



2008, March 14

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Jamaica Inn receives top rating from TripAdvisor

Jamaica Inn in Ocho Rios was rated 18th on the Top 100 Best Luxury Hotels in TripAdvisor's 2008 Travelers' Choice Awards. In addition the hotel placed 2nd in the 2008 TripAdvisor's Top 10 Best Luxury Hotel category for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The 47-suite property is located just two (2) miles east of the centre of Ocho Rios and sits on a 700-foot private beach.

The TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice award winners for 2008 were determined by a combination of TripAdvisor's Popularity Index and traveler ratings of specific attributes.

[For further information visit: www.tripadvisor.com OR www.jamaicainn.com]

The Harder They Come now playing before UK audiences

The theatrical production of the 1970's hit film *The Harder They Come* is now playing before UK audiences at the Barbican Centre. The classic Jamaican musical has been at the Centre since March 6 and will continue running until April 5. The production will then move to the Birmingham Hippodrome from April 11 to 13.

The original film, which starred international reggae icon Jimmy Cliff, was successful in helping to launch reggae music on the international stage. Produced and directed by the late Perry Henzell and co-written by Trevor Rhone, the film tells the story of young Ivan Martin, who heads to Kingston with dreams of becoming a reggae star, but the harsh reality of the Jamaican music scene drives him to a life of crime.

The lead character, which was played by Cliff in the 1972 production, is now being played by Rolan Bell in the new theatrical musical.

[For further information visit: www.barbican.org.uk]

The original film (The Harder They Come), which starred international reggae icon Jimmy Cliff, was successful in helping to launch reggae music on the international stage.



The meeting room will have a maximum seating capacity of 80, while the Business Development Centre has seating capacity for 12.

Carnival Freedom hosts brunch to fund expansion of conference facility in Ocho Rios

The Luxury Cruise Liner "Carnival Freedom" will be docked at the Ocho Rios Cruise Shipping Pier on Thursday, April 3 to accommodate guests for a fund-raising brunch being put on by the St. Ann Chamber of Commerce. Proceeds from this event will go towards matching funds being provided by the Private Sector Development Programme (PSDP) – a European Union facility, for the expansion of the Chamber's multi-use Conference/Business Centre.

The expanded building will accommodate a meeting room, a business development centre, computer services and bathroom facilities and will undergo renovation to its present kitchen/catering facilities. The meeting room will have a maximum seating capacity of 80, while the Business Development Centre has seating capacity for 12.

Guest Speaker at the fund-raising brunch will be Governor General of Jamaica, The Most Hon. Professor Sir Kenneth Hall, ON, GCMG, OJ.

[For further information telephone: 876- 974-2629/9289]

New line of luxury suite for Sandals Negril

Sandals Negril Beach Resort & Spa is nearing completion on eight new Plantation Suites set to debut in late April 2008. The new suites will be reminiscent of a Plantation House, complete with West Indian-themed décor. Five of the eight Plantation Suites will include a private plunge pool, outdoor shower and lush garden, while the remaining three suites will feature romantic, private balconies.

[For further information telephone: visit: www.sandals.com]



"Odyssey" tells the story of an enslaved people, beginning with their life in Africa and subsequent capture and enslavement in Jamaica.

Bicentenary observance continues

The Bicentenary observance to mark the abolition of the trans-Atlantic trade in Africans continues with a cultural expose entitled *Odyssey*. This will take place at the Caribbean Sculpture Park, University of Technology (Utech) in Kingston on Tuesday, March 18.

Odyssey tells the story of an enslaved people, beginning with their life in Africa and subsequent capture and enslavement in Jamaica. The dramatic production, which features drumming, narratives, singing and dancing, will also look at the Jamaican people as they are now.

The Bicentenary of the slave trade was officially observed in 2007, however *Odyssey*, which was originally scheduled for last year was delayed and is now being staged.

Odyssey will feature the Utech Art and Theatre Ensemble.

[For further information telephone: 876-970-4441]

St. Elizabeth Horticultural Society stages flower show

The annual St. Elizabeth Horticultural Show will take place on Easter Monday, March 24 at Independence Park in Black River.

The theme for the show is: ***45 and still alive*** in recognition of the 45 years of existence of the St. Elizabeth Horticultural Society. The event will showcase the island's indigenous flora and fauna in an array of vibrant and colourful displays. Exotic plants will be on sale.

The flower show will also feature loads of entertainment for the entire family. Attractions include an Easter bonnet parade, fashion show, bounce about, merry-go-round, water slide, the Pride of Exchange Marching Band and the Genesis Steel Band.

[For further information telephone: 876-965-2288]



Reminders

2nd staging of Symphony Under the Stars

Set the Night to Music is the theme for the second staging of the classical reggae concert - Symphony Under the Stars. This musical extravaganza will take place at the Cable and Wireless Golf Academy on Saturday, March 15.

The show will headline international Rhythm and Blues artiste, Roberta Flack and features A.J. Brown, Da'ville, LUST, Courtney John and Chalice.

Inaugural Caribbean Veggiefest March 15-16

Positive Tourism Network in association with the Caribbean Health Tourism & Spa Conference stages its inaugural Caribbean Veggie Fest 2008 to showcase a range of Caribbean vegetarian foods. This will take place at Rhodes Hall Plantation in Green Island, Hanover on March 15 and 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

[For further information telephone: 876-381-1591 / 876-381-1417 OR visit: www.caribbeanveggiefest.com]

International Cuisine Dinner Series

The University of Technology's School of Hospitality and Tourism Management Dinner Series continues this weekend. Since February 1 an indigenous cuisine and culture have been highlighted in the series. The expose takes place at Lillian's Restaurant on the campus grounds.

The remaining themed dinner is FRENCH NIGHT on Friday, March 28.

[For further information email: icds2008@yahoo.com or telephone: 876-867-4028]



FRIDAY FACTS

Upcoming Events

- **The Royal Visit** March 12 -14
- **Caribbean Veggiefest** March 15-16
- **C'bean Health Tourism & Spa Symposium** March 16
- **Symphony Under the Stars** March 15
- **St. Elizabeth Horticultural Show** March 24
- **Trelawny Yam Festival** March 24 (**cancelled**)
- **St. Ann Chamber of Commerce brunch** April 3

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For details on these and other information of relevance to the JTB and the tourist industry please visit our information portal at www.jtbonline.org