

letter from the *president*

Dear Friends:

Island Destinations is recognized as “The Authority for Luxury Travel,” but what defines luxury travel today? As we celebrate a milestone, our 25th Anniversary, let’s take a moment to reflect on the vast changes this industry has experienced through the years, and what it takes to succeed in today’s market.

In the 1960s, must-have items at luxury resorts included window air conditioners and black and white televisions. The 1970s called for BetaMax video machines on newly available color televisions, and the 1980s called for Walkman personal stereos offered poolside. Luxury travelers in the 1990s required dial-up access to America Online on a Commodore 64. These items are obsolete today. Nevertheless, luxury travel continues to evolve and redefine itself, offering new over-the-top amenities each year and keeping pace with the rising expectations of today’s sophisticated traveler.

While affluent travelers expect and demand the luxury items of the moment, no resort claiming luxury nomenclature can thrive on these items alone. The truth is that luxury travel is about more than the latest gadget or technology; it’s about exceeding expectations. Personal service has been the cornerstone of our business from day one and today, 25 years later, we continue to underscore the importance of personal service along with the finest and most assured luxury offerings to the nation’s premier travel professionals.

A-list jetsetters want an experience that leaves them with a unique cultural understanding or an extraordinary memory that will last a lifetime. Our dedicated and experienced staff, working together with trusted travel professionals, delivers once-in-a-lifetime memories to the most venturesome of travelers, and clients can take comfort in knowing that each individual experience, including everything from an indigenous healing ceremony on a remote island to a private session with a world-famous artist in his hilltop studio, is created just for them. We also offer special features, available exclusively through Island Destinations, such as upgrades, amenities, concierge services, our pre-departure “Peace of Mind” Cancellation Waiver and our complimentary post departure insurance through AIG.

The 25th Anniversary Travelers Collection 2009 features world-class hotels, resorts and villas that meet our exacting criteria for excellence, honed through years of experience. We continue to scour the world searching for new gems and, new for 2009, we are proud to add Bali to our collection. Mystical, memorable, and truly exotic, our resort offerings there represent the best in the world, and I am delighted to award Bali’s new Bulgari Resort with the 2009 President’s Award for the Most Exciting & Emerging Destination.

We thank you for your continued support as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary and look forward to servicing you for years to come.

Sincerely,



Maurice Bonham-Carter
President & CEO

