

Suite Talk

OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



STRATEGIC
SITE SELECTION



SANDBOX EVENTS
by STRATEGIC SITE SELECTION

your partner in planning.

Hi Kristi,

It's hard to believe how quickly the year is picking up speed! At Strategic Site Selection and Sandbox Events, things are in full swing—this past week has been our busiest yet.

One of the most exciting (and sometimes challenging) aspects of our industry is its ever-evolving nature. No two days are the same, which means adaptability is key. With constant changes and evolving trends, staying informed is essential—and that's exactly why we love sharing this newsletter with you. We hope it not only keeps you informed but also inspire new ideas for your meetings and events.

In this edition, we're covering:

Hotel Highlight: Dreams Las Mareas

Destination Spotlight with Tanya: Dubai, the Bahamas & Barcelona

Directors' Meeting Recap

And much more!

As we close out the month of love, we hope you love this edition as much as we enjoyed creating it. And as your year gets busier, remember—we're here to help make your meetings and events seamless, successful, and cost-effective. Let's connect and make it happen!

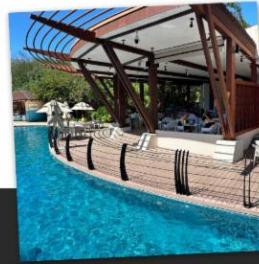
Cheers,

The Suite Talk Team

Hotel Feature



Site visit by: Kristi Piukkala
Director of Client Relations & Operations Sandbox Events



Hotel Highlight: [Dreams Las Mareas, Costa Rica](#)

This month, Kristi Piukkala, our Director of Client Relations & Operations, had the pleasure of visiting Dreams Las Mareas in Guanacaste, Costa Rica—an exquisite gem in the Hyatt collection. Located within a lush tropical rainforest along Playa El Jobo, this stunning resort offers breathtaking ocean views and an immersive nature experience. During her visit, Kristi spotted exotic birds, iguanas, playful monkeys and more, adding to the magic of the experience.

A Perfect Blend of Business & Leisure

Located 1.5 hours from the nearest airport and just 30 minutes from the closest town, the resort offers easy access to a variety of local attractions—whether you're looking for a quick getaway or a half-day excursion.

Venue Highlights

- 447 elegantly designed rooms & suites with a tropical, bohemian aesthetic
- 8,000 sq. ft. of versatile meeting space, including a 3,136 sq. ft. conference room, theater seating, and breakout rooms
- ♀ Serene spa & state-of-the-art fitness center for the ultimate relaxation
- Endless excitement—snorkeling, scuba diving, wildlife watching, and more!

A Commitment to Excellence

Guests at Dreams Las Mareas are welcomed with a complimentary flute of sparkling wine, setting the tone for an outstanding experience. With 10 diverse restaurants and 8 lively bars, the resort offers an exceptional culinary journey, ensuring every meal is an experience to remember.

A special thank you to Cinthya Briceno, Group Sales Manager, and her outstanding team for their warm hospitality and an insightful tour of this gorgeous property.

At Strategic Site Selection, we're always scouting venues that deliver both luxury and functionality. Whether you're planning an incentive trip, corporate retreat, or a high-impact meeting, Dreams Las Mareas offers the perfect blend of elegance, adventure, and top-tier service.

Thinking about Costa Rica for your next event? [Contact us](#)—we'll help you make it happen!

Exploring Remarkable Venues & Top Global Destinations



By: Tanya Faurot
Director, Global Accounts



Dubai, UAE | Nassau, Bahamas | Barcelona, Spain

As a global company, our monthly destination reports are always an exciting highlight the unique locations our team has been sourcing worldwide. At Strategic Site Selection, we always focus on sourcing unique locations within interesting destinations worldwide. This month, we caught up with Tanya Faurot, one of our Directors of Global Accounts, to discuss some remarkable venues that have recently captured her attention.

Dubai, UAE

Hotel Highlight: *Atlantis The Royal*

Positioned at the apex of Palm Jumeirah - Atlantis The Royal redefines ultra-luxury with its bold architecture and lavish amenities. The resort features 795 rooms, each offering private balconies with stunning views of the Dubai skyline or the Arabian Gulf. Even the standard guestrooms are spacious, measuring just under 600 square feet.

Why We Love It: Atlantis, The Royal offers an unparalleled blend of luxury and experiential design, making it an exceptional choice for corporate events and meetings.

Standout Features:

- Extensive meeting spaces equipped with state-of-the-art technology.
- An extravagant breakfast buffet curated by renowned chefs.
- The resort's design features mesmerizing elements like flames, fountains, and waterfalls, elevating the wow factor to new heights.

Group Activities in Dubai:

- Desert safari adventure with dinner.
- Dhow river cruise to experience the Dubai skyline up close.
- Tour of the world's tallest building, Burj Khalifa.

Nassau, Bahamas

Hotel Highlight: *Rosewood Baha Mar*

Located on the gorgeous Cable Beach, Rosewood Baha Mar is part of an expansive three-property complex that includes SLS Baha Mar and Grand Hyatt. The resort's commitment to conservation and its array of outdoor venues makes it ideal for unique group dining experiences.

Why We Love It: Rosewood Baha Mar seamlessly blends luxury accommodations with a strong commitment to environmental conservation, offering a distinctive setting for corporate gatherings.

Standout Features:

- Featuring 230 guest rooms and 20 meeting rooms, totaling over 22,000 square feet of indoor space, complemented by more than 12,000 square feet of exquisite outdoor venues.
- Guests at Rosewood enjoy exclusive access to all Baha Mar amenities, including a wildlife sanctuary housing an aviary, flamingo, and tortoise habitats.
- Close proximity to local attractions, enhancing the overall guest experience.

Group Activities in the Bahamas:

- Day excursion to Blue Lagoon Island.
- Swimming with dolphins and stingrays.

Barcelona, Spain

Hotel Highlight: *[SLS Barcelona](#)*

Set to open its doors in April 2025, SLS Barcelona is poised to bring its signature brand of immersive extravagance to the waterfront district of Port Forum with breathtaking water views. With three full-sized pools and unforgettable event spaces, SLS Barcelona aims to be the ultimate destination for both locals and travelers.

Why We Love It: Although not yet open, SLS Barcelona's commitment to luxury and its prime waterfront location make it a promising venue for future events.

Standout Features:

- The resort will offer 471 lavishly appointed rooms, 15 meeting rooms totaling 13,100 square feet.
- SLS Barcelona will also bring six fresh new dining, drinking and nightlife hotspots including: a Mediterranean coal-fired grill; a tapas bar; a dynamic post-modern cocktail bar; and a day-to-night pool club set across one of the largest waterfront rooftops in Barcelona.
- Proximity to Barcelona's cultural landmarks, offering guests a rich local experience.

Group Activities in Barcelona:

- Visit to the Gothic Quarter, including a tour of the Basilica de la Sagrada Familia.
- Catamaran or yacht rentals to view the city from the sea.
- Access to numerous nearby golf courses.

Discover Your Next Destination

Each of these destinations offers unique experiences and exceptional venues suitable for a variety of corporate events and meetings. At Strategic Site Selection, we're excited to assist you in planning your next unforgettable event at one of these remarkable locations.

[Contact us](#) today to start planning your next event in one of these incredible destinations!

Director of Global Accounts - Team Retreat



A Look Back at Highlights from Our Director Team Retreat

This month, our Director Team took a well-deserved break from their busy schedules to gather in person at the [Marriott Château Champlain](#). As a fully remote company, these face-to-face meetings are a rare and valued opportunity to connect, align, and recharge. Over the course of a few days, we engaged in dynamic brainstorming sessions, knowledge sharing, and meaningful team bonding—all essential to fostering collaboration and innovation.

A Retreat to Remember

Our time together was filled with incredible experiences and warm hospitality from our industry partners. Here are some of the highlights:

A Wonderful Welcome – We kicked off the retreat with a lovely lunch at [Hotel William Gray](#), where we were graciously hosted. Such a warm welcome!

Exploring Montreal's Top Venues – Our itinerary included a site visit at [Monville Hotel](#), where their team provided a fantastic tour. The day ended with a delicious dinner at the Marriott Château Champlain, where we enjoyed great food and company.

A Taste of Humaniti – We spent the next day exploring [Humaniti Montreal](#), where we were treated to a fantastic lunch—many thanks to the team there for their hospitality.

A Grande Finale at Four Seasons Montreal – We wrapped up our retreat with an unforgettable experience at the [Four Seasons Montreal](#). Our team indulged in a relaxing sound bath at the Guerlain Spa, followed by an exceptional dinner at Marcus. Special thanks to the Four Seasons' team for making this a truly memorable experience.

A Heartfelt Thank You

A special mention to [Tourism Montreal](#) and Karine Laferrière and our own Helene Getty—your dedication and meticulous planning made this retreat a seamless and unforgettable experience. From flawless organization to thoughtful touches, your team went above and beyond, and we are truly grateful!

Refreshed and Ready for What's Next

These in-person gatherings are more than just meetings; they inspire creativity, strengthen our teamwork, and reinforce our shared vision. After a few days of collaboration, connection, and celebration, we are now energized and ready to bring even greater service and excellence to our clients.

Here's to another incredible year ahead!

Industry Events

See you There!

*Are you planning on attending any of these events? Let us know!
We're excited about the opportunity to reconnect with you.*



2025 Ottawa Meet Week

Feb 24-28, 2025

Ottawa Meet Week is a four-day adventure consisting of events hosted by the Canadian Society of Association Executives (CSAE), Meeting Professionals International (Ottawa Chapter), the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA Canada East Chapter), Destination Direct Canada and REVEAL Social. Click link below for updates and news.

[Ottawa Meet Week](#)



2025 CSAE Tête-à-Tête

Feb 26, 2025

Save the date for the highly anticipated Tête-à-Tête 2025, hosted by CSAE's Ottawa-Gatineau network. We are excited to announce the return of this premier event on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at the EY Centre in Ottawa. Tête-à-Tête will once again unite leaders from associations, not-for-profits, and government agencies nationwide. Explore the heart of the association community and meet a diverse range of exhibitors offering innovative products and services tailored to meet your organizational goals. Don't miss out on the networking opportunities and valuable insights that Tête-à-Tête 2025 has to offer!



Connect at Tête-à-Tête 2025!

Save the date: February 26

Join us at the [EY Centre](#) in Ottawa for Tête-à-Tête 2025, hosted by CSAE Ottawa-Gatineau! As part of Ottawa Meet Week, this premier event is the go-to gathering for leaders in associations, not-for-profits, and government agencies across Canada.

Don't Miss Our Exclusive Networking Dinner!

We're thrilled to host a special evening designed to bring like-minded professionals together. It's all about building connections, sharing ideas, and enjoying a memorable experience in a relaxed and engaging atmosphere.

The Strategic Site Selection team—Mark Dosman, Kristi Piukkala, Sabine Hacker-Bousquet, and Dana Adkin—will be there, and we'd love to connect with you!

Want to join the magic? [Contact us](#) today via email or DM on any of our social pages or send us an

email to secure your spot and make the most of this incredible opportunity.

Let's create unforgettable moments together at Tête-à-Tête 2025!



Sandbox Events Named Finalists for Prestigious Industry Awards!

We're thrilled to share some exciting news—Sandbox Events has been named a finalist in both the CN Agency Awards and the Event Production Awards! These esteemed recognitions celebrate excellence in full-service event agencies worldwide, and we are honored to be in the running.

Our Award Nominations

For the [CN Agency Awards](#), we are finalists in:

- Experiential Agency of the Year
- David & Goliath Award
- Event Producer of the Year

For the [Event Production Awards](#), we are finalists for:

- Creative Agency of the Year

From concept to execution, we are passionate about delivering innovative, impactful, and unforgettable experiences for our clients. These nominations are a testament to our team's dedication, creativity, and the strong partnerships that make our work possible.

A huge thank you to our clients, partners, and industry peers for your unwavering support—we couldn't have achieved this without you! Stay tuned as we count down to the awards and celebrate this incredible milestone together.



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