

MEETING PLANNER REVIEW

OF ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORTS

A PUBLICATION OF
BRIGHTSPOT



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INTRODUCTION



"I don't ever want my people to pull out their wallet," said one CEO.

"I love knowing my exact budget; no surprises," added the meeting planner.

All-inclusive (AI) resorts have zoomed in popularity for group incentive travel and business meetings. But, here's a cautionary word. Some AI's have weaker service for groups and meeting planners. Many AI's cater, instead, to honeymooners, leisure travelers, and heavy-drinking revelers.

After many President's Club trips, top producer programs, and dealer incentive trips, we compiled this list of our favorite all-inclusive resorts for group incentive travel and business meetings. Our top AI's have a brand commitment to the group meeting business. These all-inclusives "get" groups.





MEXICO

CANCUN



80
OUR RATING



Renee Villanova

502 Rooms

FIESTA AMERICANA CONDESA

Guests can expect to enjoy turquoise waters and powdery sand at the great expansive beach. The friendly staff provides great service and hospitality. The hotel has décor on property for either a Caribbean, traditional Mexican or Mayan themed event, which can help to save on décor costs for a group evening event. The property is kid and teen friendly, with onsite babysitting available at their Kid and Teen Club. Most rooms offer a gorgeous oceanfront view.



82
OUR RATING



Julie Blank

307 Rooms

HYATT ZILARA CANCUN

Zilara is Hyatt Cancun's adult-only property. Ziva is the family-friendly sister property, located less than 2 miles north of Zilara. Don't get these two mixed up! An adults-only resort appeals to many incentive trip planners, and gives Zilara two extra rating points in my book. Our experience with this property has been great. All of the sleeping rooms offer excellent ocean views, there's plenty of good F&B with six restaurants and five bars, and the service has been impressive.

CANCUN



83
OUR RATING



Mike May

601 Rooms

HARD ROCK HOTEL CANCUN

If your group likes rolling out of bed at 10 a.m. to AC/DC and Highway to Hell rocking the pool area, this is your place! For younger groups, it's an energetic, jammin' experience. The rock-n-roll branding is impressive — guitars stitched in the bed coverings and museum-quality memorabilia throughout the lobby. The pool area is large and a constant gathering place with music and games. Nice stretch of white sand beach too. Oh, each room has a massive Jacuzzi by the bed – I couldn't decide if it was cool or Poconos-heart-tub-quirky.



80
OUR RATING



Holly Swanzy

2,103 Rooms

MOON PALACE GOLF & SPA RESORT

A variety of entertainment, restaurants and activities within the resort for all ages! Rated by TripAdvisor to be among the top 25 all-inclusive resorts in Mexico with a 2014 Travelers Choice ribbon! The hotel features newly renovated rooms and a brand new events center.



CANCUN



Holly Swanzky

424 Rooms

SECRETS PLAYA MUJERES GOLF & SPA RESORT

The hotel features water views from all over the property and a good variety of open air restaurants. A large pool deck offers lots of seating. The theatre and sports bar could both be used for interesting group events. The ballroom is high tech with great built-in AV features! Swim-up suites have great waterfront views. The guestrooms are smaller than the Secrets Maroma Beach property, but they are more modern in style like Secrets The Vine.



CANCUN



Mike May

260 Rooms

LE BLANC SPA RESORT

This is an upscale resort within the Palace Resort family. The hotel takes all-inclusive food up a notch with a 7-course tasting menu at the French restaurant, Lumiere. A minimalist, contemporary hotel with classy interiors. Every hotel room has an indoor Jacuzzi, a pillow menu, and high-end BVLGARI bath products. Awards include #1 rated hotel in Cancun by TripAdvisor and a AAA 5-Diamond.



Kim Dierks

371 Rooms

LIVE AQUA

Located on the Cancun strip, this property caters to the modern adult crowd. The hotel focuses on making each individual experience unique, beginning with offering an aromatherapy menu where you can select the scent of your choice for your room each night. In addition, guests can enjoy any of the seven pools and twelve restaurants on property while listening to music played throughout the resort all day. I really enjoyed the upbeat yet relaxing ambiance of this property.



CANCUN



Michael Butler

495 Rooms

SECRETS THE VINE

Great Value! Opened in 2013 with great room products - especially the ocean front rooms. Private VIP pool, but the beach is compact due to the hotel's high rise structure. The hotel offers four restaurants including a Steakhouse, Asian restaurant, Sports Club, breakfast and lunch cafés and a 24-hour coffee bar. Awesome meeting space with nautical theme and state of the art technology and bandwidth for meetings up to 200 people.



RIVIERA MAYA



81
OUR RATING

Renee Villanova

1,264 Rooms

HARD ROCK RIVIERA MAYA

The property has an adults side and a family side. There is a guitar 'rental' program which is a nice touch and very unique. The playlist download feature is another fun guest amenity. It is best to do registration for larger groups in the convention area, as it is more centrally located to the guest rooms than either lobby. The meeting space is great and sound systems are impressive; however, capacity is overestimated at times. Some of the specialty restaurants serve smaller portions, which is important to note for groups. The tequila tasting service in the Mexican restaurant can be fun for first timers. The guest rooms are a comfortable size and include full sized bottle minibars.



96
OUR RATING

Kim Dierks

434 Rooms

SECRETS AKUMAL

Opened in 2015, this new Secrets property will not disappoint! Located in the heart of Riviera Maya, Akumal is known for its beaches, green sea turtle population and snorkeling. Don't let the travel time from the airport deter you. Once your guests arrive they are sure to immediately feel relaxed at this property and to leave feeling rested, rejuvenated and excited to tell their friends and family about this beautiful property!



RIVIERA MAYA



88
OUR RATING

Kim Fox

412 Rooms

SECRETS MAROMA BEACH RIVIERA CANCUN

"Secret boxes" are attached to each room where room service, notes or gifts can be delivered without disturbing guests. This adds a fun element of surprise while respecting guest privacy. Take advantage of the great complimentary hotel décor for functions! While the square footage of meeting space is relatively small, the high ceilings, soft blue and green walls and natural light, specifically in the Maroma Ballroom, make this a very desirable space for a meeting.



98
OUR RATING

Kim Fox

491 Rooms

GRAND VELAS RIVIERA MAYA

Their theme "Beyond All-Inclusive, Beyond All Compare" is absolutely on key. This luxury resort has the most exquisite food you will find in Mexico. All the guest rooms are suites and include butler service. Featuring 40 treatment suites and hydrotherapy facilities, the spa is the best in Mexico. Grand Velas exudes its top-tier in cuisine, amenities, and overall quality & experience.



PLAYA DEL CARMEN



89
OUR RATING



Michael Butler

393 Rooms

PARADISUS PLAYA DEL CARMEN LA PERLA

Fantastic meeting space! La Perla is an adults-only resort with spectacular swim-out guest rooms and is host to one of my favorite restaurants in the area, La Palapa. The beach is a short walk through the mangroves, so you don't actually see the beach out your window or patio unless you're on the top floor. I love the beach because the hotel doesn't sit right on it, so when you are on the beach you feel like you are a castaway with beautiful ocean vistas!



87
OUR RATING



Kim Dierks

510 Rooms

PARADISUS PLAYA DEL CARMEN LA ESMERELDA

The sister property to Paradieses Playa del Carmen La Perla, this property is a family friendly property. Located on a stunning private bay, this property boasts 14 restaurants and 16 bars. In addition, they have their family concierge program which is also great for small groups looking for that extra special attention.



PLAYA DEL CARMEN



82
OUR RATING



Julie Blank

208 Rooms

PLAYACAR PALACE

Great Location! Fly into Cancun with a 60-70 minute transfer, or fly into Cozumel and take a short boat ride. Experience 4-star luxury on the beach with the famous 5th Avenue Playa Del Carmen shopping right out your back door. With many shops, restaurants, and bars (check out the famous Coco Bongo), all within a five minute walk, this is a great fit for a high energy group. Guest rooms have been recently renovated and include good amenities along with four complimentary liquors. The Italian restaurant is a highlight here. The property is close to the hustle and bustle of 5th avenue and also where the ferry departs all day to Cozumel, so keep this in mind when



TULUM



88
OUR RATING



Michael Butler

432 Rooms

DREAMS TULUM

A perennial top family-friendly resort, this beautiful property with many acres of gardens and pristine white sugar sand beach is a great option in the trendy Tulum area. For a pleasant surprise, ask to see the back of house here—this place is truly one big happy family and it shows throughout. You, your family, your winners and guests, will all enjoy this unlimited luxury all-inclusive and certainly want to come back for more. Minutes from the Mayan ruins and the Xel-ha natural water park the only downside here is the 1 hour 20 minute airport transfer, but if you want to get away from the busier Cancun area this is truly a great option!



LOS CABOS



93
OUR RATING



Mike May

500 Rooms

SECRETS PUERTO LOS CABOS GOLF & SPA RESORT

Kudos for hosting the largest IRF Invitational ever in 2014! The property overlooks the Puerto Los Cabos golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus and Greg Norman. Good option for large meetings with 500 all-suite rooms and excellent meeting space. While the beach is not swimmable (like most of Cabo), the pounding, 15-foot high waves are stunning!



89
OUR RATING



Michael Butler

235 Rooms

MARQUIS LOS CABOS

This property has a great room product. The guest rooms are located directly on the water and each room includes a small balcony. Be aware that one side of the hotel is located on the main hotel corridor and the ocean is right outside the back door. I love that the hotel is so close to the ocean that you can hear the waves breaking all night. Also, unique villas are offered as upgrades for small groups and are worth consideration.



LOS CABOS



84
OUR RATING



Genny Castleberry

619 Rooms

HYATT ZIVA LOS CABOS

Introduced as Hyatt's first all-inclusive resort in 2013, the Hyatt Ziva Los Cabos has been designated a AAA four-diamond resort. The resort offers upscale accommodations, 8 themed indoor restaurants, outdoor grills, swim-up pool bars, a world class spa, convention center, and exceptional personalized service for guests of all-ages. Groups enjoy activities such as deep-sea fishing, scuba diving, nightly entertainment, golf and infinite outdoor excursions on the Baja coast. Or they can relax and soak up the Mexican sun in the resort's four sparkling pools.



87
OUR RATING



Michael Butler

249 Rooms

GRAND FIESTA AMERICANA LOS CABOS

This property offers the very unique SOMMA WineSPA, the only spa in Mexico that incorporates wine in its treatments. A unique activity and one I highly recommend! This family-friendly property offers a wide-variety of activities and 24-hour dining options for a good value. For a group that enjoys golf, the hotel offers access to the famous Jack Nicklaus Ocean Course and the Cabo del Sol Desert Course (my favorite in all Mexico!). There are four outdoor areas to host group events as well as nine indoor banquet halls.



LOS CABOS



88
OUR RATING



Michael Butler

350 Rooms

PARADISUS LOS CABOS

Formerly Melia Cabo Real, this property got a complete overhaul after Hurricane Odile hit September 2014. Recently opened (Jan 2017) the highlight at this property is the expanse of the pool area and openness from pool to beach. Additionally, with the re-construction they added an amazing Sky Bar that jets over the beach for daytime whale watching or late-night dancing and partying. Another highlight is that this property is one of few with a swimmable beach making it good for ocean swimming and snorkeling. This is a great meeting hotel (large ballrooms) and a great all-inclusive option!



97
OUR RATING



Mike May

304 Rooms

GRAND VELAS LOS CABOS

Los Cabos has a new resort designation it's never had – a 5-star, 5-diamond all-inclusive. The design is contemporary with sleek, high-end construction materials everywhere. Here in Cabo, they add two new dining outlets. Poolside is Cabrilla serving the freshest Baja catch as ceviche and tostadas. And, the Velas family rolls out a new signature restaurant, Velas 10, with Mediterranean seafood and steaks.



PUERTO VALLARTA



85
OUR RATING



Nicole Chattin

291 Rooms

GRAND FIESTA AMERICANA PUERTO VALLARTA

The historic downtown's iconic Malecon boardwalk is a perfect spot to leisurely stroll and shop at street vendors and art galleries. Close to the airport and downtown, the Grand Fiesta Americana provides a good product for a group looking for value. The resort's architecture reflects the warmth and charm of the Mexican culture, as guests are greeted in the large thatched-palm "palapa" roof over the lobby. Nakawé Spa is a unique eco-friendly spa with outdoor gardens and water features that provide the ultimate relaxation and tranquility.



94
OUR RATING



Mike May

267 Rooms

GRAND VELAS RIVIERA NYARIT

This is a smaller version of the sister property in Riviera Maya with equally incredible food. The suites are twice as large as most resorts (1,000 square feet). The pool is three-tiered, with lots of palm trees and cabanas, making it easy to find a private and comfy chair with your guest.



PUERTO VALLARTA



86
OUR RATING



Kim Dierks

271 Rooms

SECRETS VALLARTA BAY

Located on the Pacific coast, Secrets Vallarta Bay is a great option for a group that values a view. The views from the rooms as well as the lobby are a "wow!" The hotel delivers on food, including great presentation for your events. This property is adults only and allows guests to visit the next-door sister property, Now Amber Puerto Vallarta. Don't forget to check out the special event wine room for a VIP dinner.



86
OUR RATING



Hailey Thomas

327 Rooms

NOW AMBER PUERTO VALLARTA

Now Amber Puerto Vallarta is a quick 15 minute transfer from the airport, allowing guests to enjoy the pool and beach that much quicker. The property boasts seven restaurants and bars and also offers guests a unique opportunity to dine during dinner at neighboring Secrets Vallarta Bay, Dreams Villamagna Neuvo Vallarta or Sunscape Puerto Vallarta. With spacious ocean view suites and the familiar Unlimited-Luxury® experience boasted by other AM Resorts, Now Amber Puerto Vallarta offers great value for groups.





CARIBBEAN

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



80
OUR RATING



Kim Dierks

464 Rooms

SECRETS ROYAL BEACH PUNTA CANA

This white sand beach is scattered with palm trees and has gorgeous Caribbean views. The beach serves as a wonderful dinner reception area for your guests. The hotel is an adults only property that caters to a crowd looking to relax and have fun, but not necessarily to the party crowd. Guests also have access to the neighboring sister property, NOW Larimar. The property is not huge, which makes everywhere you want to be very accessible.



81
OUR RATING



Genny Castleberry

1,787 Rooms

HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO PUNTA CANA

Situated along the Caribbean beachfront, this property is a good fit for an active, high energy group. The hotel features a modern designed casino, 15 pools, nine restaurants, a Jack Nicklaus designed golf course, and spa. Free Wi-Fi and an all-inclusive hotel arcade make the guest experience even more memorable.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



80
OUR RATING



Genny Castleberry

450 Rooms

NOW LARIMAR PUNTA CANA

This is the family friendly sister property of the Secrets Royal Beach. In the Central Plaza of Now Larimar, daily activities are held such as craft fairs and live entertainment. There are also shops throughout the Central Plaza, providing an on-property shopping experience for guests. The guest rooms are spacious and the first floor rooms have swim-up options. Now Larimar shares the same beach as the Secrets Royal Beach; however, guests do not have access to the Secrets Royal Beach property.



84
OUR RATING



Kelly Kunz

554 Rooms

PARADISUS PALMA REAL

The resort's open air entrance is breathtaking and the rest of the grounds do not disappoint. The overall feel of the property is luxurious and tranquil. The beaches are spacious, blue-green ocean and vendor-free. However, the Dominican Republic offers certain challenges as a destination, as it is not as developed as other areas considered for incentive travel. Because of its location, the property draws on a more diverse audience of leisure travelers from all over the world.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



85
OUR RATING

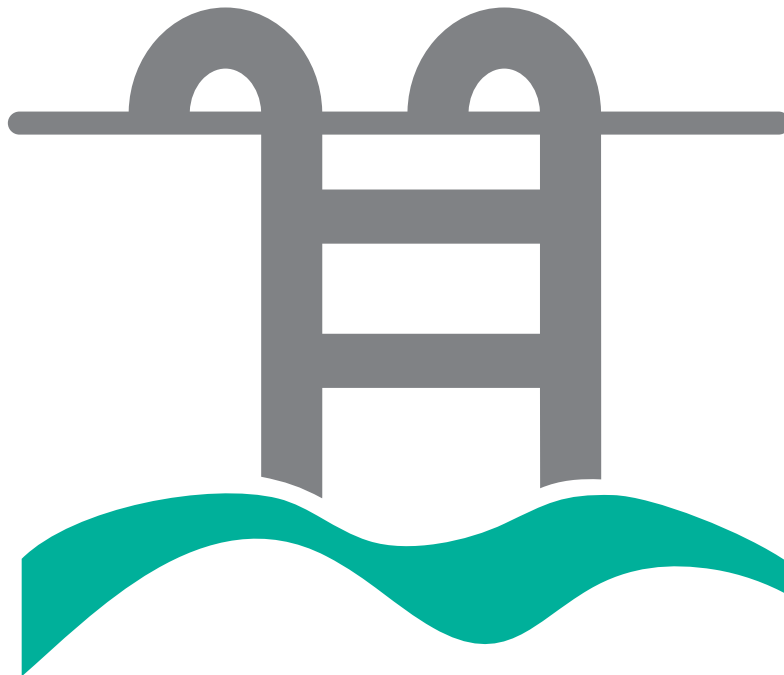


Mike May

457 Rooms

SECRETS CAP CANA

This is the family friendly sister property of the Secrets Royal Beach. In the Central Plaza of Now Larimar, daily activities are held such as craft fairs and live entertainment. There are also shops throughout the Central Plaza, providing an on-property shopping experience for guests. The guest rooms are spacious and the first floor rooms have swim-up options. Now Larimar shares the same beach as the Secrets Royal Beach; however, guests do not have access to the Secrets Royal Beach property.



COSTA RICA



Holly Swanzy

447 Rooms

DREAMS LAS MAREAS

Opened in November of 2014, this family-friendly resort is located in the northern Guanacaste region of Costa Rica. The property is situated in a tropical jungle and close to many cultural landmarks, providing good options for group activities and excursions. The contemporary designed resort features all suite-style guest rooms with a jacuzzi tub in each room. There are a variety of dining options with eight restaurants and five bars.



Julie Blank

406 Rooms

WESTIN PLAYA CONCHAL

This gem is Starwood's first all-inclusive, and doesn't feel like any of their other properties. The two-story buildings are well spread out, creating a true resort feel, and golf carts make their rounds all day and night to get you where you need to be. What sets this property apart is the food; Ritz-Carlton quality at a Westin price, with 10 F&B outlets that offer an impressive selection. Royal Beach Club access is worth the upgrade, and offers additional amenities like a private pool, personal concierge service and more. Beach, mountains, great food, upscale room with a comfortable bed and a great location just 15 minutes from Tamarindo- Yes, please!

COSTA RICA



Julie Blank

202 Rooms

SECRETS PAPAGAYO

One of the newer additions to the Secret's brand, this resort is located on the Papagayo Peninsula in the Guanacaste region of Costa Rica. That means a quick 25 minute trip from the airport, and a more secluded stay, if that's what you're looking for. Secret's shares the peninsula with the Four Seasons and the Andaz, so you know the neighborhood is nice! Visiting the local town of Ocotol for shopping and restaurants is a 35-40 minute drive, but can also be accessed via boat in under 30 mins. You will find the distinctive Secret's restaurant offerings (5 restaurants and 4 bars), with the well above-average AI F&B options. We all know what to expect with this brand, and this resort delivers, with an AMAZING view!



BAHAMAS



Hailey Thomas

694 Rooms

MELIA NASSAU BEACH

Situated on the beautiful Cable Beach, right across from the newly opened Baha Mar development, Melia Nassau Beach is in a perfect location for guests to enjoy the fun and sun. The Melia is also conveniently located only fifteen minutes away from Lynden Pindling International Airport. This all-inclusive property boasts seven restaurants and bars, each with a different cuisine that is sure to please any palette. With free shuttle service to the Baha Mar Casino and special rates at the nearby par-72 golf course this property is a great value for groups looking for an all-inclusive in the Bahamas.



JAMAICA



83
OUR RATING



Renee Villanova

489 Rooms

HILTON ROSE HALL

The property is located on a large stretch of beach with a nice, wide beach area for guests. The pool at the end of the property is great for private outdoor events. There is not a sizable amount of meeting space onsite, but there is a large top-notch conference center across the street that is less than five minutes away. The staff is very warm and accommodating. Each guest room has a waterfront view. The food is well prepared and there is a nice variety in the buffets, while the poolside dining offerings are simple. I recommend customizing your buffet menus to ensure that your group has a variety of options.



84
OUR RATING



Genny Castleberry

621 Rooms

HYATT ZIVA / ZILARA ROSE HALL

The newly redesigned Hyatt Jamaica (formerly Ritz-Carlton Rose Hall) showcases two luxury resorts: Hyatt Ziva Rose Hall - an all-inclusive experience for everyone, and an all-inclusive adults only resort, Hyatt Zilara Rose Hall. A thrilling resort destination for the whole family with dazzling Caribbean vistas, relaxing activities, located on 1500 ft of private picture-perfect coastline and beach. Home to the famous White Witch Course.



JAMAICA



93
OUR RATING



Michael Butler

350 Rooms

SECRETS ST. JAMES MONTEGO BAY

Sharing the panoramic peninsula with their sister property, Secrets Wild Orchid, this is the quieter of the two set back from all the action and common retail spaces. Exceptional watersports set up on location for guests use, with planned activities daily and a dock for your group to take a catamaran so you don't need to transfer! Interactive events are also offered daily by the resort such as art classes, cooking classes, pool games, board games, and beach side toys. Restaurant outlets are large and offer more outdoor seating than indoor.



95
OUR RATING



Elizabeth Petersen

350 Rooms

SECRETS WILD ORCHID MONTEGO BAY

This property is set on a beautiful cove that offers peaceful twinkling hillside views at night and turquoise blue water views during the day. Some outdoor reception space, dining, and concert space is set away from guest rooms in the cove, creating a fantastic ambiance. Meeting planners will not be disappointed by the indoor and outdoor function space options.



SOMETHING EXTRA



91
OUR RATING

Kim Fox

360 Rooms

HYATT REGENCY ARUBA

The Hyatt Regency is in a great location on Palm Beach, right in the middle of shops and additional restaurants within a few block radius. The beach and water are beautiful and dotted with small palapas, which can be reserved daily on a first come, first served basis. The hotel includes a casino and also offers supervised activities for children at "Camp Hyatt". There is a very large Beach Palapa, which is perfect for private outdoor events.



88
OUR RATING

Julie Blank

350 Rooms

SANTA BARBARA RESORT & GOLF CLUB

The food is AMAZING! This resort is a traditional property that can accommodate an all-inclusive rate for groups. Nicely updated and centrally-located meeting rooms. Downtown Curacao is BEAUTIFUL. There is a complementary bus that takes guests from the resort to Downtown where there are upscale shops as well as cute, local artisan vendors.

THE FINAL RANKING



#1 Grand Velas
Riviera Maya

#2 Grand Velas
Los Cabos

#3 Secrets
Akumal

4. Secrets Wild Orchid Montego Bay
5. Grand Velas Riviera Nayarit
6. Secrets St. James Montego Bay
7. Secrets Puerto Los Cabos Golf & Spa Resort
8. Secrets Papagayo
9. Hyatt Regency Aruba
10. Le Blanc Spa Resort
11. Marquis Los Cabos
12. Secrets the Vine Cancun
13. Paradisus La Perla
14. Westin Playa Conchal
15. Santa Barbara Resort & Golf Club
16. Paradisus La Esmerelda
17. Secrets Maroma Beach
18. Dreams Tulum
19. Grand Fiesta Americana Los Cabos
20. Paradisus Playa Del Carmen
21. Live Aqua
22. Secrets Vallarta Bay
23. Secrets Playa Mujeres Golf & Spa Resort
24. Now Amber Puerto Vallarta
25. Secrets Cap Cana
26. Grand Fiesta Americana Puerto Vallarta
27. Hyatt Ziva Los Cabos
28. Paradisus Palma Real
29. Hyatt Ziva / Zilara Rose Hall
30. Hard Rock Hotel Cancun
31. Hilton Rose Hall
32. Playacar Palace
33. Hyatt Zilara Cancun
34. Dreams Las Mareas
35. Hard Rock Riviera Maya
36. Fiesta Americana Condesa
37. Melia Nassau Beach
38. Moon Palace Golf & Spa Resort
39. Now Larimar Punta Cana
40. Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana
41. Secrets Royal Beach Punta Cana
42. Moon Palace Jamaica Grande



REVIEW



VELAS RESORTS – GRAND VELAS

Our best of the best starts with the two Grand Velas resorts in Riviera Maya and Nuevo Vallarta. Brightspot has used both resorts for several high-end President's Club programs. Both are AAA 5-diamond properties with 5-star dining, premium beverages, expansive rooms, luxurious BVLGARI or L'Occitane bath amenities, and an award winning spa. Riviera Maya is more "grand" in scale. Nuevo Vallarta has a more intimate, colonial charm. For so long, we all knew AI meant watered down drinks and subpar food. Grand Velas will change your perception with its upscale dining – French, Asian, Mexican Fine Cuisine, and something called Molecular!



AMRESORTS

The AMResorts family has been making a strong surge with groups and new openings. Secrets are their larger, adults-only resorts featuring "unlimited luxury". Dreams and Now are both family brands. We recommend Secrets Maroma Beach (Riviera Maya), Secrets The Vine (Cancun), Secrets Wild Orchid / St. James (Jamaica), and Secrets Marquis (Los Cabos) as the brand's higher end products. Think of these as 4.5 star quality at 4 star prices for superb values.





LE BLANC

Rated #1 on TripAdvisor and #1 by Conde Nast Traveler for Cancun, this all-blanco (white) property from the Palace Resorts family is a top tier option in Cancun. Beautiful beach, pools, and common areas. Stunning is a better description. Likewise for sleeping rooms and bathrooms. And perhaps, the most attentive and sincere customer service anywhere, including a butler on every floor.



MELIA – GRAND MELIA & PARADISUS

The Melia brand family has an expansive range of group friendly choices in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Central America, and even more in Europe. Brightspot incentive travel planners have used their properties many times and found them very responsive to group needs. Their premium AI resorts include Paradisus, ME, and Gran Melia, which they describe as “traditional luxury with avant-garde style”.



POSADOS – FIESTA AMERICANA

Fiesta Americana converted several of their properties to AI hotels as they recognized the AI growing trend in Mexico. Fiesta Americana is a brand that is popular for families, offering their Fiesta Kids Club and many kid-friendly attractions. The Fiesta Americana Grand brand, featuring one in Los Cabos and one in Cancun, offer an upgraded





POSADOS – LIVE AQUA

This luxury 4-star beachfront resort and spa got a lot of attention in 2012 with its first place ranking in Travel + Leisure's 2012 World's Best Awards as the best resort in Mexico.

It's a mix of zen, modern, and sensory experiences. As part of the Posadas / Fiesta Americana family of hotels, their DNA has a long and strong commitment to meeting



HARD ROCK

For younger generations (and many of my industry colleagues who flash back to their 1970s), Hard Rock offers an energetic, rockin' experience. The rock-n-roll branding is truly impressive -- everywhere from guitars stitched in the bed coverings to lobby memorabilia. The Cancun location is brand new, and the 1,700-room Punta Cana resort



HYATT ZILARA & HYATT ZIVA

In 2013, Hyatt introduced its first all-inclusive hotel brands with the launch of the Hyatt Zilara and the Hyatt Ziva. With properties in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Hyatt Zilara is an adults-only brand while the Hyatt Ziva is family friendly. Hyatt defines their all-inclusive brands as innovative, with a focus on guest services to create unique and





PALACE RESORTS

The Palace portfolio includes many interesting properties. We've taken 2 groups to the large Moon Palace in Cancun. Both groups loved the size, dining, adult beverages, and recreational activities offered. Other options within the brand are located in Cancun, Cozumel, Isla Mujeres, and Playa Del Carmen. Consider Palace Resorts the low cost, high value option of the group-friendly AI's.

WHO HAVE WE EXCLUDED?

Who have we excluded? The resorts that, we believe, focus more on honeymooners, couples, and leisure travelers. A resort cannot be all things to all people (or in this discussion, groups). In our opinion, Sandals, Beaches, Couples, Excellence, Iberostar, and Riu seem more focused on leisure travelers than meeting planning companies and group incentive travel.

Hopefully, we've been helpful to readers and not alienated any industry colleagues!



ABOUT BRIGHTSPOT

Brightspot manages full-service meetings & events, incentive & recognition programs, and employee engagement campaigns for enterprise clients - with incomparable creativity, flexibility, and commitment to deliver results. Meetings & Conventions magazine recognized Brightspot as one of the Best Places to Work in the Meetings Industry, and Incentive Magazine has awarded its Motivation Masters award to Brightspot client programs.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE? COME SEE US!



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