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**Copa Airlines Releases Competitive Intro Fare for New Direct Barbados Flight**

**Miami**– The Copa Airlines inaugural flight which will connect Barbados and Panama starting July 17, 2018 will debut with a competitive promotional rate of $450 (USD) round trip. The flight, which was announced this past February, will operate Tuesdays and Fridays and offers a total of 94 seats.

On April 16, Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. (BTMI) and Copa Airlines held an intimate cocktail reception at Barbados’ Hilton Resort with the purpose of introducing the flight to industry partners highlighting this exclusive value rate. The event welcomed several VIPs including, diplomats from Argentina, Cuba and Ecuador, foreign affairs officials, hoteliers, tour operators and other local tourism service providers.

The Caribbean and Latin America Director of the BTMI, Corey Garrett, shared a few words about the association of Barbados with Copa Airlines and provided sales statistics for the new route. "I am pleased to announce that the load factor of this flight, which will open Barbados’ doors to more Latin American destinations, has exceeded the 70 percent mark during the first three months since its announcement. This surpassed our initial projections of 50 percent. We have developed national and international marketing strategies specifically for our priority markets of Panama, Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Argentina, to help us promote the new route and generate more interest in Barbados, the gem of the Caribbean Sea. This competitive introductory rate will make the destination even more accessible to travelers looking for a tropical getaway.”

Flights are available for purchase now on Copa Airline’s [website](http://www.copaair.com/).

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**About Barbados**

The island of Barbados offers the most authentic Caribbean experience with its exceptionally rich culture and history rooted in remarkable landscapes. Rated as one of the world's sexiest beaches in 2008 by Concierge.com; Barbados' Crane Beach in St. Philip stands as a premier destination for travelers. Barbados is also the first Zagat-rated Caribbean island and is known as the culinary capital of the Caribbean. Barbados has hosted several world class events including: The annual Barbados Food & Rum Festival; the 2006 PGA World Golf Championships-Barbados World Cup, the ICC Cricket World Cup Finals in 2007, the Sentebale Charity Polo match with Prince Harry of Wales in 2010, and the ICC Twenty20 Cricket Finals for 2010, and the Rihanna LOUD concert in 2011. Accommodations range from picturesque plantation houses and villas, to quaint bed and breakfasts and award-winning, five-star resorts. Grantley Adams International Airport offers even more non-stop and direct service from a growing number of U.S. cities, making Barbados the true gateway to the Eastern Caribbean. Barbados was voted eighth in the World by Trip Advisor's "2008 Traveler’s Choice Destination Awards" in its Top 100 Destinations category. For more information on travel to Barbados, visit www.visitbarbados.org, follow on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/VisitBarbados, via Twitter @Barbados.