

### Happy Holidays!

The Holiday Season is upon us and we begin to reflect on its symbolism, cheering the diverse traditions that enrich the human experience. Some of us will celebrate Christmas, others Hanukkah or Kwanzaa. Others yet will simply rejoice in the prevailing spirit. But we will all count our blessings, feel closer to family and friends, and gaze upon the future in jolly hope.



### New Website: Fresh Features, Mobile Ready

As Costa Rica's premium wellness destination, El Silencio Lodge & Spa is committed to making the travel experience fun and friendly from the start. We are happy to launch a new web presence, with an improved navigation menu, better point of contact features, beautiful images, and a mobile-friendly interface. Explore!  
<http://www.elsilenciolodge.com>



### We Have a Winner!

Our Facebook Photo Contest brought us a set of engaging images, depicting our facilities and surroundings through the eyes of our guests. We thank all participants for their artful submissions and congratulate the winner, Maia L. from Buenos Aires, Argentina. With more than 175 *Likes*, fellow Facebook fans loved the spontaneity of her capture. Please enjoy a special photo slideshow featuring contest entries. Quintessential Costa Rican mountain landscapes, architectural details, and glimpses of flora and fauna compose a true Symphony of Natural Wellness!  
<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=175072875838511>



### Embraced by Virtuoso

El Silencio Lodge & Spa is thrilled to join the by-invitation-only Virtuoso family of select hotels destinations and travel professionals! This honor celebrates our staff's outstanding commitment to excellence.



### Author Captures Costa Rica's Honeymoon Magic

Award-winning author, Todd Aaron Jensen details the inspiring moments that make a Costa Rica honeymoon truly unforgettable. Featured in American Way, American Airlines' official magazine, his *Love+La Pura Vida* piece shares his own experience as a honeymooner, capturing Costa Rica's bewitching settings. We were delighted to be part of their special itinerary and were especially excited for the nod to our Eco-Concierge Ronald as a bio-diversity master! Full article at:  
<http://www.americanwaymag.com/costa-rica-san-jos-pacific-coast>



### Chocolate Bliss with a Twist

The end of the year brings about what Costa Ricans refer to as "Aires Navideños". Literally translated as "Christmas Airs", it acknowledges the arrival of not just the Holidays but cooler wind gusts (tame by non-tropical standards). It's the perfect time to enjoy hot chocolate. For a delicious twist, hit your spice pantry and sprinkle a bit of Garam Masale prior to serving. Stir and garnish with a cinnamon stick!



### Farewell Bottles, Hello Dispensers

We proudly feature a new line of premium personal-care products from *Aromas para el Alma*, a Costa Rican boutique enterprise. Their artisan products maximize the use of local organic ingredients and are animal-friendly, biodegradable, and sustainable. Plus, a portion of proceeds is donated to Corcovado Foundation to help preserve one of Costa Rica's most bio-intense National Parks. And our guests are raving about the new planet-friendly dispensers!



### Congratulations to Hotel Punta Islita!

We congratulate our sister property, Hotel Punta Islita for earning double accolades for its Islita Art Museum community outreach initiative. Celebrated for fostering creativity, critical thinking skills, and self-reliance, the program recently won an accolade by the Costa Rican-American Chamber of Commerce and Best for Local Community in Virgin Holidays 2010 Responsible Tourism Awards.

