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Solage, an Auberge Resort



Intercontinental Hotel Hong Kong

eco- friendly

moves

By Margaret Coventry

Auberge Resorts launched **Planet Auberge**, an internal program based on the **Green Spa Network's** Sustainability Assessment Tool. Their various properties have shown what it means to be creatively green in new and refreshing ways. For example, Solage in Calistoga donates \$2 per reservation to the Napa Valley Wine Trail. The property also did away with all plastic bottles in rooms, replacing them with glass milk bottles for water. In addition, all cafeteria waste is being composted. At Auberge's **Calistoga Ranch property**, the general manager called on neighboring farmers to send their sheep to the property for three to four months to eat the weeds—drastically cutting back on noisy gas-powered weed whackers. Guests at this forward-thinking property receive an **organic bouquet of fresh herbs grown on the grounds as a departure gift**.

The **InterContinental Hong Kong** is one of the first hotels in Hong Kong to participate in the **EarthCheck Programme** (rebranded from "Green Globe" in 2010), an environmental organization that monitors energy conservation efforts for organizations and grants environmental-related certifications for its members, based on their compliance to stringent conservation efforts and initiatives. In 2009, the hotel was the first in Hong Kong to achieve **Silver Certification** with its environmental management system fully in place. It is also the first hotel in Hong Kong to offer **CarbonCare Event solutions to its meeting and event customers, in partnership with Carbon Care Asia**. Upon request, Carbon Care Asia can provide the hotel's meeting and event clients with a simple event assessment, carbon measurement, suggestions for carbon reduction, plus options of carbon off-set, along with official

verification options. In addition, the hotel now offers the option of "Low Carbon Menus" for events.

Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts places a strong emphasis on corporate social responsibility. Banyan Tree Phuket in Thailand rehabilitated an abandoned toxic tin mine that was previously written off for development. It also invested \$150 million to remediate a 1,000-acre site back to its previous lush tropical setting, and 7,000 native trees were planted to reestablish a teeming wildlife. In 2003, Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru Maldives launched the **Banyan Tree Marine Lab**, becoming the first resort to have a fully operational research and educational facility within the infrastructure. In early 2007, Banyan Tree launched another Marine Lab at its Velavaru property. The mission of both is to promote marine conservation and encourage sustainable use of marine resources. The Lab



Banyan Tree Phuket

protects and researches locally significant and endangered species, such as Green Sea Turtles and corals, while promoting education and health within local communities by actively working with the youth.

Eco-friendly resorts in Aruba include **Bucuti Beach Resort, the first Aruban hotel to receive the Green Globe certification.** This past December, the **Hyatt Regency Aruba received the coveted Four Green Keys rating from Green Key Global.** It recently debuted Meet and Be Green, a new program that encourages guests and planners to make green choices for their meetings.

The Four Seasons Punta Mita has implemented a variety of green initiatives into their daily activities. Some of these include: donating all used oil from kitchens for different uses, such as fuel; a recycle plant in the resort to reuse the liquid to water the two golf courses and grounds; an onsite biologist works to preserve the flora and fauna at the resort; and recycled garbage is divided into organic and non-organic bins.

Keep an eye out for green-minded hotels and resorts that are using the new **Eco Eclipse Dispensing System for in-room amenities.** Brands participating in the program include Pure Fiji, Body Eclipse Spa, Body Eclipse Natural, and J Beverly Hills. The system helps the environment by reducing landfill waste by up to 97 percent while enormously cutting back on the amount of wasted product and housekeeping expenses.

A 100 percent carbon-neutral resort as of March 2009, Costa Rica's **Tabacón** was recognized by Sustainable Travel as one of the world leaders in sustainable tourism by conferring **Luxury Eco Certification**

Standard certification. This recognizes Tabacón's ongoing eco-friendly efforts, its Green Brigade comprised of resort staff, the resort's electricity conservation and recycling

programs, the tree-planting project that allows for guest participation, and contributions to the local community development fund. The resort's two underground reservoirs and natural mineral springs provide 100 percent of the hotel's water while eliminating the need for energy-consuming water cooling and heating sources.

Diners with specific dietary requests often have to forfeit flavor and choice for their health, but not at Fairmont Hotels & Resorts. As of January this year, the luxury hotel brand will offer **Lifestyle Cuisine Plus**, a new menu available upon request catering to guests with specific diet-dependent conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and gluten-free, as well as **unique dietary preferences including, macrobiotic, raw, and vegan diets.** Utilizing nutrient-rich ingredients, clean cooking methods, and local food products, diners at Fairmont, whether in a restaurant, bar, banquet or in-room, can be sure dishes are wholesome, balanced, and full of taste.

Is England on your agenda? Check out the **Dorchester Collection's** new country house hotel, Cowarth Park. **The Spa at Coworth Park is an eco-luxury spa** that embraces a wide agenda of green and sustainable measures ranging from natural and recycled materials combined with low energy lighting, a biomass boiler, and water conservation

measures. Emerging from the hillside, the spa has a **living roof with plants and herbs**, and it claims to be **the world's first spa to incorporate carbon negative lime hemp walling as part of an overall design objective** to be carbon neutral in its landscape setting.

Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants is fortifying its "stay true to you and your lifestyle" mantra by introducing new tools to inspire healthy living on the road by partnering with renowned health and nutrition expert Joy Bauer. With 35 percent of consumers stating that they don't eat healthy because they don't have the time, chefs at Kimpton restaurants nationwide and Bauer have joined forces to make it easier to choose sensible meals by introducing seven delicious, nutritious, and energizing in-room dining options for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Additionally, Kimpton and Bauer have designed complimentary, **On Demand in-room videos that help travelers shake off stress**, make smart eating choices, and maintain a balanced life on the road. ☐



Four Seasons Punta Mita