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HOT NEW HOTELS

40 new properties you need to know about now

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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS:

• Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino Specialist

• Spa Specialist

HOT NEW HOTELS

Here are 40 must-see properties that have opened or repositioned since January 2007

HOW DID WE COMPILE OUR LIST? We turned to **Travel Agent** magazine's top in-house destination editors and freelancers, who have traveled the world to sample some of the best; we also consulted with three industry experts and globetrotters: Ignacio Maza, executive vice president of Signature Travel Network; Suzanne Hall, senior director of marketing and development, land products for Ensemble Travel Group; and Albert Herrera, vice president of Virtuoso's Hotels and Resorts Program.

The Bahamas

The Cove Atlantis—Paradise Island

Chic design, a high level of service, two nightclubs and a hip pool scene have made this resort a must for jetsetting clients. Soaring 22 stories into the sky, The Cove Atlantis (www.thecoveatlantis.com) is home to 600 suites, all with great ocean views. We found it to be the ideal complement to the just-opened Reef Atlantis, which is more geared toward families. Contact Brent Hall, national sales manager, leisure sales at 954-809-2175 or brent.hall@kerzner.com.

Cable Beach Resort and Crystal Palace Casino—Nassau

We recently checked out the \$145 million repositioning of the Sheraton Cable Beach Resort and its sister property, Wyndham Nassau Resort, which comprise Cable Beach Resort and Crystal Palace Casino (www.cablebeachresorts.com). We stayed in Sheraton's Ocean View Room #583 and loved the balcony, which offered partial pool and ocean views. The Ocean Breeze Suites, however, are the "wow" factor here, since they offer wraparound, private terraces, plus bedrooms with adjoining parlors for wet bars—ideal for entertaining. And while we highly recommend Atlantis for gaming, The Crystal Palace Casino was about half as crowded and the table minimums were about half as expensive. Contact Vince Angelo, Sheraton Cable Beach Resort's hotel manager at vince.angelo@sheraton.com.

The Caribbean

The Mediterranean Village at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa—Antigua

The \$70 million Mediterranean Village at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa (www.sandals.com) is an elegant retreat; we predict that besides attracting loyal Sandals fans, it will also draw an affluent, hip Gen-Y crowd, who will want to "see and be seen" at the huge freshwater pool with swim-up bars and luxurious cabanas, which are equipped with Wi-Fi. The top accommodations here are the One-Bedroom Villas, which have their own plunge pools and Jacuzzis, but we preferred our Penthouse Suite (#4501) because of its dramatic views of the Caribbean, and the entire resort for that matter. Contact Jennifer Ross, manager, retail partnerships, Unique Vacations at 305-284-1300.

Maxim Bungalows—Puerto Plata, The Dominican Republic

Singles are strongly encouraged to visit the highly anticipated Maxim Bungalows (www.maximbungalows.com), two properties set to open in Puerto Plata. Maxim Bungalows, Cofresi Beach, will debut March 15 while its sibling, Maxim Bungalows, Juan Dolio, is scheduled to open in September. The hotels are mainly for the *Maxim* magazine readership, 29-to-36-year-olds, singles and even couples looking to live the good life. Aside from a posh pool area with hip cabanas, guests of the Maxim Bungalows at Cofresi Beach can unwind at the huge 17,000-square-foot spa and on the 54-foot Maxim yacht, *Independence*. Contact Adriana Acosta, sales manager for Maxim Bungalows, at 809-970-3364, ext. 35060 or aacosta@maximbungalows.com.

Villa Aquamare—Mahoe Bay, Virgin Gorda

At Villa Aquamare (www.villaaquamare.com), the 62-foot *Azimut* power yacht and 36-foot *Tiara* cruising yacht are available to rent, and make a fine perk to the three 8,000-square-foot villas that have just opened here on Virgin Gorda. Each villa has five bedrooms and large outdoor showers

