including: helping to facilitate a reduction in energy costs throughout each destination; creating a greater environmental sensitivity in all areas of the destinations; broadening the agenda on education and training by both the public and private sectors; helping to ensure a safe environment in the destination; fostering professional development throughout the hotel sector; and assisting in the creation of an expanded and improved workforce of Caribbean nationals working in the hospitality industry.

"We intend to assist our members throughout the CHA community across the region as well as strengthen the operation of our local national hotel and tourism associations through education and training support of both the association executives and elected officials," said Susan Springer, CSHAE President.

"We also want to build a world class Caribbean tourism workforce as human resource development has become one of the primary concerns throughout the hospitality industry and the Caribbean is no different," she added.

Executives from the national associations across the Caribbean elected a new slate of officers and directors for CSHAE including: President: Sue Springer, Barbados Hotel & Tourism Association; Vice President: Caesar Campbell, Turks & Caicos Hotel & Tourism Association; and Treasurer: Marion Wilson, Bonaire Hotel & Tourism Association.

Directors are Trudy Nixon, Anguilla Hotel & Tourism Association; Neil Forrester, Antigua Hotels & Tourist Association; Frank Comito, Bahamas Hotel Association;

Dee Smith, Bermuda Hotel Association; Donald Werdekker, Curacao Hospitality and Tourism Association; and Clarisa Jimenez, Puerto Rico Hotel & Tourism Association.

The Caribbean Hotel Association,
www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com

GRENADA SUMMER SPECIALS

With travelers seeking more for their money in the current state of the U.S. economy, Grenada is an idyllic escape for couples and families. Many of the island's resorts are featuring specials sure to suit every budget.

Bel Air Plantation, located in the parish of St. David, is offering a complimentary car for bookings of seven days or more. The offer is valid through September 30, 2008. **Bel Air Plantation**, www.belairplantation.com

The **Calabash Hotel** is offering the "Romantic Escape" package and a "Total Gourmet" package, valid now through December 16, 2008. The "Romantic Escape" package includes seven nights in a suite with breakfast and dinner daily, tax, services and transfers from \$1,195 ppdo. The "Total Gourmet" package includes a seven night stay and all the features of the "Romantic Escape" package, plus a \$700 food & beverage credit (\$100 per room, per day). Rates start at \$1,395 ppdo.

Calabash Hotel, www.calabashhotel.com

Located on Grand Anse Beach, **Coyaba Beach Resort** is providing a "Couples Blissful Babymoon" package, now through December 15, 2008. The package includes a five night stay in a Superior Collection Ocean View room, all meals, unlimited drinks, tips and taxes, one \$50 Babystyle gift card, one \$170 spa treatment gift card and a signature chocolate amenity. Price is \$1,374.12 ppdo.

Coyaba Beach Resort, www.coyaba.com

The **Flamboyant Hotel** is extending several summer specials for 2008. In July, the resort is offering a "Stay for Seven Nights & Pay for Five" special. For stays in August, the resort has a "Stay for Seven Nights & Pay for Six" special as well as a "Stay for 14 Nights & Pay for 12" and "Stay for 21 Nights & Pay for 18" special. **The Flamboyant Hotel**, www.flamboyant.com

The **Grenada Grand Beach Resort** has a summer special of \$149 per night for their Beachfront Room category. The rate is based on single or double occupancy with kids up to 16 years old staying with their parents at no additional charge. The offer

is valid now through December 17, 2008.

Grenada Grand Beach Resort, www.grenadagrand.com

Laluna Resort is offering a "Stay for Seven Nights & Only Pay for Six Nights" special, from June 15 through September 30, 2008. The resort is also offering a "Stay for 14 Nights & Only Pay for 12 Nights" special during this time.

Laluna Resort, www.laluna.com

Lance Aux Epines Cottages has a one night free for stays of one week or more, now through December 14, 2008. Room rates start at \$672 (with the one night free) per week for a one bedroom cottage.

Lance Aux Epines Cottages, www.laecottages.com

Maca Bana Villas has an "Explore & Enjoy" package, available July 1 through September 30, 2008. The package includes one week in a one-bedroom villa, one private yoga and Pilates lesson, a snorkel trip, a private cooking lesson, free use of ocean kayaks and snorkel equipment, a hike in Grenada's rainforest and a local art gallery tour. The package is priced at \$1,250 per person.

Maca Bana Villas, www.macabana.com

The budget-friendly **South Winds Apartments** are offering a one-bedroom, air-conditioned apartment for \$65 a night, with one night free of charge for a one week stay. The two bedroom units are being offered at \$85 a night with one night free of charge for a one week rental. Both offers are valid September 1 through December 15, 2008.

South Winds Apartments,

www.SouthWindsGrenada.com;

Grenada Board of Tourism, 800-927-9554, www.grenadagrenadines.com

FOUR NEW PACKAGES TO ST. BARTHS FROM HÔTEL LE TOINY

Hôtel Le Toiny in St. Barths invites guests to discover St. Barths with one of their four new packages: "Escape" a true St. Barths get away; "Romance" a unique journey to St. Barths for honeymooners; "Summer Breeze" a perfect sea, sun and fun break in St. Barths; and "Serenity, Le Toiny's Spa Package" a restful and serene stay in the world of relaxation.

The Romance Package provides a special and unforgettable journey to St. Barthelemy. Overlooking "Le Toiny Bay" and nestled amongst tropical flora, Hôtel Le Toiny offers an ideal ambiance for a romantic and memorable stay.

From June 1 to August 31, 2008, inclusive rates are approximately \$7,650 for a one-bedroom villa with private heated pool and sea view and approximately \$1,032 for additional nights on a B&B basis). From November 1 – 16, 2008 rates are approximately \$10,193 (approximately \$1,339 for additional nights). Rates are for six nights on a two guest basis and include daily full American Breakfast; private round trip transfers on arrival and departure; a half day with private photographer (photo CD provided, underwater pictures possible); a three course candlelight dinner; a convertible Mini Cooper rental car; a 60 minute couples massage; a lunch; and a bottle of Champagne and flowers upon arrival.

Government tax is five percent on accommodation charge. Travel agent commission is eight percent and 10 percent for each additional night.

Hôtel Le Toiny, reservations@letoiny.com, www.letoiny.com

Travel World NEWS

The Magazine for Destination Travel Specialists

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For Online Subscription, Renewal or Change of Address: www.travelworldnews.com/subscribe
COVER PHOTO CREDIT: Tobago, Blue Haven Lodge



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