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COURTLEIGH HOTEL AND SUITES

Innovative, forward-think

Janet Silvera

Hospitality Jamaica Coordinator UEST EXPERIENCE is at the apex of the service at the Courtleigh Hotel and Suites, Kingston, placing the property's repeat-guest business among the highest in the capital city.

Innovative and forward-thinking, the 128-room hotel has introduced a Borrows programme which includes access to a number of amenities that guests may use on loan.

"Free weights, yoga mats, clothes steamer, curling irons, cribs and high chairs are among the amenities we provide that our guests may have forgotten," said the hotel's sales manager, Maurice Bryan.

International adapters, cellular phone chargers, jumper cables and mouse pads round out the list.

As if this programme did not separate the hotel from its competitors, Courtleigh guests can now travel light by capitalising on the Leave Your Stuff With Us programme. This is a free service being offered to frequent traveller guests.

"We accept a maximum of one suitcase per person, per storage up to one month, and an optional service of doing their laundry until their return," said Bryan. Standard laundry rates apply in this case.

According to Bryan, the hotel, which gets a lot of local business, is moving with the times and the trends.

"Our guests' comment cards helped us to put these things in place," he revealed.

TRIPLE MILES

The hotel now has triple miles for every minimum three nights spent, American Airlines Advantage member passengers will benefit from the programme, which ends in March. The birth of the new services

comes with a massive refurbishing of several of the hotel's rooms.

"We took out some of the balconies, extending some of the rooms, and placed completely new modern fixtures in the rooms," said Bryan, adding that the suites with kitchens were redone and the entire window panelling was soundproofed.

The entire lobby at the hotel, which has become one of Kingston's favourites, was completely revamped, taking on a more modern look and feel.

Courtleigh is, in fact, the only hotel of its kind in the capital city that boasts two executive office suites "where you have a work desk with a computer station, copier, scanner and fax", he noted. Meetings can be facilitated in

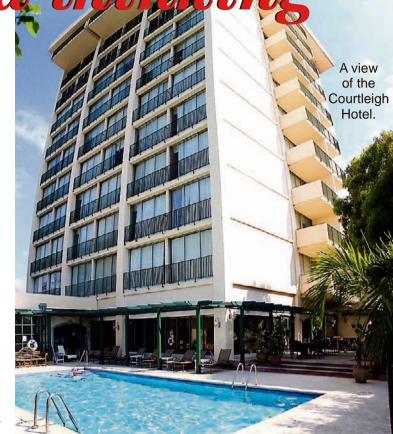
that suite, he pointed out. A veteran in the industry, Bryan

said Kingston was experiencing a rebirth. "We are seeing more business;

there is increased airlift, and the city is getting good publicity."

The Courtleigh is also seeing diversity among its guests, with many coming to discover the city.

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Janet Silvera

Hospitality Jamaica Coordinator

luxury suites, the Princess Royal Suite at the landmark Jamaica Pegasus in Kingston was named in honour of Britain's Princess Anne of Windsor.

The Jamaica Pegasus is a property she has been visiting since the 1980s.

The suite exists for the sole purpose of creating a modern but stately getaway for the hotel's discerning guests, said interior designer Jacqueline Hendrickson.

"When it came to decorating the Princess Royal Suite, we tried to take a step back and view it as a blank slate. Being the hotel's most luxurious suite, it was important that the finishes exuded modern palatial," she revealed.

With that in mind, Hendrickson said she first selected a deep royal blue colour that immediately felt elegant in the space and paired it with a rich but clean cream shade. The bathrooms were kept sleek but lavish by incorporating Carrara marble tiles and a soaking tub.

"We want for the guest to immediately feel pampered when



The Liguanea Suite living area.

entering the Princess Royal Suite, not to mention have a great night's sleep," she added.

A recent multimillion-dollar refurbishing of the hotel has seen the Princess Royal Suite taking pride of place.

However, the Princess is not alone. She shares the spotlight with two other beautifully appointed two-bedroom luxury suites, with names depicting places in Jamaica – Liguanea and Trelawny.

The three are the crown in the jewel of the 300-room business hotel, which boasts facilities for the leisure traveller.

The hotel's Liguanea Suite is one of its more whimsical and unexpected suites. The design which incorporates bright yellows, soft greys and touches of chrome, can best be described as lively opulence. From the

s in Jamaica – foyer entry, to the open living-dining y. room, to the expansive balcony views, own in the the Liguanea Suite is stylised for

today's chic traveller, said Hendrickson. While the Trelawny Suite design is traditional with a twist of contemporary, with rich earth tones

is traditional with a twist of contemporary, with rich earth tones anchoring the suite, the woods of Jamaica are on full display with a mix of patterns that are loosely representative of Jamaica's flora. All three suites carry features including a kitchenette, walk-in closet and grand soaking tubs installed with guests' comfort and pleasure in mind.

Located in the buzzing New Kingston district, The Jamaica Pegasus centres most of its energy in its lobby area.

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The Blue Suite at The Jamaica Pegasus.

USAIN BOLT'S TRACKS AND RECORDS



SAIN BOLT'S Tracks and Records in Kingston, Jamaica, is gearing up for a phenomenal 2016. This year marks five years since the world record holder and the KLE Group first opened the casual dining and sports bar location. Since then, it has become a go-to place for all types of sporting, entertainment and Jamaicanfusion cuisine.

This year is also the year of Usain Bolt's final Olympic Games, and the 'Home of Bolt' is preparing to send him off to Rio, Brazil in fine style. Plan to be in Jamaica for the big five-year anniversary celebration with all our favourite entertainers who have graced our Behind The Screen series, and visit us in the summer to feel like you're in Brazil! January is a time that we're all eating healthier, trying to undo our indulgences over the holiday period. At Usain Bolt's Tracks and Records, you can currently enjoy a soup and wrap special with an array of light and healthy wraps ranging from vegetarian, seafood, and jerked chicken option at prices that are friendly to overworked pockets. If you're a jerk fan, then try the famous jerk platter, a combination of jerk chicken and jerk pork seasoned to perfection and jerked on spiced

sweetwood. Unwind at the fastest man in the world's spot and grab some exclusively signed merchandise in the gift shop. You may even catch the sprinter himself! See you soon at Usain Bolt's Tracks and Records, and look out for a franchise near you soon!



The main bar at Usain Bolt's Tracks and Records.



Artist in Residence Programme showcasing best of Jamaican craft

AMAICAN HOTELIERS have been long-time proponents of presenting the finest of Jamaica's creativity to the visiting public. Most of our finest chefs have been trained in the accommodation sector and have been allowed to use local produce and recipes to create a distinct Jamaican flavour. So it is with fashion, music, dance, and art and craft. Tourism as a whole has played a significant role in sustaining brand Jamaica in general, and specifically the craft sector, by enabling sales outlets, providing training, and supporting standard bearers and promotional activities and events.

For a very long time, hoteliers have had their Jamaica days and nights where the fare is all about the destination and the products supplied by locals. For the most part, this has been a free service to the surrounding communities who depend on tourism for their survival, but who have been locked out of the all-inclusive system. This was a way in. Sandals is one such property that continues to deliver on their commitment to Jamaica by enabling local craft traders and artisans to participate, very importantly – free of charge in their residential product - other places will oftentimes place aqqqa fee on participation, which in turn pushes up the resale cost to the guest and causes dissatisfaction when sales are not made.

Many hotels are partnering with the Tourism Product Development Company to roll out yet another very dynamic programme designed to present the very best of Jamaica's design and craftwork. This programme is called the Artisan in Residence Programme. This is where local master craftsmen and women are invited onto hotel properties as experts in their field. They are invited to share their art and craft and to provide for the guest, by appointment, an interactive experi-



Abdel Mason's 'Mother and Child'.

ence utilising the medium. Their tenure can range from one week to a month, depending on the entity and the response.

This is not a brand new idea, there are many places where there are writers in residence, and painters in residence and these projects take on all kinds of manifestations both nationally and globally.

The first official Artist in Residence Programme will kick off today, Wednesday, January 27, with Round Hill Hotel and Villas presenting an audience with master carvers, focussing on the work of Abdel Mason from Hanover; Errol Lewisfrom St James; the Rose Hall Success Craft market carvers in the person of Errol Anderson and Stafford Stewart; and from St Catherine, Fitz Mitchell. All of these carvers are very different in their inspired presentations in



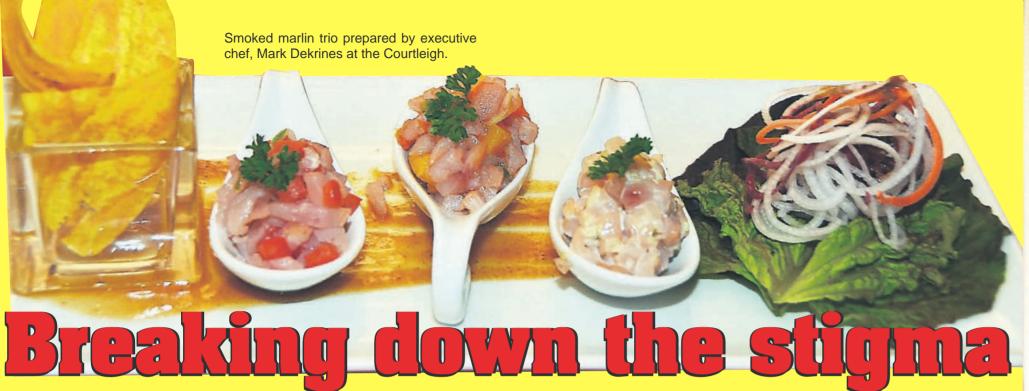
Curator and master craftsman Errol Lewis poses with one of his ceramic pieces. He will also be on show at Round Hill from January 27 to February 3.



SPANISH COURT HOTEL

926.0000 1 St. Lucia Avenue, Kingston 5, Jamaica www.spanishcourthotel.com





Janet Silvera Hospitality Jamaica Coordinator

IMING TO break down the stigma that hotel restaurants are expensive, **L**two of Kingston's executive chefs, Louis Matthews of The Knutsford Court Hotel and Mark Dekrines at the sister property, the Courtleigh Hotel and Suites, will launch new menus at their respective eateries by the end of the month.

The chefs unveiled their new and exciting menu at a tasting for the **Hospitality Jamaica** (HJ) team last week.

"Within a week, we will introduce a set three-course menu

which is cost efficient. Our intention is to get people to know that both hotel restaurants are affordable and welcome locals with open arms," said Matthews, stating that his menu will cost \$2,000 for two courses and \$2,400 for three courses.

Matthews manages the Melting Pot at the Knutsford. His menu, which will change every two weeks, offers a choice among three starters, three entrées and

three desserts. Last Monday, Matthews showcased his jerked chicken spring

rolls and strawberry panacotta, which will both be part of his new menu, as well as an escoveitch lobster he has as his signature dish on his main menu.

"Lobster is a big seller when in season," he stated.

His colleague, Dekrines, is redesigning the offerings at the Courtleigh, unveiling a trendy and easy-to-manoeuvre menu.

"We have a section for Jamaican specialties and one for vegetarians, along with a nice selection of small plates for persons who want to try one or two entrées," he explained.

One of the mouthwatering and simply mind-blowing offerings was the smoked marlin trio. The innovative chef also had an ackee and bacon bruschetta, and a tower of chicken scaloppine on show.

"We have to stay current and offer our guests variety," says Dekrines, adding that his Alexander's restaurant serves breakfast, lunch, dinner and room service.

His menu changes twice per year, and both his culinary staff and Matthews' are involved in the creativity that comes from the two kitchens.

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Escoveitch lobster, the Knutsford Court's signature dish.

Strawberry panacotta.

Tower of chicken scaloppine prepared by Courtleigh.

Jerked chicken spring roll prepared by executive chef Louis Matthews at The Knutsford Court Hotel

Ackee and bacon bruschetta prepared by the Courtleigh.

Kingston hotel restaurants introduce new cost-efficient menus

RIGHT: Executive chefs, Louis Matthews. The Knutsford Court Hotel (left), and Mark Dekrines, the Courtleigh Hotel and Suites.



SUSIE'S BAKERY AND COFFEE BAR

Mojito Mondays the spot to be at!

N YOUR next visit to Kingston, reserve Monday nights for a life-changing, unforgettable experience that can only be had at Susie's Bakery and Coffee Bar located at Shop 1 and 2 Southdale Plaza.

Don't let the name fool you. This multifaceted coffee shop, owned and operated by the affable Susie Hanna, is the home of Mojito Mondays – an event so synonymous with great Jamaican vibes, it is listed on the Jamaica Tourist Board's 'what to do in Kingston'.

Local and international entertainment heavyweights, fashion designers and producers have over



the years made the hang-out spot a favourite when looking for a relaxing evening and a chance to do some networking. Surprising, high-energy and

riveting are certainly ways to





Susie's crispy coconut fish drizzled with curry sauce served with seasoned rice and tossed salad.

describe Mojito Mondays, usually held on the eatery's *al fresco* terrace. Here, you won't be short of entertainment as pockets of dance crews eagerly showcase the latest dancehall moves to music spun by renowned DJ, Supa Hype, as you rub shoulders with inimitable dancehall stars such as Beenie Man, Popcaan, Alaine or Koshens.

The event has repeatedly captured international attention and was recently featured in the **New York Magazine** as one of '15 Excellent Parties, from Belgrade to Beirut', all of which boasted high points for 'hype-abilities' such as vibe, energy, decor, security, location, bar and sanitary services.

Every night offers a new opportunity to be entertained and the restaurant recently added karaoke on Saturdays.

Should you require a more sober introduction to Susie's Bakery, feel free to pop by during the days where you will be privy to everything from espresso-based coffee drinks and delightful pastries you would expect from a café, to fuller course meals such as sandwiches, wraps, pasta and salads – inspired and infused with the eatery's Mediterranean style of cooking. According to Hanna, dining alone at Susie's is never an issue, **WHO** Susie's Bakery

and Coffee Bar

WHERE

Shop 1 & 2 Southdale Plaza

STAR QUALITIES

Mojito Mondays, *al fresco* dining, Wi-Fi, security

TIME

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-midnight Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m.-midnight

particularly for the lone traveller seeking to know more about the Jamaican culture.

"We are big on making our customers know that they are our reason for cooking, so when you dine here, you become family; you join conversations that are happening and you laugh and dine with strangers who will soon become acquaintances. Regardless of who you are – entertainer or eager traveller – we ensure that your experience with us is unforgettable."

Down them or restore them ... an architectural renaissance needed

Paul H. Williams

Hospitality Jamaica Writer HEN THE earthquake of 1692 destroyed Port Royal, the then 'wickedest city on Earth', many survivors crossed the harbour and settled on seaside land at what is now known as Kingston. Many died from infection from mosquito-borne diseases

and exposure. To formalise the settlement, the Government bought 200 acres of land known as Colonel Barry's Hog Crawle, owned by Sir William Beeston, for £1,000. That was the birth of Kingston. Plans by John Goffe, a surveyor, were drawn up, and terms by which settlers could acquire land were issued.

Yet, Port Royal was still an alluring place, and people were turned off by the state of affairs in the new settlement. Port Royal was once again ravaged, in 1703, this time by fire. Shortly after, by law, Kingston was made the chief trade port and point of entry into the island. It was



The Ward Theatre, existing in the sad shadows of its glory days, belongs on some recovery ward somewhere, or a demolition ball or two will do.

declared a parish in 1713. However, it was not until 1872 that it succeeded Spanish Town as the capital city. It has evolved into a bustling Caribbean metropolis with a colourful political and social history. Its physical spaces have changed many times, and its architecture has depicted many styles and influences. Sadly, though, Kingston has been going through decades of architectural rot, and its face is blighted by structures long past their days of grandeur.

URBAN AESTHETICS

A walk through downtown Kingston is almost painful if you are into urban aesthetics. There are too many dilapidated buildings, especially residential ones. Yes, some are unbelievably still occupied. They are nothing short of an eyesore, and have absolutely no heritage or historical value.

All over the city, there are edifices that tell the story of how great Kingston had been. They are a main part of the spatial and architectural history of the city built on the Liguanea Plain. But they are unsightly, and are telling the narratives of neglect and the absence of the political will to make Kingston pretty again. From east, to central, to west Kingston, despite the modern superstructures, there are too many things that make the Englishspeaking Caribbean's top city very unattractive. And abandoned brick, board and concrete erections at various stages of dilapidation have taken much from the romance of the Kingston story.

These unflattering buildings must be demolished; those that can be restored should be. For if Kingston is to go through a renaissance, its buildings have to be an integral part of the rebirth. It does not make sense to have lovely restored edifices, such as the Simon Bolivar Culture Centre (SBCC), an oasis in the city at North Parade and Church Street, juxtaposed against architectural decadence.

Not far from the SBCC is the Ward Theatre, existing in the sad shadows of its glory days. It belongs on some recovery ward somewhere, or a demolition ball or two will do. But it should not remain at North Parade with its dirty, peeling face much longer.

Kingston must not return to being a 'hog crawle', a pigsty of yesteryear. It must sparkle beside the Caribbean Sea. An architectural renaissance it truly needs.



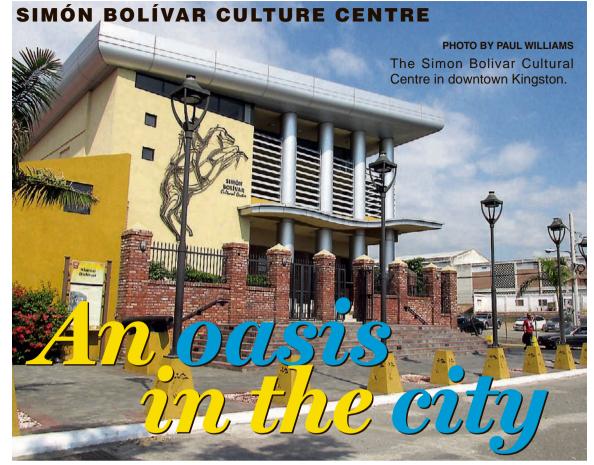
Paul H. Williams Hospitality Jamaica Writer

HE SIMON Bolívar Culture Centre (SBCC) looks attractive and imposing at the corner of North Parade and Church Street in downtown Kingston. The inside is just as comely. In the heart of the drab, it is indeed an oasis in the city, an ideal stakeholder in the thrust for a Kingston renaissance.

The idea for the centre was conceived by the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, and P.J. Patterson, former prime minister of Jamaica. The project, which began in 2009, was funded by Venezuela's PetroCaribe Development Fund and the Government of Jamaica.

It was built and offered as a gift, in honour of Simón Bolívar, 'The Liberator' of South America. In 1815, Bolívar lived in exile in Jamaica, at 33 Princess Street, Kingston, from where he wrote his now famous Letter from Jamaica (*Carta de Jamaica*). The letter was about how he felt about the independence movement in Venezuela.

The centre was renovated by the Urban Development Corporation (UDC). The chief UDC architect, Jamau Kambui, designed the building, on the front of which is a metal sculpture by Raymond Watson rep-



resenting a battle-ready Simon Bolívar on his horse. The centre was handed over to the Institute of Jamaica in April last year. In September, it was officially opened with pomp and pageantry. It is now handed over to the IOJ's Programmes Coordination Division, which oversees its management and operations. The SBCC is a cultural space that has an exhibition hall called Salon de Bolívar, an interpretation room, a language lab, a multipurpose room, and a research library area. The facilities are available to the general public to host cultural and educational activities, performances, lectures, film-screening, rentals, etc. There is currently an exhibition on Simón Bolívar, with printed copies of his letter from Jamaica at the centre of it.

One of the thrusts of the centre is to make it into a place where people can go to absorb and learn Latin American culture. Thus, the centre offers Latin dance, French, Spanish and personal development classes for adults and children. The Spanish courses include advanced and three-month conversational classes.

In terms of the expansion of what the centre offers, the old pimento warehouse at the back of the premises and the theatre tavern nestled between the Ward Theatre and the SBCC are under consideration. And according to Nadine Boothe-Gooden, centre manager, it is the intention to make the centre an iconic place for language, literature and culture in general.



THE BOOSEVELT GUEST HOUSE



Sinthe America Control Control

By virtue of its location, The Roosevelt Guest House, over the years, has served as a home away from home for many rural Jamaicans, especially during the busy athletic season, for example, Boys and Girls' Champs and other such athletic events hosted at the National Stadium or Indoor Sports Centre. Relax in air-conditioned comfort as all rooms boast air conditioning and cable TV, and are selfcontained. The guest house offers ironing facilities much in keeping with the requirements of its guests who are sometimes business people from inside and outside Jamaica.

One of the reasons for the Roosevelt's success to date is that they have a room for everyone, literally; they have varying sizes of rooms, with smaller rooms available at very affordable rates. While there is no restaurant on location, light refreshment and dessert is on sale at the premises; and for a cooked meal, they have a list of restaurants that come highly recommend that will deliver for the convenience of their guests.

Visiting Kingston, check out The Roosevelt Guest House, centrally located at 3 Latham Avenue, off Herb McKinley Drive/Roosevelt Avenue. Visit them on Facebook at **www.facebook.com/RooseveltKingston** or call them at 978-4803/4.



Had a busy, tiring day in Kingston? Don't risk your life by driving home. Stay overnight at The Roosevelt. It's comfortable and affordable. At The Roosevelt, they go the extra mile to make guests feel at home. Call their office at 978-4803/4.

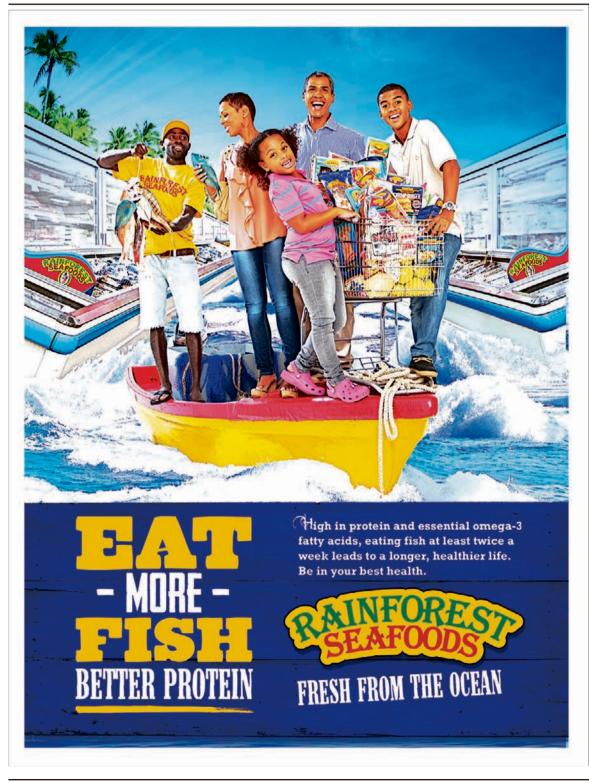




Cristian Meuter, Jamaica Tourist Board sales representative, addresses travel agents in Dusseldorf, Germany.

JTB stages roadshows in European markets

HE JAMAICA Tourist Board (JTB) continues to engage members of the travel trade about the magic of Destination Jamaica. The JTB has staged several roadshows in key European cities since the beginning of January. The shows are designed to update tour operators and travel agents on development in Jamaica's tourism product.



In the cities of Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Munich and Milan, JTB representatives and several tourism partners had the opportunity to interact with agents as they were briefed on expansions in Jamaica's tourism offerings. Information included the new and upgraded hotels which have been added to the room stock in time for the winter tourist season and, the diverse menu of attractions, including the recent designation of Kingston as a Creative City of Music by UNESCO. Additionally, participants learnt about the opening up of new legs on highway 2000, which allows easy and timely access to major towns and cities across the island.

SALES OPPORTUNITIES

"These roadshows were strategically planned to coincide with the start of the new year just after the festive period and in what is traditionally one of the highest booking months for destinations in Europe," said Gregory Shervington, the JTB's regional director for continental Europe. "Add to that the extremely cold weather in central Europe, which is a motivator to get consumers thinking of travelling, thus providing opportunities for agents to sell Jamaica. We also expect to make tremendous gains on bookings for the current winter season given the increasing trend toward lastminute bookings by the European consumers," he added.

The success of Destination Jamaica in welcoming millions of visitors each year is due in part to promotional events such as trade shows. These shows empower agents from each city were selected to participate in the roadshows. Each the information they need to generate interest in the island and sell the destination. The top-selling agents agent had the chance to participate in a raffle and the lucky winners will win travel prizes provided by Jamaica's tourism partners.



JAMAICA WELCOMES AZMARA JOURNEY: On Sunday, January 10, the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB), welcomed a new vessel, the *Azamara Journey*, on its inaugural call to Jamaica at the Falmouth Cruise Shipping Pier. Captain of the *Azamara Journey*, Johannes Tyse (left), accepts a plaque featuring Jamaica's coat of arms from Janice Allen, JTB regional director. The vessel, which carries almost 700 passengers, offers unique experiences with inclusive packages that allow passengers to participate in specially curated events in each port at which they call. This is part of their Destination Immersion package, where the vessel stays in port for longer hours, giving guests the opportunity to experience more of the destination. During their stopover in Jamaica, they were entertained by world-renowned reggae band, Third World, and a Jamaican food fare courtesy of Chukka Good Hope.



Since the second second

The Altamont Court Hotel is a 58-room hotel that offers a variety of accommodation options, including deluxe, executive suites and a presidential suite. Each room at the hotel is fully air-conditioned, elegantly designed, and fitted with modern amenities such as Internet connectivity, cable television, safety deposit boxes, phones equipped with voicemail systems, and coffee and tea-making facilities. To make your stay at the Altamont Court Hotel even more pleasant, we have included complimentary breakfast and no additional cost for children under 12. All these are aimed at making your Altamont Court Jamaica experience as comfortable and convenient as possible.

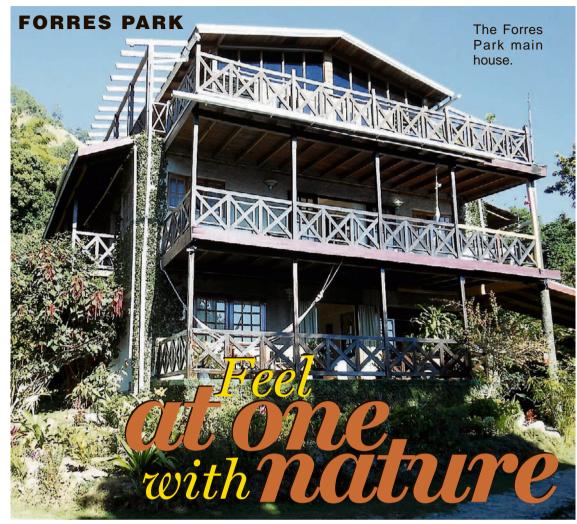
At the Altamont Court, we believe that the customer is the reason we exist, and so we must go above and beyond their expectations to create exceptional experiences for them.

We believe that our success depends on the happiness, competence and motivation of our team. Every decision we make must follow the highest ethical and moral standards.

We strive daily to actualise our vision: to be a competitive and customer-focused hotel delivering added services to our customers.

The Altamont Court Hotel's swimming pool.







An aerial view of Forres Park.

PCORRES PARK is a small, intimate 10-bedroom nature retreat and spa snuggled in the grand ridge of the Blue Mountains in Jamaica. It is built on a 60-acre working coffee farm that offers the best Jamaica shade-grown Blue Mountain coffee.

The Swiss chalet-style house and cabins have spacious patios where you can take in the breathtaking views of the Blue and John Crow mountains, which will encourage you to feel at one with nature. Golden rays of sunlight glistening through the hills greet you with each dawn as you wake up to the loving embrace of Mother Nature rejuvenating mind, body and spirit. At Forres Park, you can be adventurous or to simply relax in your surroundings. The choice is yours.

The quiet, still, serene ambience is broken only by birds singing. Birdwatchers can enjoy locating the 28 endemic and many of the 200 other Caribbean resident and migrant species. For more adventurous guests, a variety of activities with varying levels of adventure can be arranged by your hosts. The most popular activities at Forres Park are the Coffee Farm tour, birdwatching, and the famous hike to Blue Mountain Peak.

The Blue and John Crow Mountains were listed as world heritage sites in July 2015 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. This prestigious accolade is one more reason to visit Forres Park, nestled in the remarkable Blue Mountains.



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