

## EXCITING BREAKING NEWS

### Winter Break 2020

Madeira here we come ....



Over the past six weeks, we have been researching the possibility of a Winter / Spring break in 2020. So many of you wrote in after we indicated that we were not able to arrange a Spring break for this year, that we thought it was worth researching an option for 2020, and we have negotiated a great deal in Madeira – which interestingly enough was a location that so many of you requested for another visit. It does represent excellent value for money and of course the climate is always mild – but more of that later.

We have secured availability at the **VIDAMAR RESORT HOTEL** which sits adjacent to the famous Reids Palace Hotel at the start of the Funchal Lido – within walking distance of the centre of town and with wonderful amenities. Our 'agent' has also secured initial pricings on flights and accommodation, and as some flight seats were only released a few days ago, it will facilitate the early bookers getting the best fares because, as you are aware, we have to comply with the normal booking process for aircraft seats which do go up in price as the aircraft fills. The hotel is offering us half board – but the great news is that there are 3 restaurants to choose from each evening. One is the buffet style, and the others include a traditional Portuguese restaurant, and an Italian eatery, which are in the same complex.

We are also negotiating access to the spa facility which includes steam room, brine swimming pool etc, and there is also an indoor heated pool. The rooms are comfortable, and there is the opportunity of upgrading to a superior sea view room should that be required.

The dates are Friday 21<sup>st</sup> through until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, and these dates include the **Carnival festivities** which are held in and around Funchal over the first weekend. It is an amazing spectacle and a sight to behold!

Flights can be arranged from Glasgow, Birmingham and Gatwick. Inevitably single supplements will apply and we are currently in negotiation so that we achieve the very best prices for all potential guests. If our initial research goes as well as it has thus far, the rates will not be vastly different from what we paid 3 years ago, which represent the kind of value achieved by early booking and by visiting earlier in the season. The agent has also assured us that the price will include transfers to and from the hotel in Madeira, plus 1 piece of hold baggage.

I was there for a few days in February and stayed at the VidaMar. I was more than happy with the facilities and was able to establish a good relationship with a Guest Relations Officer, who was very keen to encourage us to visit the resort – for all the right reasons. The climate in February is apparently more dependable than in late March and April, and if the days that I spent there in February were an indication, the sun shone every day and it was very warm.

So, in conclusion, I anticipate that we will have a brochure to issue shortly after Easter, but if you would like to register your interest in Madeira 2020 with Flame Trust, perhaps you could respond by email or by calling Jackie on 01384 232786, and we will make sure that you are given priority when we come to securing the first batch of aircraft seats and accommodation. As you requested to be contacted via email, you will also receive the brochure well ahead of the postal delivery.

We really do recommend this opportunity. As you know, we have sometimes struggled arranging these breaks, so working with an agent to secure good value, who has an understanding of our ethos has been invaluable. We are more than happy with the co-operation we have received as we research this possibility. We would love to hear from you as soon as possible as I suspect we will be making firm bookings by the end of April.

Finally, wishing you a very happy Easter from the Flame team ..... HE IS RISEN ! Hallelujah

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave', on a light green background.

Dave