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THE NEW FIVE-STAR SONESTA OCEAN POINT RESORT SETS A NEW STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE AND ECO-FRIENDLY HOSPITALITY IN ST. MAARTEN

ST. MAARTEN (September 11, 2014) - The limitless all-inclusive, adults-only Sonesta Ocean Point Resort will be the premier five-star, all-suite property with a soft opening in October 2014. The 129-room resort is dedicated to the latest energy efficient technology and sustainable practices while bringing a new brand of style, luxury and outstanding service to the stunning island of St. Maarten.

In today's modern hospitality arena, environmental factors and reducing the carbon footprint have become the new standard, and Sonesta Ocean Point Resort has ensured all aspects from water waste management, energy efficiency, eco-friendly furnishings and soft goods has been properly implemented. This will be one of the largest investments in the destination, elevating the eco practices at both Sonesta Ocean Point Resort and sister property, the adjacent, four-star Sonesta Maho Beach Resort & Casino.

The following are the sustainable and eco-friendly practices being instated:

- * Photovoltaic generated energy will be installed, which will reduce the amount of power purchased from Sint Maarten's public utility company, and, at certain times of the day will be reduced by as much as 40%, therefore lowering the island's carbon footprint as public utility needs to produce less energy since public utility uses solely fossil fuels
- * Solar panels will provide hot water for both resorts, in both front and back of the house, eliminating natural gas boilers
- * A second energy efficient chiller will be installed at Sonesta Maho Beach Resort
- * At Sonesta Ocean Point, air conditioning will be supplied by highly efficient, low consumption multi-split units, which will also supply hot water to the suites
- * LED lights in both resorts
- * Eco-friendly climate control system, ensuring systems are turned off when doors/windows are opened and when temperatures reach a particular level
- * The latest MBR wastewater treatment technology will be implemented
- * Meeting space uses eco-friendly carpet made from reclaimed fishing nets
- * Sustainably farmed plantation wood is used in all millwork, and previously-mined Greek marble will be used in the custom-designed furnishings; previously mined stones do not disrupt existing ecosystems.

Blending contemporary design with a Caribbean vibe, the resort evokes a chic, inviting atmosphere from the public spaces to each of the spacious accommodations ranging from the 480 square-foot Junior Suite King to the lavish 2,600 square-foot Luxury Penthouse. Utilizing eco-conscious custom-designed furnishings, carefully laid out artwork and a modern LED lighting concept, the overall effect effortlessly maintains both a modern edge and the Caribbean's laid back allure.

Sonesta Ocean Point guests will have a bracelet that will serve as the room key granting access to the facilities at Sonesta Maho Beach Resort & Casino, although Sonesta Ocean Point facilities are exclusive to its guests that features three pools including The Edge pool with private beach on the cliff, Swim Out pool connected to its namesake suites, and The Point Pool; three bars and lounges including the Sunset Lounge & Bar, Azul Rooftop Bar for private functions, and the contemporary Martin's lobby café and bar; the Mediterranean-influenced Azul restaurant; an in-resort Wanderlista Concept Store featuring carefully-curated resort wear and accessories from around the world; and other resort exclusivities and amenities such as 24-hour room service, intimate gazebos, private cabanas, a dedicated open air wellness area and an organic garden.

Sonesta Ocean Point is ideally suited to accommodate weddings and other special events with a ten-acre oceanfront location, numerous venues to host weddings including the beach, a wedding gazebo overlooking the Caribbean Sea and the spectacular Azul Rooftop, exclusive to Ocean Point guests. Sonesta Ocean Point also features 24,000 square feet of renovated, eco-friendly meeting and conference facilities for business and social occasions accommodating up to 1,000 people.

For more information on Sonesta Ocean Point, call 1 800-SONESTA (1-800-766-3782) or the resort's direct number 1-721-545-3100 or visit www.sonesta.com/oceanpoint. Follow @oceanpointxm on Twitter, on Facebook/Sonesta Ocean Point Resort and on Instagram @oceanpointresort

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