

## **VILLAS OF DISTINCTION® TO OFFER EXCLUSIVE, CUSTOMIZABLE LUXURY PACKAGES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EXCURSIONIST™**

*One-of-a-kind packages help villa rental customers complete their luxurious dream vacation*

Port Washington, New York (January 22, 2013) – Being able to customize a luxury dream villa vacation based on travel preferences to places you could not arrange on your own will soon be possible when booking a villa vacation with Villas of Distinction® starting at the end of March 2013.

Villas of Distinction®, the world's premier villa rental company has teamed up with Excursionist™, an innovative luxury experiential travel website, offering a dynamic selection of unique experiences worldwide, to offer its Villa rental customers exclusive packages that can be customized to complement almost every villa vacation.

“We are thrilled to be able to provide our customers tailor-made travel experiences that they won't find anywhere else, said Steve Lassman, vice president and general manager, Villas of Distinction. “We are always looking for new, innovative product offerings that enrich the already luxurious villa travel experience and we have found that through our partnership with Excursionist.”

Starting at the end of March 2013, Villas of Distinction customers will be able to choose from an array of exclusive, customizable villa packages in luxurious destinations including St. Martin, St. Barts, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Maui, Jamaica, Italy, France, Turks & Caicos and Costa Rica.

The experts at Excursionist have already curated 12 packages for St. Martin and more than 90 will be offered at launch in St. Martin, Maui, St. Barts, Italy, the British Virgin Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

“In the past, travelers had to choose between booking an experiential trip with a tour company or staying at a villa, independent of each other,” said Norman Aynbinder, managing director for Excursionist. “This exciting new partnership will provide a truly differentiated service to travelers allowing them to combine the privacy and comfort of their own villa with the experiential component of taking unique, customized excursions that they couldn't book on their own — experiences that were never offered in the past.”

For the traveler seeking adventure — imagine parasailing in a secluded cove, wreck diving amid sharks or galloping on a private beach. For the traveler who enjoys being pampered — a massage overlooking an amazing vista, private drivers at your beck and call, personal shopper and meals prepared by a gourmet chef.

These are just a few of the many packages that can complement a villa vacation and are customizable to fit any traveler's desires. These unique, unusual and tailor-made experiences can only be found as part of a villa rental through Villas of Distinction starting at the end of March 2013. Excursionist packages will also be available through the Villas of Distinction sister company, Island Hideaways.

### **About Villas of Distinction**

Villas of Distinction® is a premier luxury villa provider that has helped travelers find their perfect vacation home for more than 20 years. The company represents thousands of privately owned villas in 50+ luxurious destinations, most of which feature private pools, butlers, maids and chefs, making a luxury getaway possible for even the most budget-conscious vacationer. Condé Nast Traveler's Readers Travel Awards' 2010 Favorite Villa Company, Villas of Distinction takes pride in offering customized vacations to meet every imaginable need. The company also recently was named "Best Tour Operator of the Year" by Atout France, the France Tourism Development Agency. [www.VillasofDistinction.com](http://www.VillasofDistinction.com)

### **About Island Hideaways**

Since 1986, Island Hideaways has been a leading provider of luxury villas throughout the Caribbean. Each home rental is unique. In fact, travelers actually have the option of reserving their own private island! Recently acclaimed by Condé Nast Traveler and Forbes.com for excellence, Island Hideaways has built its reputation on the service it offers and the expertise of its reservation consultants. Customizing villa vacations based on individual needs and personal preferences of its customers underscores Island Hideaways number-one priority – customer satisfaction. [www.IslandHideaways.com](http://www.IslandHideaways.com)

### **About Excursionist**

Excursionist is a new concept in experiential, online travel founded in 2010 by veterans of the luxury travel industry. Excursionist designs unique travel experiences, which are organized around customers' passions, curated by world-renowned experts and led by fascinating local personalities. Many of the experiences are bookable directly online and travelers can assemble existing experiences to build their own customized trips. Examples include digging for dinosaurs with a top paleontologist, going to Greenland with a polar explorer and having a private dinner at Angkor Wat. Excursionist partners with members-only organizations such as Founderscard, Executive Jet Management and Caprice Holdings private clubs to provide unique travel benefits to their members. [www.excursionist.com](http://www.excursionist.com)

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