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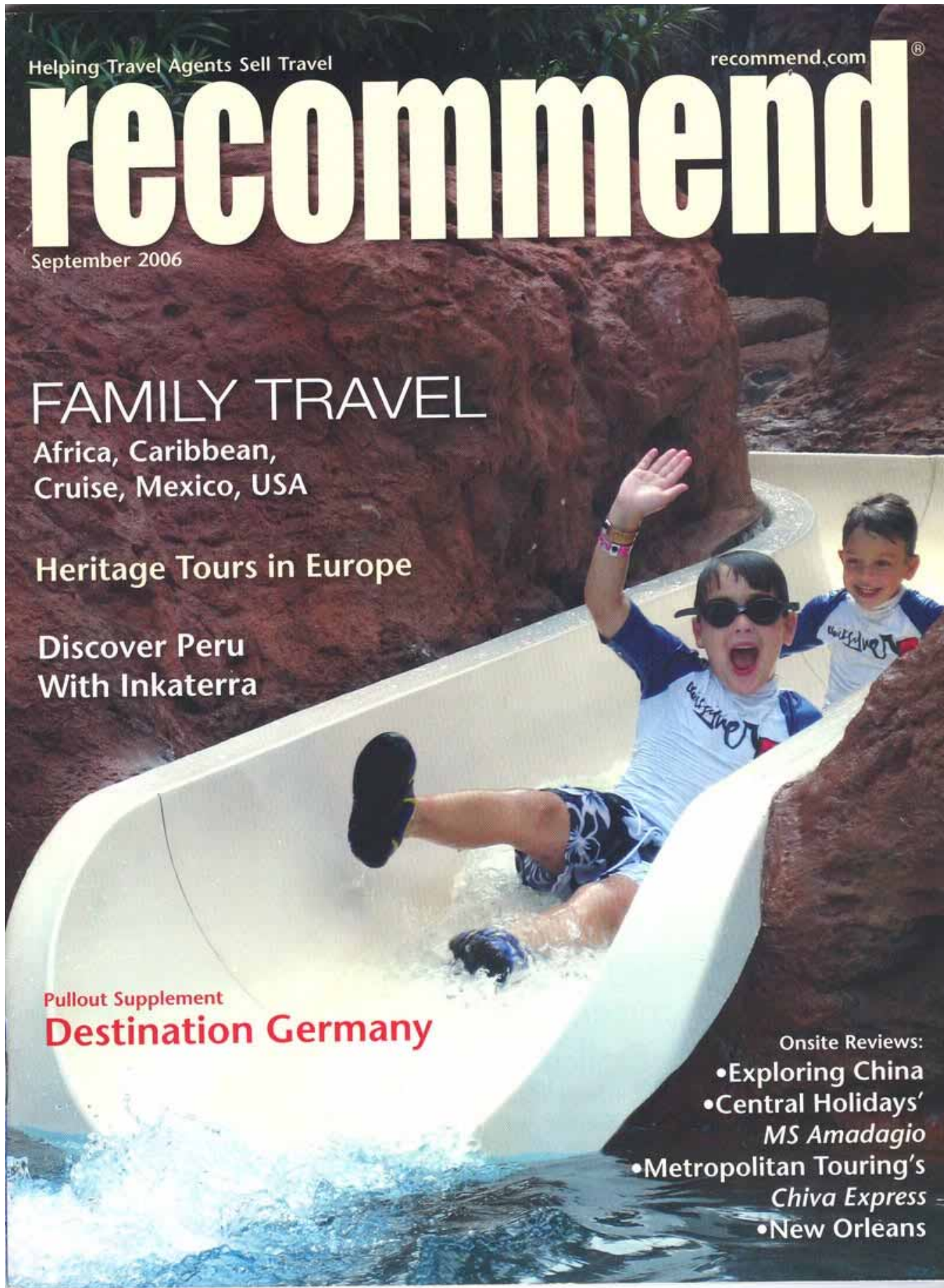
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INKATERRA Brings PERU to Your Doorstep

The Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, at the foot of the ancient ruins, is home to a collection of orchids.

This Peru-based company with hotels and tour programs brings a touch of class to this South American country.

CARLA HUNT

Inkaterra wears a coat of many colors; as a tour operator delivering **Inkaterra Experiences**; as the owner of the deluxe **Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel** at the foot of Peru's most famous archaeological site in the Andean highlands as well as of the **Reserva Amazonica** lodge on the banks of the Madre de Dios River in Amazonia; and as a pioneer in projects to conserve the environment and enrich local communities in both locations, all financed by sustainable tourism revenues.

This Peru-based company is one of South America's ecotourism success stories. This year, *Travel & Leisure* voted the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel as the property offering

the "Best Value for the Money" in all of Latin America; in 2005, the hotel also appeared in the publication, this time on the Top 25 hotel list for Mexico, Central and South America.

Further, recognizing Inkaterra's pioneering conservation efforts, the World Bank and the National Geographic Society financed the loan to the nonprofit **Inkaterra Association** to build the first *Canopy Walk* adjoining the Reserva Amazonica; economic benefits from this attraction are used to finance conservation and social development projects.

"Inkaterra prides itself in being able to deliver authentic and memorable Peruvian experiences," says the company's director of international sales, Claire Andre, "using our hotels and all the special extras that come with them. For instance, she points out that the Machu Picchu citadel is now eight hours closer to the U.S. when arriving aboard Inkaterra's new and exclusive 5-passenger helicopter service for the 30-minute flight from Cusco to the landing pad near the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel. "Clients can take 1-day *Heliexplorer* excursions from Cusco," adds Andre, "but most will opt for the 2- and 3-night schedules that permit taking

advantage of the optional and new overland trip to the recently uncovered Incan site of Choquequirao, 30 miles southwest of Machu Picchu."

One-day *Heliexplorer* programs are available daily, except Sunday, and the \$895 pp rate includes roundtrip air, private tour of the citadel, lunch at the hotel, a visit to the hotel's orchid garden, and airport transfers in Cusco.

Hotels

Inkaterra's property in the Machu Picchu cloud forest is a complex of 85 luxurious rooms (suites, jr. suites and superior rooms) in whitewashed cottages that together resemble an Andean village. Miles of trails lace the grounds, winding past waterfalls and through the forest, habitat to 172 bird species and 111 butterfly species. The property is noted for its authentic cuisine, its Andean sauna and spa treatments, and its collection of orchids—the world's largest (372 species) in their natural habitat.

Rates at the Pueblo Hotel are \$187 pp dbl for a superior room; \$214.50 pp dbl for a

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Inkaterra Brings Peru To Your Doorstep

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This photo: Guestroom at the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel. Inset: The Canopy Walk at Reserva Amazonica.

Association promotes education and conservation.

One must-see attraction is the *Canopy Walk*, a 1,135-ft.-long complex of seven hanging bridges, six treetop observation platforms and two 95-ft. observation towers, all woven through the crowns of the tallest trees. Following a chance to glimpse unusual flora and fauna from up high, canopy walkers adjourn to the ground-level Interpretation Center that is packed with information on the rainforest and its ecology.

A 2-night stay seems the absolute minimum for Reserva Amazonica. It is priced at \$345 pp dbl for a superior room, and \$395 pp dbl for a suite, and includes airport assistance, river transport to and from the lodge, all meals with non-alcoholic housemade drinks, bilingual guides for a choice of daily activities, and basic equipment for each excursion.

jr. suite and \$259.50 pp dbl for a suite. The recently opened *Inkaterra Suite* is priced at \$340 pp dbl per night. Costs include MAP meals, and guided eco-activities within the hotel grounds.

Also new to Inkaterra's Machu Picchu offerings are two luxury hotel villas, one with two bedrooms (that is already available for booking) and a second with three bedrooms being added next year. Both overlook the orchid garden and the Vilcanota River valley and feature such amenities as sitting rooms with a fireplace, two bathrooms, 24/7 butler service, private garden, heated pool, flat-screen TV, and WiFi Internet access. For four people occupying a villa, the cost pp with breakfast and dinner is \$675.

Puerto Maldonado is the gateway to a second all-Inkaterra adventure: a stay in the rainforest lodge, Reserva Amazonica, a 45-minute boat ride down the Madre de Dios

River in the heart of a 40-sq.-mile private reserve. All 34 of the jungle camp's rather rustically elegant cabanas—ranging from superior rooms to suites and built in the native Ese'eja style—are illuminated by lanterns with flashlights on hand, beds are canopied with mosquito netting, the porches have hammocks and baths are private with hot water and eco-friendly toiletries. The central pavilion houses the reception, the restaurant and bar, and the second floor offers seating areas with porches for conversation and birdwatching.

Guests spend their time exploring the rainforest either along the lodge's trail system, on the river during night trips, by boat to the birding wonderland of Lake Sandoval, or on visits to local farms and native communities, including Rolin Island where the Inkaterra



Tour Programs

According to Andre, "We have introduced a selection of new Inkaterra Experiences, focused not only on our cloud forest and rainforest lodges—which, by the way, are included in the tour programs of many U.S. operators—but adding our own all-inclusive themed journeys throughout Peru." These tours reach out to Arequipa and Colca Canyon; Puno and Lake Titicaca; and the archaeological wonders of the Nasca lines as well as those recently discovered in the northern desert such as the tomb of Lord of Sipan.

The Reserva Amazonica lodge.

The "Experiences" come in "Five Flavors," which range from *Body & Soul* with a focus on Andean cosmology, as well as yoga, spa and meditation, to *Romance & Mystery*, planned just for two and including the chance to participate in an Andean Spiritual Ceremony. Other options include *Nature & Geography*, from desert to mountains to rainforest with walking, hiking, camping and trekking; *Culture & Art*, featuring access to private museums and collections, with curators and artists as guides; and *Family & Children* with special activities and guides for all generations.

Of note, however, is that clients need go no further than the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel to find a quintessential family excursion. Here, families can visit the Spectacled Andean Bear project on the hotel grounds where rescued bears are given homes in optimum conditions while recovering and re-adapting to their natural habitat. The project is sponsored by the Inkaterra Association and the Bear Rescue Foundation of the U.K.

Sampling Inkaterra

While the Inkaterra product is customized vacations, the company offers a suggested 7-night vacation, combining its two properties.

On arrival in Lima, travelers overnight at either the **Country Club Lima Hotel** or **Sonesta Posada del Inca el Oliver** before departing by air the next morning for Puerto Maldonado and the 45-minute motorboat ride to Reserva Amazonica. Here, a 2-night stay includes nighttime excursions and day trips to Lake Sandoval and Rolin Island.

On day four, travelers fly directly to Cusco, switching to the Vistadome train service for the scenic ride to the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel for a 3-night stay. Here, various scheduled eco-activities are available on the hotel grounds and a guided visit is included to the Machu Picchu citadel.

On day seven, travelers return to Cusco for a 3-hour tour of the ancient Inca capital and overnight at the **Hotel Monasterio** or **Hotel**



Libertador. On day eight, guests return to Lima for the return flight home or on-bound travel within Peru.

The cost of this program is \$1,998 pp dbl, using the Country Club Hotel in Lima and the Monasterio in Cusco, or \$1,666 pp dbl using the Sonesta Posada del Inca in Lima and the Libertador in Cusco. Prices include accommodations, most meals and all hotel activities and excursions, private transfers and overland transport; international and domestic air is not included, and there is a \$75 charge for each booking.

For more information, call (800) 442-5042 or visit inkaterra.com. ●