ACCOR French Polynesia Helps Promote Local Culture And Heritage At Its Six Stunning Resorts

Accor Hotels' six luxury Sofitel and Novotel properties in French Polynesia are helping to promote local culture and heritage through a range of activities, tours and facilities.

Sept. 28, 2007 - <u>*PRLog*</u> -- Tahiti -- Accor, the world's largest hotel and tourism group, operates six exclusive resorts in French Polynesia under the Sofitel and Novotel brands. Through a range of activities and tours, these resorts are helping to promote local culture and heritage. The resorts also incorporate local art and design into their décor and architecture.

Sofitel Tahiti Resort arranges cultural tours, trips around the island, lagoon excursions, museum visits and 4WD safaris, allowing guests to fully explore this diverse island. The resort's recently refurbished rooms combine the unique fabrics of renowned French design house Robert Le Heros with tribal motifs and artworks that reflect the proud Tahitian traditions.

More than any other artist, Paul Gauguin has come to be associated with French Polynesia. Sofitel Moorea Beach Resort draws inspiration for its design from two of Gauguin's masterpieces -- Fatata te Miti (By the Sea) and Parahi te Marae (There Lies the Temple), as well as the vibrant hues of the island itself. The resort organizes land tours to Moorea's ancient maraes, giant stones that are symbols of Polynesian history and are of great archaeological importance.

Sofitel Bora Bora Beach Resort was originally built for movie director Dino Laurentis' 1977 film Hurricane starring Mia Farrow. The resort has recently been extensively renovated, with bungalows using local designs of wood and woven pandanus. This is a place to enjoy French Polynesia's natural heritage. One of the most popular activities at Sofitel Bora Bora Beach Resort is the daily ray feeding, which guests can safely participate in a few feet away.

Unlike most resorts on Bora Bora, which share the same large lagoon, Sofitel Motu Bora Bora boasts a more exclusive location hidden around the corner on its own private island. Featuring Polynesian architecture and utilising the forms and materials of nature, the resort blends beautifully with its natural environment. Guests can walk to the centre of the island for hilltop views across the lagoon to Mount Otemanu's tombstone face.

Nestled in the mountainside, with rooms overlooking tropical gardens, the Novotel Bora Bora Beach Resort is located just a few steps away from arguably the world's most beautiful lagoon. Accessible by 4WD, the overgrown jungle roads of Bora Bora wind high about the lagoon to panoramic viewpoints, where you'll experience breathtaking views. The resort can also arrange cultural tours to local museums and sites of historical interest.

Rangiroa is a diver's paradise, and Novotel Rangiroa Lagoon Resort offers guests the opportunity to explore a beautiful underwater world with an incredible panorama of marine life, including pods of beautiful wild dolphins. Tiputa Pass is known as one of the world's greatest shark dives, and those who "shoot the pass" will find themselves surrounded by hundreds of these majestic creatures, including grey, black-tip, white-tip, lemon and nurse sharks. On land, guests can get a taste of South Pacific lifestyle by visiting the nearby pearl farms and the villages of Avatoru and Tiputa.

For more information about Accor's properties in French Polynesia, please visit http://www.accorhotels.pf?DCSext.dept=2&WT.mc_id=100043

About Accor French Polynesia

Accor, the world's largest hotel and tourism group, operates six exclusive French Polynesian resorts. Sofitel Tahiti Resort offers the elegance of a bygone era framed by Tahiti's natural beauty. By a spectacular lagoon, Sofitel Moorea Beach Resort boasts sparkling waters and a white sand beach. Elegantly refurbished, Sofitel Bora Bora Resort was built to house a Hollywood movie. Sofitel Motu Bora Bora, an exquisite private island paradise, combines outstanding natural beauty and 5 star luxury. Novotel Bora Bora Beach Resort is a few steps from one of the world's most beautiful lagoons. Novotel Rangiroa Lagoon Resort sits amidst a coconut grove by the biggest lagoon in the Tuamotu atolls.

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Six exclusive luxury Sofitel and Novotel resorts in French Polynesia - <u>http://www.accorhotels.pf</u> -, offering outstanding natural beauty, sparkling turquoise waters, and all the romance of the South Seas to travelers and honeymooners in search of the ultimate paradise island experience.

Website: www.accorhotels.pf/?DCSext.dept=2&WT.mc_id=100043

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