

The Gleaner
Hospitality Jamaica

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Skylark in Negril.
CONTRIBUTED

Artsy Jamaica

from Film Festivals and Tattoos to Cultural Icons

Who should take responsibility for visitor safety and security? **6**

Bright prospects for tourism in Portland **12**

RJRGLEANER Hospitality Jamaica Awards 2019 – Finalists **16**

NEGRIL

the next big thing in film?



Movie-lovers watched the films on the beach during Skylark Film Nights in Negril last Saturday night.



Negril native Storm Sauter, who wrote and produced the Jamaican film 'Sprinter', photographed next to a billboard promoting the Skylark Film Nights.

THE LEGENDARY Negril Beach is being eyed for a full-fledged film festival, spawned by the success of last weekend's Skylarks Film Nights, which featured eight Jamaican short and full-length films, including **Sprinter**, which was produced by Negril native Storm Sauter.

Skylarks Film Nights, staged for the second year in a row, was curated by renowned Jamaican film-maker Gareth Corban and held at the Skylark Resort in Negril.

According to him, the capital of casual has the potential to become a giant among other film festival destinations, due to a large global film following, the town's uniqueness and appeal, and worldwide interest in Jamaica's culture.

"So when you have festivals, you have people who are submitting films for festivals and you have viewers. And, if we get on that circuit of festivals, we can become a spot for people to come ... As a location, Negril has an enchanting and magical feeling that you can't deny," Corban said.

He explained that festivals are not only about the films, but it is also about the locations – many exotic, where you can view films, while tasting the culture. "Our culture is so massive it spills over to the rest of the world. So it's a no-brainer that people would want to come here and appreciate our culture on screen. We do it with reggae and dance-hall and people come for it."

The same can be done with films, he argued.

Cobran envisions the event growing to

the extent that other filmmakers from the Caribbean, even the Far-Eastern countries such as Japan, which have embraced Jamaican culture, would be able to screen their films in Negril. The allure of Negril, he said, would not only attract film tourists, but also investors who are looking for films to endorse; films to put out; new kinds of films to invest in.

"For me, there are so many things that have happened on this strip of white sand beach, different kinds of events, and it's all because of the space; the magic of the space. And cinema in itself is magic. So, marrying the two, I don't see where we can lose," he said with conviction.

Cobran, who studied film at the University of Central England, Birmingham Institute of Arts and Design, has produced music videos for artistes such as Busy Signal, Konshens, Elephant Man and Tarrus Riley. He has worked for corporate entities such as Digicel, Red Stripe, NCB and GraceKennedy, in addition to numerous documentaries.

Sauter is also of the view that his hometown can become the next big thing as a film festival destination. The Manning's High School old boy said he and some of his compatriots had staged the Flashpoint Film Festival on Negril's West End in the early 2000s, and was happy something greater was in the making.

"I grew up in Negril, on this beach running around," the Los Angeles Film School-trained film-maker said. I grew up here and I know that this is a place that creative people



A section of the audience that turned out for Skylark Film Nights in Negril. PHOTOS BY JANET SILVERA

love to come to. So I think it is a great idea,” he said.

He believes the industry is making some headway as the global taste for films outside of Hollywood is growing exponentially.

“It’s a good time for film-makers. It’s like sup’ m a gwaan; you can feel it in the air. I think cinema in Jamaica and across the Caribbean is the freshest being made in the world, and I think what’s exciting about it, it’s young with a lot of room to experiment and grow. One time, it was just Hollywood movies, but now the audience wants way more diversity, way more stories and characters, and to see themselves more broadly, so that’s a very great place to be in for Jamaican film-makers,” he said.

“They are very open to our stories and, also, the Caribbean has a pretty unique history; we are global people. I think anything that is made here is as relevant as anything else,” he added.

Studies have shown that the number of film festivals being staged across the world is growing rapidly, providing tourism dollars to the towns in which the festivals are held.

Film festivals have been credited with creating links between tourists and their host communities, and also providing future tourism development opportunities in those areas. This fact has not been lost on hotelier and operator of Skylark Resort, Paul Salmon, who jumped at the idea of a film event after Corban broached the subject. For Salmon, initially the film night was a way to get guests of one of Negril’s newest resorts to immerse themselves in the culture to have an authentic Jamaican experience.

“We are looking forward to next year and are brainstorming ways to grow it into a fully fledged festival,” he said.

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Negril film-maker Storm Saulter (centre, front row) is flanked by other film-makers who showcased at the Skylark Film Nights. At right is curator of the event, Gareth Cobran. PHOTOS BY JANET SILVERA



Negril residents and tourists who turned for Skylark Film Nights relax on lounge chairs as they enjoy the entertaining Jamaican movies.



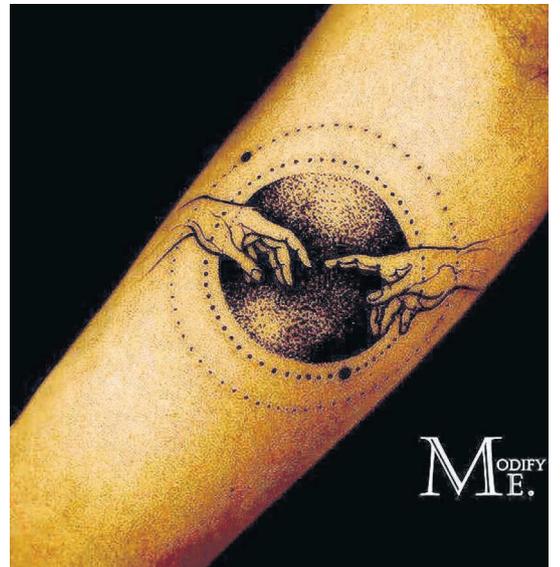
Movie lovers smile for Hospitality Jamaica’s camera during Skylark Film Nights in Negril on Saturday night.



Artist Calvin Lamey (right) shows off his paintings to Tamrah Pryce (centre) and Taihia Becker at Modify Me. PHOTOS BY JANET SILVERA



The talented Danielle Lee's work is sought after by people from near and far. CONTRIBUTED

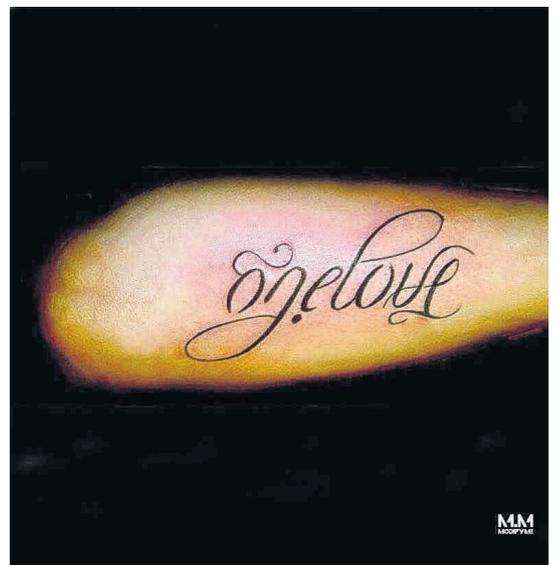


Minimalist linework tattoos by Danielle Lee. CONTRIBUTED



Modify Me channels tattoo tourism into Montego Bay

Danielle Lee, the multifaceted proprietor of Modify Me in Montego Bay.



'One Love' by Danielle Lee. CONTRIBUTED

THERE IS no question that in Jamaica art and travel are inextricably linked.

Art tourism itself is described as visits paid by people to explore and engage in activities related to art, such as art festivals, galleries, concerts, and film festivals.

In terms of fine arts, while art galleries in Montego Bay are few and far between, there is one gallery in the Second City

that is making a statement to tourists and locals alike, and that is Modify Me at the new Feareview Mall.

Modify Me is not only a gallery for fine arts but a classy, contemporary parlour that has kick-started Jamaica's entry into tattoo tourism.

For operator of Modify Me Danielle Lee, the art form is catching on in the city, and she has a growing local and

tourist clientele.

"For tattoos, especially, I do get a consistent turnout of tourists," she said.

Tattoo tourism has been a staple in countries such as Tahiti, Hawaii, Japan, New Zealand, Borneo, Thailand, and Samoa, where people traditionally ink their bodies as a ritual.

All of the walls of Modify Me are covered with paintings from more than 15 artists from Montego Bay and other parts of the island. Lee is running out of space and so is planning a rotation system to facilitate the growing number of artists whose paintings are showcased there.

For Sharon Cunningham, a Montego Bay artist who

specialises in painting and leather jewellery, Modify Me is helping to enable her products to get added exposure and reach new markets, in addition to the support that she has been getting within the hotel sector.

"I have my products in a few hotels – Secrets, Tryall, Round Hill, S Hotel – and I am working on Half Moon,"

she said.

"The response has been quite good. Usually, when the season kicks in, that's when you get the action. So I'm hoping to have a good season this year," she said.

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'The response has been quite good. Usually, when the season kicks in, that's when you get the action. So I'm hoping to have a good season this year.'



Sharon Cunningham (left) of Mema Designed shows off some of her paintings to Summer Pottinger. PHOTOS BY JANET SILVERA



Visual artist Ricardo Newman shows off some of his paintings to Susan Cameron.

Who should take responsibility for visitor safety and security?

DAVID JESSOP

Hospitality Jamaica Writer

THE OPPORTUNITY to relax in an idyllic environment is, for most, what makes a Caribbean vacation so special. Understanding this is why the region has been able to grow its tourism product so successfully and cater for almost every type of visitor, whether seeking sun and sea or a cultural experience.

To underpin this, the governments and the industry have strived to create an environment that is safe, and as far as possible, risk- and incident-free, despite the grittiness of everyday life for many Caribbean citizens.

This is not unreasonable. Tourism has become the single most important contributor to national and regional economic development, with visitor taxes and spending being a significant part of the revenue needed for education, healthcare and other forms of social provision.

However, what high levels of visitor dependence does do, is place host nations at economic and reputational risk when incidents happen, whether caused by natural disasters, health concerns, crime and violence, or terrorism.

The issue, and who is responsible for ensuring visitor safety and security, has therefore become of increasing importance.

The topic was addressed by a panel earlier this month at World Travel Market in London. There, Jamaica's Tourism Minister, Edmund Bartlett, said that to help address the matter, Jamaica had developed a 'manual of tourism ethics'.

Scheduled to be released a little later this year, and the first to be produced in the Caribbean, this handbook would, he said, propose a new security architecture for tourism. Based on the outcome of an islandwide security audit of hotels and attractions, the document will be used to ensure that Jamaica remains a secure destination for visitors and those who work in and around the industry.

In the same session, Minister Bartlett expressed concern about



David Jessop

what he described as the economically damaging effects of travel advisories issued by governments in source markets. He called for "global oversight", arguing that such notices have a potentially negative effect on the economic viability and stability of nations that are tourism-dependent.

How this might work was not made clear as the US, Canada, the countries of Europe, and others like Australia and Japan, regularly issue such advice independently and as a part of their legal duty of care to their citizens.

Such notices inform about the risks a visitor might face when travelling to a particular country, usually in relation to crime, terrorism or public health.

PROTECTION

The objective of such advice according to diplomats, is to meet citizens' expectations that their government will warn them of risk, and have in place the appropriate consular services to protect them, if required.

For the most part, officials recognise that too strident or disproportionate a warning could result in economic damage to the country concerned and its tourism industry. However, the same diplomats also observe that the published advice

must respond to events and media coverage, and, in the case of some countries, reflect host nations' inability to tackle or solve visitor-related crime, or to address crime more generally. They also indicate that in the case of some smaller nations in the Caribbean, the notices published may reflect an unwillingness of the local authorities to admit the serious nature of the crimes involved or their frequency.

To confuse matters, different governments in the region's key visitor source markets adopt different approaches. It is therefore quite possible at any one time to find the US, British or Canadian governments issuing advisories that vary in tone or even content.

So contentious have some country's travel advisories become that behind the scenes, they are the subject of difficult, high-level political or diplomatic exchanges about both the detail and the robustness of the language used.

What this serves to illustrate is the tension between governments and tourist boards in regions like the Caribbean that want visitors to believe that all is well and that nothing will trouble a vacation, and the legal and moral responsibility that governments in source markets say they have to inform their citizens and the travel trade about issues in certain destinations.

While there can never be any guarantees or certainty anywhere in relation to risk, one obvious way forward is for governments in both receiving and sending nations to be proactive, speak more, and be prepared to respond honestly and accurately when challenges occur. It also means reacting rapidly and responsibly when any threat to visitor safety occurs.

The problem, if that is the right word, is that vacations exist to encourage visitors to relax and, increasingly, to seek out experiences and the authentic. The paradox is that if in the process of a relaxing Caribbean vacation they become too trusting and less aware, they may be more likely to be caught up in the unexpected or in dangerously evolving situations, in ways that no travel advisory or security audit can ever address.



high tide



low tide

Relax responsibly!



S HOTEL JAMAICA

embracing and promoting the arts

PAUL H. Williams
Hospitality Jamaica Writer

JAMAICA IS a land where many heroes and legends were born and bred, and in homage to them many monuments, some in the form of statues, were erected.

From Morant Bay in the east to Montego Bay in the west, these structures are telling part of the story of who we are, and where we, (out of many, one people) are coming from. The Montego Bay Legends Circle is one of the places to go see some of these statues.

Situated on the lawns of St James Place Shopping Plaza, located along Jimmy Cliff Boulevard, part of the friendly city's Hip Strip, these statues are somewhat different from others elsewhere. They are made of the recycled material produced by Scheed Cole, CEO of 360 Recycle Manufacturing.

There, are the life-like impressions of national heroes Samuel Sharpe and Marcus Garvey, National Heroine Nanny of the Maroons, and music legends Bob Marley and Jimmy Cliff. In addition to those statues, there is a monument in honour of the Reggae Girlz and a statue of track and field legend Usain Bolt made of screws and bolts, and metal plates.

Apart from the heroes and legends, there are two crocodiles and two lions made of the 360 recycled materials. The project is the brainchild of Christopher Issa, chief executive officer



One of the prints currently on show in an exhibition, titled 'Heart and Soul', inside S Hotel in Montego Bay.

(CEO) of S Hotel. The Montego Bay hotel is located beside the plaza, and the Legends Circle is situated in front of the shops on the plaza owned by the property.

Apart from the monuments, the S Hotel has been showcasing Jamaican art in its varied forms. There are many pieces in its lobby

whose walls are mainly covered by "simulated keystones" made of cement, and it is currently curating an exhibition titled 'Heart and Soul', depicting "different walks of Jamaican life" on the walls of all the corridors.

Some of the fixtures and furniture in the lobby were made by Tamara Harding from a guango tree that was felled on a property, across the road from the hotel, that is being upgraded to situate a conference centre. There is also a print of Michael 'art warrior' Thompson's work in all of the rooms.

"As a Jamaican hotel company, we wanted to showcase the best of Jamaica and the things that we think make us different, one of them is our culture ... If we know the ways we can make it tangible, we are gonna use it more as we sell Jamaica ... It is our culture which comes from many years and many different influences," Issa said.

The concept for the circle came when S Hotel, which holds the franchise of Usain Bolt's Tracks and Records, located in the plaza, acquired the metal statue of Bolt done by German sculptor Diedel Klover in 2012. Klover, who is married to a Jamaican woman from St Mary, was influenced by the Olympian's exploits at the 2008 Olympics and the 2009 World Athletics Championships.

The tribute to the Reggae Girlz was expected to be mounted in a 'Jamaica Pavilion' during

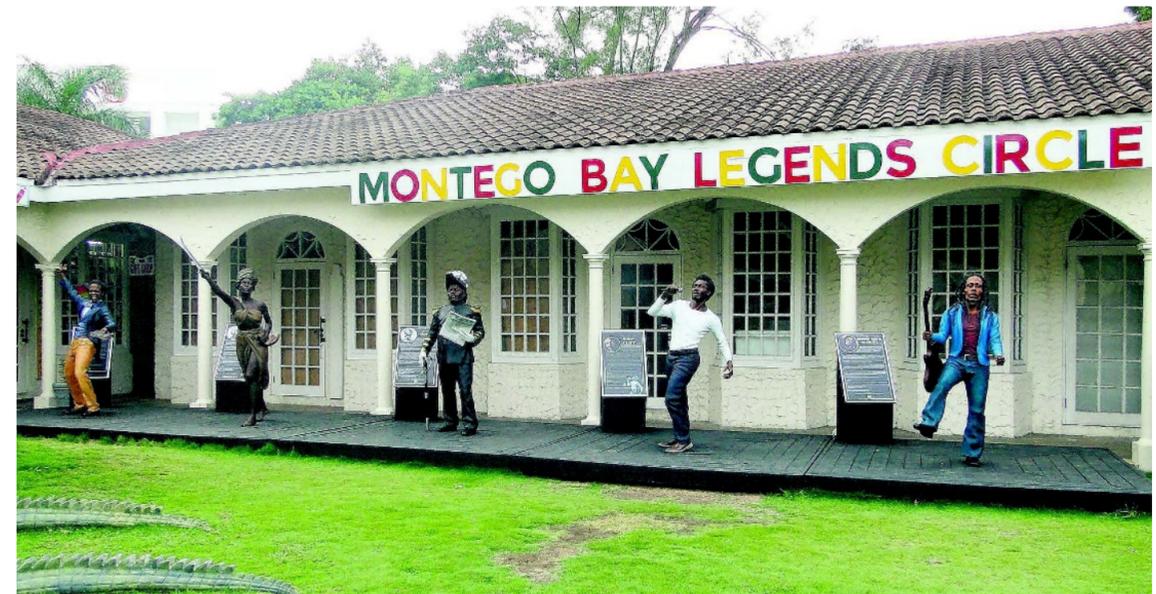
the 2019 Women World Cup in France. That pavilion did not materialise and S Hotel acquired the piece.

When the idea of putting more pieces in the space was conceived, a representation of Bob Marley also popped up. The chain got permission from Marley's family with the promise that it represents Marley's real-life height. To get it right, they contacted Cole whom they knew of from a project in Negril and an article in **The Gleaner**.

National Hero Marcus Garvey and National Heroine Nanny of the Maroons followed Marley. Jimmy Cliff, a son of St James, also gave permission for his likeness to be mounted. When National Hero Sam Sharpe was suggested to join the pantheon, that he was already mounted in Sam Sharpe Square was the response.

The fact that the statues in the circle were different from the ones in Sam Sharpe Square was another retort, and S Hotel acquiesced. It turned out that Sharpe's likeness is Issa's favourite because "it brings Sam Sharpe to life", while he said that of Garvey is the "best rendition" he had ever seen of Jamaica's first national hero.

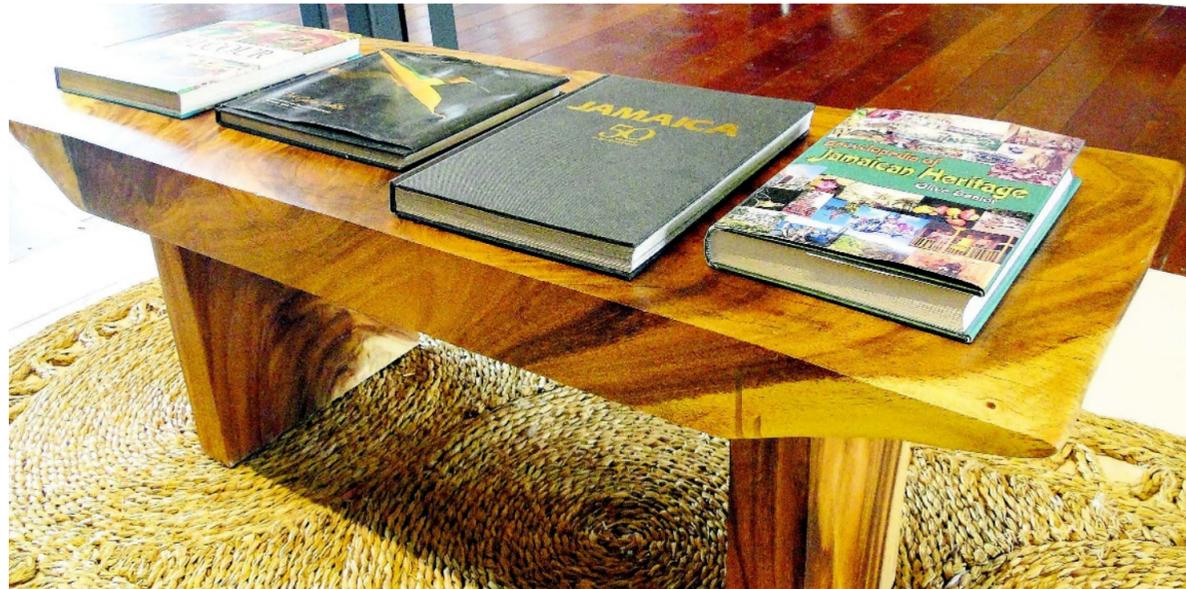
Through the Montego Bay Legends Circle, it is the intention of Issa "to inspire and to spread the word about our culture and the Jamaicans that went before us," he said.



The Montego Bay Legends Circle. PHOTOS BY PAUL WILLIAMS



A rendition of National Heroine Nanny of the Maroons is made of recycled materials.



Some of the furniture and fixtures in the lobby of S Hotel Montego Bay are made of a guango tree that was grown in the area.



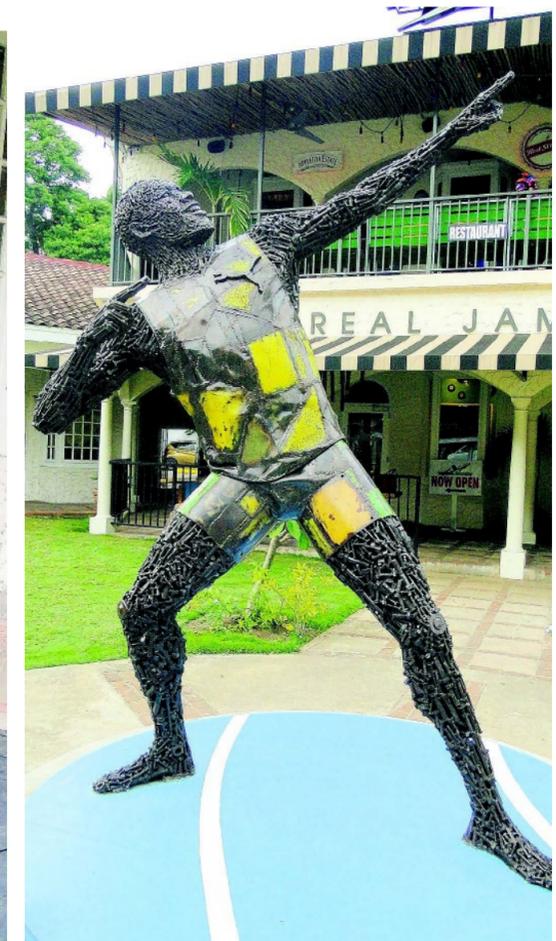
This Scheed Cole rendition of reggae legend Bob Marley is made of recycled materials.



National Hero Samuel Sharpe.



This Scheed Cole rendition of National Hero Marcus Garvey is also made of recycled materials.



This statue of track and field legend Usain Bolt, made of screws, bolts and metal plates by German sculptor Diedel Klover in 2012, was the first to be mounted in the Montego Bay Legends Circle.

JTB hits success with digital trade show

JAMAICA TOURIST BOARD

THE JAMAICA Tourist Board (JTB) is reporting huge success with the staging of the inaugural Jamaica Virtual Expo. The tech-driven expo, held on October 30, placed Destination Jamaica on show to hundreds of travel agents in one virtual space. This is a first for Jamaican tourism, and the feedback has been positive.

Designed to provide online exposure and business opportunities for tourism partners, particularly small properties, some 26 properties registered and participated. These include Charela Inn Hotel, Mais Oui, Jamaica Inn, The Cardiff Hotel & Spa, Sunflower Resort & Villas, Fun Holiday Beach Resort, Round Hill Resort & Villas, The Courtleigh Hotel Group and Sandals Resorts International. The 26 registered suppliers benefited from having a concentrated online audience of travel agents who are interested in selling Jamaica.

The Jamaica Virtual Expo is a part of the JTB's digital marketing thrust to connect local stakeholders with audiences in new and emerging market spaces. Utilising innovative tools and technologies, the strategy also incorporates an inclusive approach that helps to provide a level playing field, so all stakeholders have the opportunity to showcase their business regardless of size, offerings and marketing dollars.

"This initiative was heavily tech-driven, as this is the meeting space where we connect with all our stakeholders," said Donovan White, director of tourism. "TravAlliancemia



Jamaica Virtual Expo – Exhibit Hall. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

was our international partner which gave us access to their large travel agent database. The majority of travellers still prefer the counsel offered by travel agents and tour operators, and this expo is one initiative to keep this communication channel open. Preliminary data shows huge engagement with travel agents, demonstrating that our product continues to have great appeal in the global marketplace," he added.

GOOD TURNOUT

Jack Fenning, digital media coordinator, travAlliancemia, asserted, "We had 1,141 attendees, which is the most we've had for any expo all year! Congratulations to the team, suppliers and everyone involved to make this expo a huge success."

During the four hours of engagement, there were robust discussions not only between travel agents and suppliers, but, interestingly, among travel agents, some of whom gave their

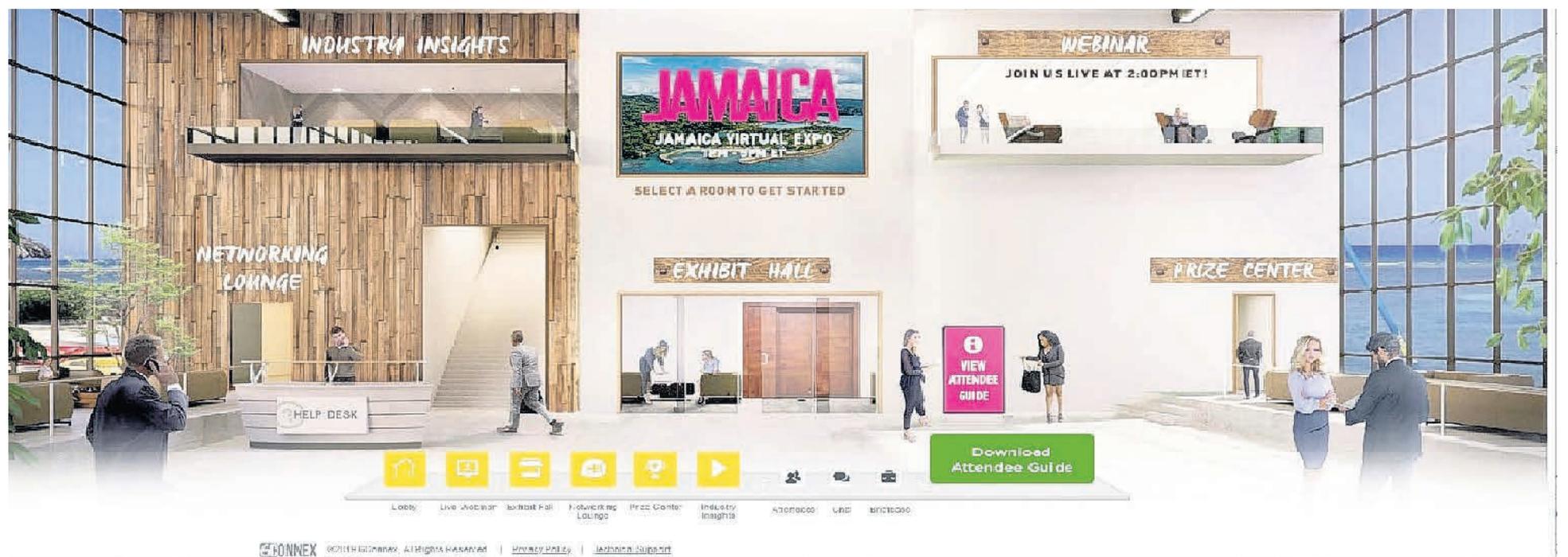
experiences and the satisfaction of selling Jamaica to their clients. Agents from the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean participated in this inaugural expo, with the United States and Canada having the largest representation.

The expo delivered on facilitating real-time interactions between agents and suppliers, which fostered networking and business opportunities, with the convenience of participants connecting from their native spaces at significantly reduced cost. Suppliers were able to engage in live chats, direct message and email agents. Agents had the ability to view, download and share electronic assets on demand from each supplier.

The availability of timely analytics was one of the primary reasons for selecting this platform as it will provide insights on engagement, geographic location and basic agent

profile which will assist in charting the way forward for business relations. Initial data show that there were a minimum 350 visits to each booth, with a high count of 554. From the interactions, Jamaica's accommodation deals, beaches, adults-only properties, weddings and honeymoons, MICE and cruise offerings were dominant conversation themes. For the next 30 days, travel agents can visit the platform to download and share collateral material from the booths.

Expo participants included agents who were already selling Jamaica as well as those who were new to the destination. Vonetta Mitchell, a cruise planner, had this to say, "I sell Jamaica frequently. It is one of my favourite Caribbean islands to book clients." Meanwhile, Brenda Bayliss of Larkspur Travel expressed, "I am looking to add Jamaica to my portfolio, so this virtual trade show has been awesome."



A view of Jamaica Virtual Expo dashboard.



The new HEI hospitality training facility at Cousins Cove in Hanover. PHOTOS BY JANET SILVERA

Hanover Educational Institute opens state-of-the-art polytechnic facility

THE HANOVER Educational Institute (HEI) has made another giant step in its bid to become a full-fledged state-of-the-art polytechnic institution with the official commissioning of a J\$9-million hospitality training facility at its Cousins Cove location.

The construction was funded by the Embassy of Japan.

The building was officially handed over by Counsellor Shotoku Habukawa, deputy head of mission of the Japanese Embassy, and comes 17 years after executive director and principal of the institution, Angela Haye, established the school.

The HEI was initially set up to provide remedial classes to secondary-school dropouts and to facilitate students who were performing below the required academic standards in high schools, and were considered by others to be irredeemable.

First housed at a plaza on Watson Taylor Drive, the institute was later relocated to an abandoned community centre at Watson Taylor Park, and then to a facility in neighbouring Bulls Bay, before establishing its permanent base at Cousins Cove



Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan, Shotoku Habukawa (second left), is assisted by Angela Haye, principal and executive director of the Hanover Educational Institute to cut the ribbon at the opening of the new hospitality training facility. Looking on are Chairman of the school board, Kenrick Davis (left), and Takeshi Takano, resident representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency in Jamaica.

several years ago.

In her address at the hand-over ceremony, Haye said she is anticipating training 100 students each year in dining-room service, bartending and cooking skills, who will thereafter be

NCTVET-certified.

“We are preparing ourselves to be able to take up whatever opportunities exist to help train and empower at-risk youth to make them employable,” she explained.

“As you may be aware, western

Hanover is poised for development, including a 2,000-room hotel coming to the Green Island area. We see ourselves playing a vital role in the training and placement of potential workers. Additionally, there is a push by the Ministry of Tourism to invest heavily in training at all levels of the hotel sector as a deliberate effort to produce high-quality workers for the market,” she said.

MULTIPURPOSE CENTRE

The executive director noted that in addition to training potential workers, the building will offer dining and event-services to the public.

“This project is a community development project, so we are open to hosting you for meetings, gatherings, as we seek to raise much-needed revenue to sustain our programmes. The servers will be students; the bartenders will be students; the cooks will be students. The trainees will have the opportunity to get the practical hands-on training that will prepare them for the world of work,” she stated.

Haye said the next order of

business will be to seek corporate assistance to acquire resources to furnish and fully equip the facility, set up a solar electricity system to help reduce dependency on the traditional power source, as well as implement a water-harvesting system and construct a perimeter fence. She said thereafter, the school’s management will tackle the other goals, which include venturing into other areas of vocational, agricultural, entrepreneurial and academic training.

In his presentation, Habukawa said the opening of the facility was a significant achievement, but pointed out that it also heralds what he described as the real work by the HEI to provide value-added education and skills training opportunities for its trainees.

“I do hope this new environment will enable all student trainees to excel in their areas of training, and that the community will be able to feel a sense of purpose knowing that the needs of the people will be met.”

The funds to construct the building were granted under the Japanese Embassy’s Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects, which supports projects, education, health and agricultural missions proposed by community-based organisations, local authorities and non-governmental organisations.

Bright prospects for tourism in Portland

GARETH DAVIS SR
Hospitality Jamaica Writer

KEN WRIGHT PIER, PORT ANTONIO:

HEADED BY Captain Hamish Elliott, who is Jamaica-born, cruise vessel *Seabourn Sojourn* docked at the Ken Wright shipping pier recently with 750 passengers and crew during its inaugural visit to the resort town of Port Antonio.

The visit, which was obviously an enjoyable one for Elliot, saw him expressing joy and happiness, having returned to the country of his birth, especially in the capacity of the ship's captain. It was a visit that he said allowed him to mingle with representatives from the Jamaica Tourist Board, the Port Authority of Jamaica, Caribbean Maritime University (CMU) and the local people.

"We are really so excited to be here," said Elliott.

He continued: "Everybody is so excited, and the passengers that I have spoken with going off the gangway are really looking forward to

spending the time here. The only bit of sad news is that it is only one day. We will be back in the future again and again."

The *Seabourn Sojourn* is owned by the Carnival Cruise Line shipping company, which has a long history and association with Jamaica dating back to the 1970s, when the fleet of cruise vessels made frequent calls to Port Antonio, with as many as three ships per day.

But while the *Seabourn Sojourn* made its historic visit to the pristine eastern parish, it was embattled president of the CMU Professor Fritz Pinnock, who is currently on special leave from the school, who hinted that the resort town of Port Antonio was poised for resurgence in tourism and cruise ship arrivals, given its aesthetics.

"Most of the ships that we are getting are in what you would call the mass category," said Pinnock.



Chairman of Mayberry Investments Limited, Christopher Berry. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



From left: Professor Fritz Pinnock; Sharon Williams, cruise liaison officer, Jamaica Tourist Board; Evroy Johnson of Lannaman & Morris Shipping; and Captain Hammish Elliott enjoying champagne aboard the 'Seabourn Sojourn'.

He added that the *Sojourn* was a high-end ship. "For a ship of this nature to come here and have a second call in December, I think this is progress for Jamaica. So whereas Port Antonio is a little different, you won't see the mass number of calls coming, but the targeted high-end ships coming here can bring greater value to the economy. I think this is very good."

He is of the opinion that this was a representation of the future of even greater activity, and with Cuba opening up, he said that Portland was going to see some new styles of cruising.

Speaking of Port Antonio's

diversity, he noted that unlike Ocho Rios, Montego Bay, and Falmouth, which tend to attract bigger mass ships, this market was reserved for the more boutique ships, "and we also see this in the new Port Royal to come, which I'm very excited about".

Pinnock's comments come on the heels of statements made by chairman of Mayberry Investment Limited, Christopher Berry, who told *Hospitality Jamaica* that Port Antonio was the gem of the Caribbean and that its natural look, pristine beauty, and friendly people make it easy to promote and market.

"We have people coming from

Grand Cayman just to fish in an angling tournament," said Berry.

He added that visitors are captivated by what they see and experience, which includes the island's indigenous food.

"And here in Portland, there is the renowned Boston jerk pork, which has a rich history, especially among our local cuisine. The stage is set for Port Antonio, which is where tourism started, to once again boom in confidence and to get its fair share of the tourism pie. The recently concluded Superstars of Port Antonio Blue Marlin Tournament is a testimony that we can still attract people to our shores."



Sharon Williams, cruise liaison officer at the Jamaica Tourist Board, presents a gift to Captain Hammish Elliott of the 'Seabourn Sojourn' during its inaugural visit to Port Antonio.

Brothers chilling in the pool.



A group member having fun in the water at FDR in Runaway Bay, St Ann.



FDR reopens welcoming first group – and they're Jamaicans

CARL GILCHRIST

Hospitality Jamaica Writer

HOTELS ON Jamaica's north coast continue to welcome local guests and Jamaicans continue to take up the offers.

Newly promoted Senior Superintendent of Police Stephanie Lindsay and her batchmates who graduated from the Police Academy on November 12, 1990, took their annual reunion over the weekend to the recently refurbished Franklyn D Resort (FDR) in Runaway Bay, St Ann, and had a blast.

The hotel was closed for renovation on September 1 and reopened November 1, after extensive upgrades which saw two new suites being built and major physical improvements to the plant and menu options, among other things.

Lindsay's group was the first to book since the hotel reopened and being a Jamaican group, there was some significance for FDR's Executive Assistant Manager, Trishawana Davidson, who hailed the continued support of the hotel by locals.

For Lindsay, who also used the occasion to celebrate her recent promotion, the facility was ideal for her group of 40 this year, after they made the decision to bring family members to the get-together.

"This year we were looking for an alternate that was a little different because we've been to most of the resorts in Jamaica, and our search took us to FDR," Lindsay explained on Saturday.



Ludo time for guests of FDR.

"It's a smaller facility than we're accustomed to, so it feels very intimate. Also, there is a lot of nature, so we were quickly drawn to the facility. This year, we decided we were going to take family members, especially the children, so I think one of the highlights is the nanny service that they offer."

Speaking of the support from Jamaicans, Davidson suggested this was the norm.

"We do get huge support from our Jamaican market, especially over the summertime and weekends. You know, once school is out, everybody always come down and treat their families, and everybody loves the nanny concept.

We also have a very high level of repeat clientele as it relates to our local market as well; we have like multigenerational families that come here all the time," she explained.

Looking forward to the upcoming winter season, Davidson said the Thanksgiving weekend will kick-start what is expected to be a busy period for FDR.

According to Davidson: "Things are going well. All the guests are pleased with the improvements, they love the food, they love the hospitality, the service from the staff and it's a positive vibe, so I encourage everybody to remember the little family place with the nannies in Runaway Bay, FDR!"



Trishawana Davidson (left) and Stephanie Lindsay.
PHOTOS BY CARL GILCHRIST

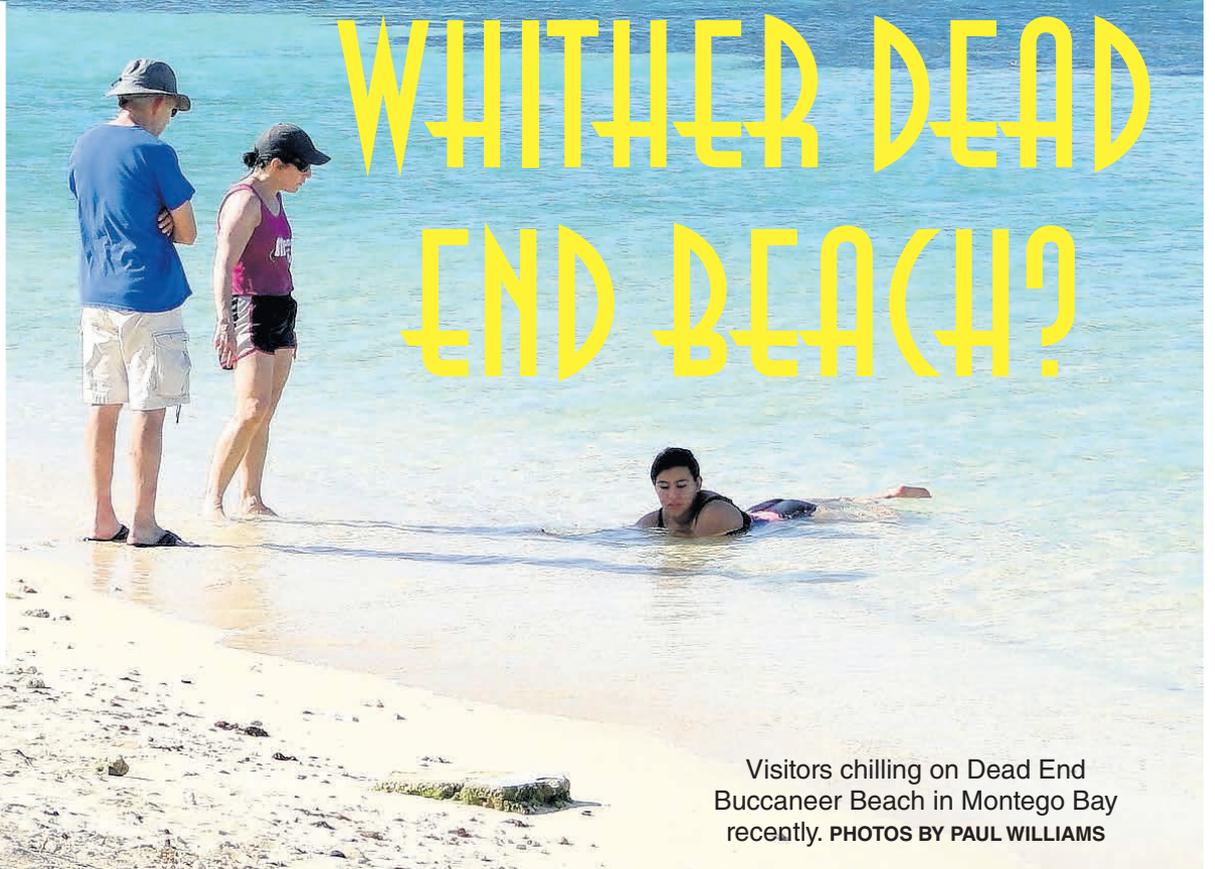


AROUND JA WITH PAUL H.

WHETHER DEAD END BEACH?



Dead End Buccaneer Beach is located in the Montego Bay Marine Park.



Visitors chilling on Dead End Buccaneer Beach in Montego Bay recently. PHOTOS BY PAUL WILLIAMS

ABOUT FOUR weeks ago, I wrote about the seeming upgrading of Dead End Buccaneer Beach at the northern end of Kent Avenue in Montego Bay.

It was one of the beautiful Montego Bay beaches I grew up on, so I get upset whenever I visit and see garbage strewn all over the sands.

The beach and the seawall are a popular chill spot, especially at night, and I am befuddled by the people who hang out there and leave their mess all over the place despite garbage receptacles being situated at strategic points. The area is also a fish-replenishment zone.

Over the years, I wished silently that somebody would see

what I was seeing and do something about it. So recently, when I saw men building a wall, I wondered whether the beach itself would be touched.

REHABILITATION

Last week, my question was answered; the beach itself is being rehabilitated. The loose rocks and fallen tree had been removed, and so had the refuse. The sand was levelled in parts, the wall that separates it from the airport had been painted, and another groyne was being constructed.

A man who frequents the areas was removing bottle caps and shards from the sand. These pieces had replaced the

shells, which I told a youngster who was having a whale of time were embedded in the sand in their hundreds when I was his age. He will never experience the joy of finding these little marine gems.

It was a midweek morning, but locals and visitors were chilling and enjoying the cleaner ambience. I certainly did. Yet, I am still not sure what, eventually, is going to happen. Is this clean-up going to be sustained by whoever is doing the upgrade, and what about the people who use the place? Will they compromise the efforts?

Also, the place needs a restroom, and if not, piped water. This is a public request.



A groyne under construction at Dead End Buccaneer Beach in Montego Bay.



A section of the extended seawall and sandy space that is being upgraded at Dead End Buccaneer Beach in Montego Bay.

'Museum' debuts at Antiques and Collectibles Fair

PAUL H. WILLIAMS

*Hospitality
Jamaica Writer*

IN A sense, the annual Antiques and Collectibles Fair held inside the Lindo Auditorium at Campion College in St Andrew can be referred to as a two-day pop-up museum. It is an event that is replete with a plethora of the items that could be on display in a museum, only that all of items are for sale.

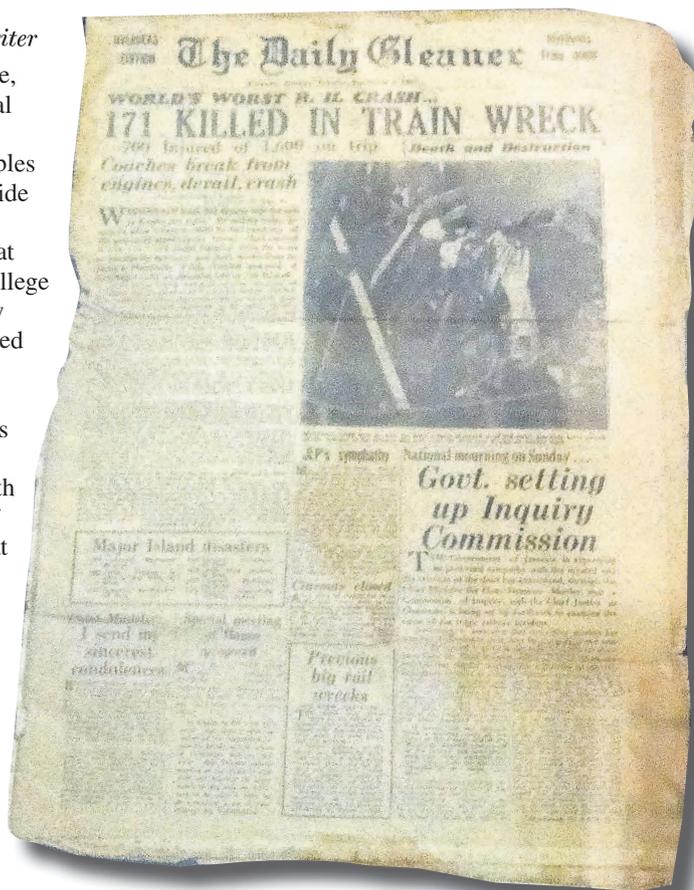
Yet, at this year's installation, for the first time, there was a museum section, with items from a personal collection on show, and it was a hit with patrons who were fascinated with the items that they would not otherwise get a chance to see.

There was an interactive element in the form of a 19th-century apparatus through which you can look at magnified black and white pictures. Of note were two framed original newspaper pages, one on which the story of the Kendal crash of 1957 is reported.

However, the pieces that kept patrons gawking and which pulled their eyes back to over 500 years ago were the Taino artefacts, many of which are in pristine conditions. The owner of the collection said what was on show was only about one per cent of what he has, and hopes one day to have a museum set up, with the help of the Government, to give people a chance to see his vast collection.

Speaking with **Hospitality Jamaica** about the museum, Kimberly Kong, one of the coordinators of the fair, said, "There was some fear [among prospective vendors] of being in the upstairs area of the auditorium, but this year we decided to add some features to bring the crowd up, and one of those things was the museum.

And it worked; the area was abuzz with activities. There were and items from the past that was not for sale, but nonetheless significant for their historical value, silently teaching invaluable lessons of our storied heritage.



A 1957 Daily Gleaner front page.



Taino artefacts.



A call or two back to the past this telephone will give.



A patron viewing black-and-white pictures through a 19th-century apparatus.
PHOTOS BY PAUL WILLIAMS

RJRGLEANER

Hospitality Jamaica Awards 2019 – finalists

AFTER WEEKS of voting, **Hospitality Jamaica** is pleased to announce the finalists for this year's awards.

Eighteen entities and two individuals will be recognised this Friday, November 15, at a glitzy affair at the Montego Bay Convention Centre. Tickets are sold out, and none will be available at the gate.

Making the mark as the best of the best in Jamaica are the following:

BEST ALL-INCLUSIVE OVER 300 ROOMS

Royalton Negril
Sandals South Coast
Moon Palace

BEST ALL-INCLUSIVE UNDER 300 ROOMS

Hedonism II
Couples Tower Isle
Royalton Blue Waters

BUSINESS HOTEL

Half Moon
The Courtleigh Hotel and Suites
AC Hotel

BEST EP HOTEL

S Hotel
The Courtleigh Hotel and Suites
Half Moon

BEST SMALL HOTEL

Sandy Haven
S Hotel

BEST BOUTIQUE HOTEL

Sandy Haven
Round Hill

BEST ECO/SUSTAINABLE RESORT

Grand Palladium
Jamaica Inn
Half Moon

BEST OPENING OF THE YEAR

(Best hotel launch of 2019)
RIU Ocho Rios
S Hotel
AC Hotel

BEST ATTRACTION

Mystic Mountain
Jamwest Motorsport & Adventure Park
Joy Spence Appleton Estate Rum Experience

BEST CULTURAL EXPERIENCE/TOUR

Joy Spence Appleton Estate Rum Experience
Bob Marley Group of Companies
JaMIN Tours

BEST TOUR OPERATOR

Go! Jamaica Travel
Exquisite Transfers

BEST-KEPT SECRET

(Best, off-the-beaten-path tourism entity)
Blue House Boutique Bed and Breakfast
Jake's Treasure Beach

BEST RESORT TOWN

Treasure Beach
Ocho Rios
Negril

BEST CUISINE

Couples Swept Away
Half Moon
Hedonism II

BEST IN NIGHTLIFE

Hedonism II
Royalton Negril
Margaritaville Caribbean

BEST EVENT OF THE YEAR

Dream Weekend
Reggae Sumfest
Issa Trust Couples Air Supply Concert

PURVEYOR OF THE YEAR

Therapedic Caribbean
Caribbean Producers Jamaica

HOSPITALITY PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

Christopher Issa,
chairman, Crissa Group of Companies

THE PIONEER AWARD 2019

The Hon Edmund Bartlett, minister of tourism



Throwback: Happiness Unlimited: Pioneer Awardee 2017 Gordon 'Butch' Stewart (right); his son, Adam (centre); and former chairman of The Gleaner Company (Media) Limited, Oliver Clarke, raise their hands in celebration at the 2017 Hospitality Jamaica Awards at the Montego Bay Convention Centre. **PHOTOS BY ASHLEY ANGUIN**



TVJ's Neville Bell (left) interviews Chukka Caribbean Adventures' Marc Melville on the red carpet at the 2017 Hospitality Jamaica Awards.



The Royalton team on cloud nine after copping two awards.