

Fuel Surcharges Drop

Based on the decline in the price of fuel, Japan Airlines will progressively reduce the fuel surcharge on its fares, intending to cancel it completely when the price of Singapore kerosene stays below the benchmark of \$60 per barrel. In a parallel move in the cruise industry, Peter Deilmann Cruises has announced the immediate cancellation of fuel surcharges on its flagship, the *MS Deutschland*. The company will refund any fuel surcharges paid for future sailings and will drop the fuel charges completely throughout its entire fleet of river ships next year. The 520-passenger *Deutschland* operates deluxe voyages of seven to 23 nights to Africa, the Middle East, the Mediterranean, Europe, Russia, North and South America, the Caribbean and Antarctica. Visit www.jal.com and www.deilmann-cruises.com.

Just for Women

Hong Kong's Lotte Hotel Seoul-Downtown has opened its new Ladies' Floor, the first hotel in Korea to offer an entire floor exclusively for female guests. Located on the 22nd floor, the 21 deluxe, individually designed rooms and one suite have a dedicated club lounge. Nature is the key to the floor's décor, and all rooms have Jacuzzis, hair dryers, L'Occitane cosmetics, specially designed towels, slippers in two different sizes, organic and beauty beverages and a small jewelry box for personal accessories. The lounge has a library of 800 books specializing in cooking, fashion, travel, archi-

ture, beauty and interior design. Guests of the Ladies' Floor receive a duty-free store coupon for a 5- to 15-percent discount, and in-room welcome amenities include wine, macaroons and fruits. Lotte Hotel Seoul-Downtown is a member of World Hotels. Visit worldhotels.com.

Osaka to Seoul on JAL

Japan Airlines starts flying between Osaka (KIX) and Seoul (SEL) on Jan. 10, using a B767 aircraft. In December, JAL began codesharing with daily flights operated by Korean Air Lines (KAL) between the two airports. This brings JAL's codeshared flights with KAL to 15 routes, with a total of 248 round-trip flights per week linking Seoul, Busan and Jeju Island with eight cities in Japan. On the route between Kansai and Seoul (ICN) airports, JAL will reduce its flights from 21 to 14 per week. Visit www.jal.com.

Anniversary Song

Air France celebrates its 75th anniversary with a flying tribute to its earlier aircraft by painting one of its Airbus A320s in the same colors as its 1946 planes. Named *Pays de Roissy* for the region around Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport, the aircraft livery utilizes a new paint that needs little solvent, making it more environmentally friendly. Air France operates 65 Airbus A320s on its medium-haul network in France, Europe and the French Caribbean. Visit www.airfrance.com.

Fess Parker's Doubletree Hotel & Resort

Arrival/Check-in: The drive from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara puts everyone in a good mood, and the hotel's check-in process is smooth enough to maintain that positive energy. The layout of the property makes it very easy to find guestrooms, all of which are close to the lobby. Parking spaces are also close to guestrooms. **(30/30)**

Guest Quarters: Not all guestrooms have an ocean view, but those that do are worth the splurge. The bed faces the view, with a small veranda just outside. The beds and bedding are comfortable, a pleasure to fall into after a long day. The bath amenities are from Crabtree & Evelyn, and the Neutrogena makeup remover is an often overlooked nicety for female guests. The bathrooms are a bit small, but the guestroom is quite ample with a couch, coffee table and desk — not that anyone can get any work done with the gorgeous view. The coffeemaker brews two cups at a time and all the necessary condiments are there, including real half-and-half. **(29/30)**

Services/Amenities: The pool is not very large, but the ocean is just steps away. The spa is small but adequate. Bike rentals are available outside each group of rooms — you can rent standard bikes, small bikes, old-fashioned bikes and even covered surreys built for two or four — all perfect for a ride along the beach.

The restaurants are well appointed and cater to different tastes. A terrace on the balcony of the historic rotunda is perfect for weddings, business events or any type of gathering.

The surrounding area provides a lot of attractions to explore, including the Fess Parker Winery, owned by the resort owners, about 45 minutes away. The resort runs shuttle tours from the property, so it's not necessary to drive after sampling the fine estate premium wines. **(37/40)**

The Experience: One double-edged sword of this property is the name. The Doubletree moniker does not necessarily lend itself to a vision of a 5-star resort, and yet it is just that. On the other hand, there's an advantage to the owner's famous name. Fess Parker, for those too young to remember, was best known for his television roles as Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett in the 1950s and 1960s, and he is occasionally seen around the property. Combine this Hollywood touch with the stunning location, the exuberant staff and the peaceful atmosphere, and you have a winning experience.

Total Score: 96/100 Morissa Pawl

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