

Rebecca Recommends

Hotels and Services with Personality



RESPLENDENT CEYLON SELECTS REBECCA RECOMMENDS AS ITS NORTH AMERICAN SALES REPRESENTATIVE

I am deeply honored to announce that [Resplendent Ceylon](#), the benchmark for small luxury properties in Sri Lanka, has chosen Rebecca Recommends to act as its sales representative in North America.

Resplendent Ceylon owns and manages the only two Relais & Chateaux properties in Sri Lanka -- the much-vaunted [Tea Trails](#) in the mountainous tea country, and the luxury beach resort [Cape Weligama](#) on the southern coast near Galle, where I spent part of my honeymoon.

Resplendent Ceylon is developing more properties on this large island, set off the coast of India. A luxury beach camp called [Wild Coast Tented Lodge](#) will open later this year near Yala National Park, which boasts the world's largest concentration of leopards.

Following in 2017 is a [lakeside resort near Sigiriya](#), palace ruins atop a granite outcropping in the archaeologically rich Cultural Triangle. Red Rocks Beach Camp on a pristine sandy beach near Trincomalee on the northeast coast will complete the collection.



This partnership is especially exciting as Sri Lanka's ancient Buddhist cities, elephant safaris, fascinating tea country, and unspoiled Indian Ocean coastline have generated tremendous interest in the American travel press.

- Condé Nast Traveler named Sri Lanka ["a top destination for 2016"](#) because of its "hotel boom" combined with other-worldly beaches, lush national parks and cultural riches.
- Costas Christ of National Geographic Traveler called Sri Lanka the ["Island of Nice"](#) because of the warmth and friendliness of its people. He is planning his third trip!
- "1,000 Places To See Before You Die" selected Sri Lanka as one of 12 dream destinations for its 2018 wall calendar after author Patricia Schultz ["quickly fell under its spell"](#).
- Eric Rosen of National Geographic praised the island for its ["refreshing beaches and standout cultural sites"](#) -- without the mass of tourists that often come with those treasures."



With all that buzz comes rising interest from American travelers who enjoy an experience unlike any other. An island located off the coast of India, Sri Lanka is not just "India light," as some people think. It is a Buddhist country with its own rich cultural history, including eight UNESCO heritage sites and distinctive local traditions including native drumming, fire-walking and dance.

You can shop for jewelry made with local gems, buy handmade silks and other textiles, and bring home the world's finest spices. Sri Lanka also offers incredible values, with luxury accommodations at approximately half the rate of other exotic locales, such as Africa.



I was personally so taken by [Sri Lanka on a 2014 fam trip](#) that Charlie and I went there on our honeymoon, which was beautifully orchestrated by [Ventours](#). Watching the waves roll in at [Cape Weligama](#), we spent blissful hours lying by the crescent-shaped infinity pool overlooking the ocean.

Back in our spacious residence, we sipped a crisp South African white wine from our (complimentary!) mini-bar. Our bathroom was large enough to receive spa treatments, and afterward we slid open the glass walls of our luxurious bathroom to the outside garden.



We went whale and dolphin-watching on our own private boat - heavenly! We learned about Galle Fort's fascinating colonial history on a walking tour. Galle was founded by the Portuguese and later occupied by the Dutch and then the British, and it still reflects all those rich influences. We visited the local fish market, shopped for jewelry and picked up some colorful scarves at Barefoot.

One night, [Cape Weligama](#) granted our special request to enjoy a sunset dinner on the beach. It was a completely romantic end to the most wonderful and meaningful travel adventure of my life.



Both Charlie and I think the story behind Resplendent Ceylon is fascinating. The hospitality company was started by [Dilmah Tea](#), which owns some of Sri Lanka's finest tea estates. Dilmah is renowned for its high-quality, single-origin 100% pure Ceylon teas and controls every aspect of its tea operations, from growing through packaging and marketing.

Over the years [Dilmah Tea](#) received many requests from people who desired to visit the lush green highlands. It began to arrange special stays in its estate managers' gracious homes, built between 1890 and 1939. Guests so enjoyed the tours of the factories and plantations, the historic homes, and traditions such as port or sherry by the evening fire that Dilmah realized it had a new business taking root.



Today [Tea Trails](#) is a series of five "bungalows," each with four to six suites or rooms and its own distinct personality. The most traditionally colonial, Tientsin is a historical landmark where afternoon tea is served on a deep, cool verandah and croquet can be played on the lawn. Separated by two to six miles, the bungalows are connected by scenic walking trails through the waist-high tea bushes, tended to by the brightly garbed tea pickers.

It truly feels like you're staying in a home -- even your home -- due to the setting and incredibly gracious service from highly trained butlers. The meals (included in the rate) are the very best in the country, whether the food is Western or traditional Sri Lankan. And there's plenty to do. Activities at this 4,000 foot elevation include hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, white water rafting, tennis and an in-depth tour of the tea factory available only to Tea Trail guests.



Providing the perfect contrast to the quiet hill country, [Cape Weligama](#) is perched on a cliff-top site near Galle on Sri Lanka's southern coast. It was designed by Thai architect Lek Bunnag, whose projects include Four Seasons Langkawi, Maia Seychelles, Pangkor Laut and Ritz Carlton Phulay Bay.

Cape Weligama features 39 generously sized rooms -- mostly "private residences" that share a swimming pool with one neighbor. (Some even have a private swimming pool on the second floor balcony!) Even though it opened just over a year ago, new additions are coming, including a freestanding spa and The Ceylon Colony Club, overseen by a British beverage specialist.



When I first visited Tea Trails and Cape Weligama, I found them to be the country's most outstanding properties -- bar none. I was deeply impressed by the management's track record, commitment to excellence and plans for the future.

Malik J. Fernando, managing director of Resplendent Ceylon, expressed his desire to expand the American market by offering the very best experiences in Sri Lanka. Since my philosophy is to represent independently-owned luxury hotels which I can whole-heartedly recommend, we realized we had the perfect fit.

Should your clients be interested in travel to Sri Lanka, I can help by giving you detailed information about Resplendent Ceylon properties, arranging VIP status for your clients during their stay, and putting you in touch with Ventours, [the best people on the ground in Sri Lanka](#). Rebecca Recommends is Resplendent Ceylon's representative in North America, and as such our services are always complimentary.

Please feel free to contact me about Tea Trails, Cape Weligama, or anything else that I might be able to help you with.

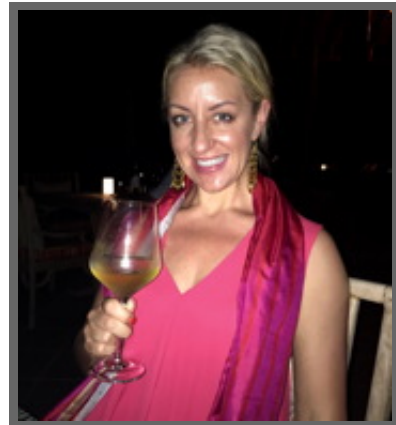
I would love to hear from you!

Very best wishes,

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