

Luxury Destinations

[Re: "2009: The Year of New Destinations," PlusPoint blog] Luxury travel is still going strong and those travelers are likely to keep going to high-end destinations and taking extensive trips. However, some of the "luxury" locations are starting to feel a bit of the crunch and are lowering their prices a bit so that others might be able to afford them. Perhaps this is how people are getting to new destinations? Or perhaps they are going to lower cost emerging destinations that are relatively inexpensive to travel in once you get there.

—Carolina Munguia
MPI Mexico Chapter
Promotora Xcaret



EDITOR'S NOTE: We appreciate the feedback on MPI and your magazine, *One+*. Your ideas and thoughts are important to us. Let us know what you think. E-mail the editorial team at publications@mpiweb.org.

You Tell Us

What innovative methods do you utilize to connect with younger audiences? Send us an e-mail at publications@mpiweb.org.

CSR and Save

[Re: "Penny Pinching Planning Tips," January 2009] While thinking about cost cutting, think about social responsibility and "good-doing." **At the recently held ACOM (Association of Convention Operations Management) meeting in New Orleans—for yet another year—they used donated materials for the centerpieces, which were then donated to local "need" groups.** For example, they asked people to bring small bags of food, treats or toys for animals. These were packaged in cute bags, a sign was put on top with cute graphics and meaningful words and all was put on a silver platter in the center of tables. There were others with bright color T-shirts for people who needed clothing. It was cost-effective AND did good. We can do better!

—Joan Eisenstadt
MPI Potomac Chapter
Eisenstadt Associates, LLC

No Ethical Standards

[Re: "Ethics Going Out the Door," PlusPoint blog] It's hardly surprising that

employees plan on stealing company data, along with the paper clips, when they are shown the recessionary door. **Many (most?) companies have been treating people as an expendable resource (like paper clips) for years.** They can hardly expect loyalty in return. Ethical behavior is a bi-product of mutual trust—and recent events in the corporate (especially banking) world have hardly inspired trust. Ultimately, leaders with high ethical values inculcate those values in those they lead, so I have high hopes for the next U.S. administration.

—Tony Carey, CMP, CMM
MPI U.K. Chapter
The Carey Consultancy

MeetDifferent Excels

[Re: "MeetDifferent in the New Economy," January 2009] MeetDifferent 2008 provided an opportunity to experience a conference in a variety of different ways. There was a great variation of meeting formats, topics that went well outside of "Meeting Planning 101" and elements that would create great interest and excitement. Not all worked spectacularly

well, but all provided food for thought and represented courage on the part of MPI to think and act in new and creative ways. It is what we expect of our industry association, and MPI delivered. I'm looking forward to seeing what is next at MeetDifferent 2009 in Atlanta."

—Terri Breining, CMP, CMM
MPI San Diego Chapter
Concepts Worldwide

[Re: "MeetDifferent in the New Economy," January 2009] Last year's MeetDifferent gave me a chance to view the industry from two very different perspectives. **As well as hearing about the bigger picture, the wider issues the industry faces, the global trends and the strategic decisions we face I was able to interact at a much more focused level.** I met with suppliers, networked, swapped ideas and interacted with real people at a grass-roots level about real situations. The combination of these two elements made it a really powerful experience and one I would recommend to any meeting professional."

—Jon Bradshaw
MPI U.K. Chapter