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SOPHISTICATED, SCINTILLATING AND SLEEK: PUERTO RICO OFFERS INCENTIVE GROUPS THE PERFECT SITE FOR A SINGULAR, REWARDING EXPERIENCE

SAN JUAN, November 28, 2011 -- With new luxury properties, one-of-a-kind group activities, distinctive event sites and world-class entertainment, Puerto Rico continues to expand its offerings to provide memorable, rewarding and unparalleled experiences to the group incentive travel market.

Puerto Rico is a sophisticated meeting destination with state-of-the-art facilities for training and educational components. Add ample and competitively-priced airlift from around the globe and the familiarity of conducting a program on U.S. soil, and it's clear why Puerto Rico continues to gain popularity as a group incentive and reward travel destination. Following are some of the most recent updates on the incentive travel front that are enticing planners to host their programs in Puerto Rico – and which are impressing some of the most-discerning incentive program participants.

Exciting New Hotels & Resorts

With already an impressive roster of top-name, first-class luxury accommodations such as Waldorf-Astoria Resorts, Ritz-Carlton, Conrad Hilton, InterContinental, Meliá, Wyndham and others, Puerto Rico recently added a few new names to their folio of hotel flagships that are of special appeal to the incentive market.

Recently opened is the **W Retreat & Spa, Vieques Island**. This 157-room private beachfront resort features a dedicated lounge for guests at the airport, stunning sun area with infinity pools, chic lounge spaces, 3,500 sq. ft. of function space, as well as Alain Ducasse's newest restaurant, *miXe at the*

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beach. Another new addition is the **St. Regis Bahia Beach Resort, Puerto Rico**, the Island’s only five-star property featuring 139 suites and intimate meeting spaces perfect for high-end board meetings and corporate events. Set in lush tropical surroundings of indigenous flora which took ten years to cultivate, the St. Regis is home to the 10,000 sq. ft. Rémede Spa, a Trent Jones Jr. Golf Course as well as *Jean Georges*, one of the top ten restaurants in the world.

Currently in the pre-opening stages is the highly-anticipated 496-room **Condado Vanderbilt**, which will open in January 2012 as a restored and re-envisioned 1920s gem in the heart of the hip and happening Condado Beach area. Offering uber-luxurious surroundings, services and amenities include an oceanfront infinity pool, resort spa and fitness center, designer shops and galleries, as well as four on-site restaurants and 15,000 sq. ft. of flexible meeting space.

In coming months, other properties coming online include the 130-room **Ritz-Carlton Reserve Dorado Beach Resort & Spa** in the former setting of Puerto Rico’s renowned Laurance Rockefeller property. **Fairmont Hotels & Resorts** will also place its flag in Dorado when it opens a 500-room property in 2013.

One-of-a-Kind Group Activities

For one-of-a-kind, an once-in-a-lifetime type experience, Puerto Rico offers a great range of diverse activities for incentive groups. Beyond exploring the beauty and history of **Old San Juan**, a World Heritage Site; the nearby **Bacardi Rum Factory** offers interactive tours of their factory and an on-site museum exhibition which highlights the family-owned business’ history of rum-making and rum-making process. Tours also include rum tastings, and other high-scale private events can be arranged on-site.

For soft and eco-adventure activities, incentive groups can tour the **El Yunque** rainforest in whatever way suits them most – hiking, horseback-riding or even on ATV. Other options include visits to the **Río Camuy Caves**; a stunning cathedral-like cave setting, part of one of the world’s largest

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underground river systems; nighttime excursions to one of the Island’s rare **bioluminescent bays** and team-building events with specialty adventure outfitters who host team-building events that include zip-lining through the rainforest tree canopy, photographic treasure hunts, not to mention charter fishing, snorkeling excursions and other high-sea adventures.

Distinctive Event Sites

Incentive planners looking to incorporate Puerto Rico history can choose from the feel of a formal outdoor reception at **Casa Blanca** garden, once the home of Puerto Rico’s first Governor and explorer, Juan Ponce de León or use the expansive courtyard of **Ballajá**, which once served as an army barracks for Spanish soldiers, able to accommodate 1,500 guests for a reception. For an authentic Puerto Rico vibe, the **Jíbaro Party** provides native music, dance and food of Puerto Rico in a carnival-like atmosphere, complete with a strolling band and dancing *vejigantes* dressed in traditional masks to ward off evil spirits.

Several of the Island’s traditional *haciendas*, or plantation homes, also serve as outstanding venues for group functions. At **Hacienda Don Carmelo**, groups can enjoy a private outdoor pig roast at this renowned Equestrian center where the Island’s famed Paso Fino horses and riders demonstrate their talents. The **Hacienda Siesta Alegre**, also a working horse farm, offers stunning views into the El Yunque rainforest, while **Hacienda Campo Rico** offers the rich surroundings of a former sugar cane plantation along with on-site activities such as zip-lining, ATV tours, horseback riding and more.

As the Culinary Capital of the Caribbean, Puerto Rico’s restaurants also offer distinctive experiences. Many top restaurants on the Island offer a chef’s table dining experience, while group cooking demonstrations and hands-on culinary experiences can be enjoyed by larger groups. Puerto Rico also boasts a cadre of celebrity chefs, including Wilo Benet, Peter Schintler, Mario Pagán and Luis Álvarez Príncipe to name a few, serving up modern and Latino fusion fare at contemporary restaurants offering private dining spaces, restaurant buy-outs and dine-around programs.

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World-Class Entertainment

When it comes to entertainment, the people of Puerto Rico can’t hide the fact that they know how to have fun. Headline events provide outstanding nighttime options for incentive groups, complete with VIP skyboxes at the **Coliseo de Puerto Rico** with such top names as Jennifer López, Sting, Ricky Martin and Britney Spears, among others

Golf events are also popular for groups and incentive groups can plan and host a golf program in conjunction with one of the professional golf events held each year on the Island. In particular, the **PGA Puerto Rico Golf Open** held on **Trump International Golf Club Puerto Rico** each year affords opportunities to watch top players up close, enjoy the amenities of VIP service and play nearby courses. At private events and gala functions, live entertainment can range from twelve-piece Latin jazz bands to acoustic guitar players, flamenco and tango dance demonstrations to group salsa and samba lessons. Other evening options include Puerto Rico’s intimate and inviting casinos, cool lounge spaces and wine bars, dance clubs and late-night dining throughout San Juan.

For more information about planning a group incentive program in Puerto Rico, contact the Puerto Rico Convention Bureau at 1-800-875-4765, visit www.meetpuertorico.com or email info@meetpuertorico.com.

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Editor’s Note:

The **Puerto Rico Convention Bureau (PRCB)** is a non-profit organization established in 1962 to drive meetings, conventions, trade shows and incentive groups to Puerto Rico. With offices in San Juan, Chicago, New York, Miami, and Washington DC, the Bureau strengthens Puerto Rico’s competitive position in the Americas and abroad by increasing awareness of the Island’s outstanding meeting facilities and services, and produces approximately \$97 million to the local economy. The Bureau can be reached electronically through the Internet at info@meetpuertorico.com or at its website www.meetpuertorico.com. The PRCB is the official marketing and sales agent for the new Puerto Rico Convention Center (PRCC) opened November 2005. For more information on the new Convention Center visit www.prconvention.com. The Puerto Rico Convention Bureau is the **only** Bureau to have certification by both Lloyds Registered Quality Assurance through the BestCities Global Alliance and accreditation by the Destination Marketing Association International (DMAI) as an elite destination marketing organization. The Puerto Rico Convention Bureau, representing the capital city of San Juan, is a proud member of Best Cities Global Alliance, the first convention bureau alliance that represents the highest standards of service in the meetings and convention industry. For more information, visit www.bestcities.net. DMAI is the world’s largest association of CVBs, representing more than 600 destination management organizations in more than 25 countries.



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