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I am an award-winning Colorado based writer who loves to travel. Join me as I discuss my own travels, travel news, travel tips and my observations of the travel industry as they relate to people who actually travel.



VISIT MY WEBSITE & OTHER BLOGS

[Culinary Colorado](#) is my Colorado-oriented, but not Colorado-exclusive, blog about restaurants, bakeries, food and wine events and occasional menus and recipes.

[Nordic Walking USA](#) is my blog about Fitness Walking with Poles, a growing

New Inkaterra Property in the Sacred Valley

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Luxury + commitment to preserving and rescuing Peru's geography, nature, customs and cultures.



When I was in Peru recently with the Society of American Travel Writers Freelance Council, we made a brief detour to visit a new boutique lodging property, the lovely and luxurious [Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba](#), in the Sacred Valley of the Incas between Cusco and Machu Picchu.

Our group witnessed a shamanic ceremony, but I neither understood the symbolism of the solemn ritual nor prosaically, did I have a clear idea of when it was supposed to open. Now it has.



Shaman ceremony to inaugurate the new Hacienda Urubamba.

Set deep in the countryside up a dusty road (at least it was when I visited), it is set on about 100 acres overlooking a vast panorama of the Sacred Valley. The Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba opens with 12 rooms, including a three-room "Owners Suite," all featuring views of the valley and surrounding mountains. Guests experience the expansiveness of open space, serenity and relaxing solitude. At approximately 9,515 feet in elevation, the property offers some of the best climate in the Cusco region. This summer (which might be next winter in the Northern Hemisphere), 24 stand-alone luxury

trend.

[Mile High on the Cheap](#) features tips about Denver/Boulder bargains, freebies and deals.

[Claire-Walter.com](#) is my personal web site. There you can find information on all of my books, and, if you would like to read some of my published travel articles, just click on "Articles".

You can also follow me on [Twitter](#).

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SITE HONORS

- 2011.** Society of American Travel Writers, Western Chapter Award, Gold Award.
- 2010.** Society of American Travel Writers' Western Chapter's first annual blog awards, Third Place.
- 2010.** AwardingTheWeb.com, "one of the year's 50 top travel sites."
- 2010.** CheapHotels.net, "one of the "Top 25 Awesome Travel Blogs."
- 2010.** AirlineTickets.org, "35 Top Travel Blogs."
- 2008.** Viscap.com, Top Fifteen Travel Blogs.
- 2008.** FlipKey.com, selected as one of four favorite travel sites by readers.
- 2008.** "Island Life," Top 15 Travel Blogs.
- 2008.** "One of the "50 travel blogs I can't live without" by Christopher Elliott, [elliott.org](#).
- 2007.** Elliott.org, "20 most inspiring travel blogs"

casitas will be unveiled, set among the property's native pepper trees, high grass, cactus and wildflowers.



The grand entrance to the Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba.

With architecture and interiors inspired by the area's cultural history, the contemporary hacienda-style hotel was designed by Denise Guislain-Koechlin, the talented wife of Inkaterra founder and CEO, Jose Koechlin. She was in charge of the hotel's layout, surrounding gardens and all interior décor, which includes custom-made furniture and the use of rare pre-Columbian textiles that adorn the property's high walls. The property, which is in an agricultural area, features a 10-acre organic plantation, where guests are welcome to pick their own produce. Crops include red, black and brown quinoa, artichokes, a unique Urubamba giant corn, purple corn, colored potatoes, lima beans, onions, beans and broccoli. Traditional medicinal and culinary herbs are also farmed and include lemon balm, rosemary, sage, green grass, mint, chamomile, cilantro and anise, among others. All crops are completely "carbon-free" — that is, farmed with traditional hand tools and oxen as was done centuries ago.



Organic farming at the hacienda includes traditional agricultural methods.



Antique and custom furniture grace the 12-room hotel.

Mountain Guides NZ Climbs

Climbing Mt Cook, Aspiring, Tasman ski tour, ice climb Climbing School



Long corridor embraces public spaces and accesses guest rooms.



One of a dozen elegant guest rooms.

Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba offers a variety of excursions and activities, including bird watching (there are more than 30 bird species on the grounds), stargazing, horseback riding, and the rare chance to ride a traditional llama cart. And of course, magical Macchu Pichu is up the road.