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PRESS RELEASE

ELEGANT RESORTS TIPS 'THE BIG FIVE' FOR LUXURY LONG HAUL HOLIDAYS IN 2010

BARBADOS, MAURITIUS AND MALDIVES ARE TOP WHILST AFRICAN BEACHES AND AMERICAN ESCAPES BECOME MORE POPULAR

Barbados is holding firm as the favourite long haul destination for luxury holidays, according to the UK's leading luxury travel company, Elegant Resorts. It was the most popular luxury destination in 2009, and maintains this position for 2010 so far. Mauritius and the Maldives are emerging as the next two hot destinations for 2010, with Dubai in fourth place and the USA sitting firmly at number 5.

Commenting on the trends, Alison Scott, Commercial Director, Elegant Resorts, says "As the country's leading luxury travel company, Elegant Resorts is in a great position to be able to comment on trends at the top end of the market. Whilst Barbados is firmly in the lead for 2010, the Maldives and Mauritius are really surging ahead at the moment, with a great demand for holidays in these idyllic parts of the world. We have also seen a high level of interest in Cruises, following the recent launch of our Luxury Cruise brochure. With our years of expertise in luxury travel, and as a fully ABTA bonded tour operator, our clients come to us for the exceptional levels of service we offer, and can trust in our guidance on the finest resorts around the world.

'Barbados is the classic luxury holiday destination, with a glamorous image and iconic hotels such as Sandy Lane and Cobblers Cove. Mauritius offers some of the finest service you will find anywhere in the world, with perennially popular properties such as One&Only Le Saint Géran and The Residence. The Maldives quite simply excels in innovation at its resorts, with a whole new region to discover in the far south with the opening of Alila Villas and Shangri-La's Villingili and the added benefit of the BA direct service which started in November 2009.'

The USA is also seeing a growth in popularity as a luxury holiday destination, from the lively cities of New York and Las Vegas to the more 'back to nature' experiences on offer at some of the wonderful ranches, as well as the superb beach properties available. Just outside the top 5, Antigua is also performing strongly and looks set to benefit from the much awaited reopening of Jumby Bay after extensive refurbishment. Elsewhere, there has been an increase in demand for African beach properties in destinations such as Mozambique, with the 'away from it all' experience that these offer.

Elegant Resorts has some superb deals available to each of the top destinations, including the following:

Sandy Lane Hotel, Barbados

Free Nights

Stay 8 nights for the price of 7 from £4190 per person – saving £1290 per couple. Price is based on two adults sharing an Orchid Room on a bed and breakfast basis, economy flights from London Gatwick with British Airways and return private car transfers. Valid 07 January to 07 February 2010 and from 22 February to 31 March 2010 inclusive.

Price based on a departure date of 16 January 2010.

One & Only Le St Géran, Mauritius**Free Nights**

Stay 7 nights for the price of 5 from £2450 per person – saving £1340 per couple. Price is based on two adults sharing a Junior Suite on a bed and breakfast basis, economy flights from London Heathrow with Virgin Atlantic and return private car transfers. Valid 09 January to 26 March 2010 inclusive.

Price based on a departure date of 16 January 2010.

Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, Maldives**Free Nights**

Stay 7 nights for the price of 5 from £2460 per person – saving £1530 per couple. Price is based on two adults sharing a Lagoon Villa on a bed and breakfast basis, economy flights from London Heathrow with Qatar Airways and return shared speedboat transfers. Valid 09 January to 10 April 2010 inclusive.

Price based on a departure date of 16 January 2010.

One & Only Royal Mirage, The Palace, Dubai**Free Nights**

Stay 5 nights for the price of 4 from £1330 per person – saving £950 per couple. Price is based on two adults sharing a Palace Deluxe Room on a bed and breakfast basis, economy flights from London Heathrow with Virgin Atlantic and return private car transfers. Valid 04 January to 12 February 2010 and from 20 February to 26 March 2010 inclusive.

Price based on a departure date of 16 January 2010.

Mandarin Oriental New York**Free Nights**

Stay 4 nights for the price of 3 from £1910 per person – saving £1040 per couple. Price is based on two adults sharing a Mandarin Executive Suite on a room only basis, economy flights from London Heathrow with British Airways and return private car transfers. Valid 01 January to 31 March 2010 inclusive.

Price based on a departure date of 16 January 2010.

For bookings, please call Elegant Resorts Reservations on 01244 897538 or visit www.elegantresorts.co.uk

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