

explora en Rapa Nui
****South America's first LEED certified hotel ****



Tuesday, 24 March 2009 – Yet again raising the bar in South America, explora are delighted to announce that their third hotel, **explora en Rapa Nui – ‘Posada de Mike Rapu’**, has been fully certified as a LEED property.

“Receiving this international recognition has made us immensely proud. It reflects our desire to create an eco-friendly property that not only provides the best guest experience but that is also sensitive to its surroundings,” commented Jesús Parilla, Commercial Vice President of explora.

Throughout its construction, Posada de Mike Rapu has followed strict guidelines from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, an internationally recognized system that provides owners and operators with an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings’ performance and also promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognising performance in key areas of human and environmental health.

By virtue of the LEED certification explora are able to guarantee numerous environmental and social benefits to the local community and its staff and guests. Reduction of solid waste generated by the hotel for example, helps to protect the ecosystem whilst the improved thermal and acoustic environment enhances the health and comfort of those staying and working within the hotel. The sensitive design of the building will also minimize the strain on local infrastructure and help reduce operating costs and improve energy efficiency.

In keeping with explora’s properties in Patagonia and the Atacama Desert, the architecture of *Posada de Mike Rapu* combines futuristic design with local natural materials, emerging 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.

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 from its solitary perch.

Notes to Editors

explora is not so much a hotel group as a revolutionary travel experience. Founded in 1989, it is an enterprise whose principal aim is to encourage a new attitude towards travel for those who have a passion for discovering new places and new people, in remote and relatively unexplored regions of the southern tip of South America.

**For reservations, please call explora on 00 562 206 6060,
email reserve@explora.com
or visit the website at www.explora.com**

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