



From The Sunday Times

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Added fizz

RECOMMEND?

The Dominican Republic is known for its beaches but its assets include a Unesco world heritage site, colonial cities, Italianate hill towns and national parks. It has also been adding some good upmarket resorts. This month Zoetry Agua Punta Cana (zoetryresorts.com) welcomes its first guests. They are promised gourmet dining in three restaurants and 24-hour room service in the 53 suites, a free bottle of champagne a day and free phone calls worldwide. Tropical Sky (0845 543 2187, tropicalsky.co.uk) has a week at Zoetry from £1,259pp including BA flights from Gatwick and transfers.

Will Mexico be the comeback kid of 2010? When the country took unwilling centre-stage in the swine-flu outbreak, its resorts became a no-go area for concerned tourists. As the beautiful beaches, vibrant rainforests and rich cultural heritage, including sites such as the Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza, were not enough to encourage a revival, there was only one solution left to hoteliers: deals. Typical is this package from Exsus (020 7292 5050, exsus.com), which offers seven nights for the price of five at the Banyan Tree Mayakoba — prices start from £2,549pp, B&B, for a week for travel in January, February or March. Prices will probably fall further next summer with the arrival of more A-list options. Capella Bahia Maroma (capellahotels.com), on a private mile-long beach within easy reach of the world's second largest coral reef, will have 86 suites, all sea-facing, and what is said to be the only private championship golf course on the Yucatan peninsula. It has not announced prices but tour operators expect tempting opening offers.

Inkaterra's Reserva Amazonica lodge in the Peruvian rainforest (00 511 610 0400, inkaterra.com) has opened the Canopy Tree House (£380 a night, half-board), a retreat for two set 90ft up in the treetops. Guests with a head for heights can get up close with toucans, hummingbirds and monkeys, while a walkie-talkie ensures contact with their cocktail-bearing butler at all times.

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