

**Easter Island's finest lodge,
** Posada de Mike Rapu **
celebrates its 1st Anniversary
and reflects on a year of adventures and accolades!**



18 December 2008: Until explora's arrival last year, architecture had been absent from the history of Easter Island. A year later, Posada de Mike Rapu has for the first time placed this extraordinarily remote destination on the map for the discerning adventurer.

Incorporating heavy local stone that fuses with the land, explora's Chilean architect José Cruz Ovalle introduced the art and science of architectural design through Posada de Mike Rapu, with the building rising majestically from its solitary perch. Combining futuristic design with local natural materials, the lodge emerges out of the volcanic rock to mirror the topography of this mysterious island where land, sea and skies are on a grandiose scale and seemingly merge into one.

One year on from its opening, explora is delighted to have seen Posada de Mike Rapu go from strength to strength - having played host to the great and the good from across the globe - and continues to enhance its guest experience with exciting new expeditions and authentic cultural and environmental immersion.

Although only in its infancy, Posada de Mike Rapu is proud to have achieved the LEED certification, cementing its position as the first hotel in the whole Latin America that holds such a certification.

As with all explora experiences the emphasis is on excursions and discovery. Expert bi-lingual and local guides are on hand to engage guests with the island; exploring on foot, by bicycle or four-wheel drive, picnicking in hidden caves and volcanic craters. Guests learn about the *ahus* (ceremonial burial platforms) that are home to the famous *moais* sculptures, made out of compressed volcanic ash. These giant yellow-grey monoliths are the only survivors of a dark and bloody tale of a civilisation's rise and fall and why these haunting figures were ever erected is still unknown today.



Coinciding with Posada de Mike Rapu's celebrations of its first birthday, residents and visitors to Easter Island are gearing up for the annual festivities of The Tapati Festival where Explora guests can fully immerse themselves in local rituals and celebrations by sporting traditional full-body paints and qualifying as fully fledged experts in *Haka Pei*, the traditional sport of sliding on banana tree trunks in the Pu'i hills!

Rates start at \$2,280 per person for a three-night stay.

Rates are inclusive of all meals, daily excursions and airport transfers.

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