

NH HOTELES 9M TO SEPTEMBER SALES AND RESULTS

Hotel P&L	9M 2006	9M 2005	% Change	% Change Comparable*
Hotels Revenue	744.14	661.11	12.6%	9.5%
Hotels EBITDA	111.73	90.65	23.3%	31.20%
Hotels Net Income	24.52	17.27	42.0%	

Real Estate P&L	9M 2006	9M 2005	% Change
Real Estate Revenue	19.89	26.48	-24.9%
Real Estate Ebitda	7.77	11.17	-30.4%
Sotogrande Net Income	4.50	7.21	-37.6%

(*) At constant scope of consolidation

HOTEL ACTIVITY

- In the year to September 2006, RevPar at comparable Hotels in Europe increased by 10.8%. In the third quarter alone, RevPar increased by 9.6%, led by a continued strong performance in Northern and Southern Europe.
- ADR in comparable hotels in Europe rose by 8.5%, and was responsible for 78.5% of the total growth in RevPar.
- The improving trend at hotels in Latin America was maintained, with an accumulated increase in RevPar of 19.28% in comparable hotels.
- The German hotels achieved positive Ebitda of €3.6m on the back of the World Cup, a remarkable performance of the underlying business and contained lease costs owing to the renegotiation of 14 hotel contracts in Germany.
- Total Ebitda rose by 23.3% due to a better sales performance with higher occupancy and ADR. Nevertheless, excluding the effects of exceptional items in the accounts, Ebitda growth would have been 31.2%
- On a comparative basis, total Ebitda lost three percentage points between 2005 and 2006 due to the acceleration in the rate of new openings carried out since 2005, which has quadrupled the negative contribution from new openings. The reasons for this are as follows:
 - Under IFRS, costs of new openings may no longer be capitalised, as they were prior to 1st January 2005.
 - These hotels are obviously loss-making in their first few months of operations.

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY

- Sotogrande's real estate business reported total sales of €19.89m, 25% down compared with the same period last year. The difference is explained by the product delivery schedule and the fewer number of plots sold, compared with houses and apartments.
- At end-June 2006, confirmed real estate sales not reflected in the accounts amounted to €99.7m, with an estimated margin of €39m. The majority of these sales were made in the residential development of "Ribera del Marlin" and "Los Cortijos de La Reserva". The figure for sales not reflected in the accounts at year-end 2005 was €79.9m.

REVPAR 9M TO SEPTEMBER	AVERAGE ROOMS		OCCUPANCY %		ADR		REVPAR	
	2,006	2,005	2,006	% Var	2,006	% Var	2,006	% Var
Madrid	3,556	3,557	66.49%	0.85%	95.53	8.64%	63.52	9.56%
Barcelona	1,036	1,036	74.80%	3.07%	87.74	7.07%	65.63	10.36%
Rest of Spain & Portugal	5,478	5,480	66.25%	2.49%	75.84	6.07%	50.24	8.70%
Spain & Portugal Comparable	10,070	10,073	67.22%	1.97%	84.08	7.12%	56.51	9.24%
Total Non Comparable Spain & Portugal	1,587	682	55.09%	4.39%	91.36	-12.15%	50.33	-8.29%
TOTAL B.U. SPAIN & PORTUGAL	11,657	10,754	65.57%	0.74%	84.91	6.41%	55.67	7.20%
Italy Comparable	376	384	74.07%	4.13%	87.98	12.72%	65.17	17.38%
TOTAL B.U ITALY	376	384	74.07%	4.13%	87.98	12.72%	65.17	17.38%
Amsterdam	1,691	1,691	86.30%	1.60%	130.12	9.52%	112.29	11.28%
Brussels	942	943	68.65%	14.90%	80.63	-1.03%	55.35	13.72%
Sud Africa	241	240	54.08%	7.18%	58.99	3.93%	31.90	11.39%
Rest of Holland	2,915	2,914	66.32%	0.71%	73.44	8.09%	48.71	8.85%
Rest of Belgium	174	174	66.44%	5.34%	60.48	-0.07%	40.18	5.26%
Holland & Belgium & Others Comparable	5,963	5,962	71.86%	3.25%	93.04	7.11%	66.86	10.59%
Non Comparable Belgium & Holland & Others	937	747	70.87%	-4.16%	69.96	14.32%	49.58	9.56%
TOTAL B.U. HOLLAND&BELGIUM	6,900	6,709	71.73%	2.35%	89.94	7.27%	64.51	9.79%
Switzerland Comparable	562	562	73.40%	11.49%	74.80	0.52%	54.90	12.07%
Austria Comparable	969	969	77.08%	5.32%	73.79	5.02%	56.88	10.61%
Hungary Comparable	160	160	79.02%	-6.89%	61.28	15.19%	48.43	7.26%
Total Swit & Austria & Hungary Comp	1,691	1,691	76.04%	5.84%	72.89	4.69%	55.42	10.80%
Romania Non Comparable	70	0	45.91%		59.35		27.25	
TOTAL B.U. SWITZ&AUST&HUNG& ROM	1,761	1,691	74.85%	4.18%	72.56	4.22%	54.31	8.57%
Berlin	1,180	1,180	62.71%	-5.73%	65.96	15.73%	41.36	9.10%
Frankfurt	1,209	1,210	68.82%	1.99%	70.59	6.58%	48.58	8.70%
Munich	1,128	1,128	63.93%	-4.85%	75.58	24.57%	48.32	18.52%
Rest of Germany	4,971	4,971	61.21%	3.28%	59.11	11.21%	36.18	14.86%
Germany Comparable	8,488	8,489	62.86%	0.59%	64.07	12.79%	40.28	13.45%
Germany Non Comparable	465	182	54.83%	49.33%	73.72	46.74%	40.43	119.12%
TOTAL B.U. GERMANY	8,953	8,670	62.45%	0.79%	64.51	13.73%	40.29	14.63%
Total Europe Comparable	26,588	26,599	67.53%	2.15%	79.53	8.50%	53.70	10.83%
Total Europe Non Comparable	3,058	1,610	59.67%	-1.82%	80.55	5.73%	48.07	3.80%
TOTAL EUROPE CONSOLIDATED	29,646	28,209	66.72%	1.39%	79.63	8.40%	53.12	9.91%
Mercosur Comparable	1,052	1,045	69.65%	-1.94%	46.13	21.91%	32.13	19.54%
Mexico Comparable	1,255	1,255	72.20%	13.17%	72.24	5.41%	52.16	19.29%
Latin America Comparable	2,307	2,300	71.04%	5.89%	60.56	12.65%	43.02	19.28%
Mercosur Non Comparable	413	357	60.35%	-12.19%	59.26	31.32%	35.76	15.32%
Mexico Non Comparable	333	274	50.28%	17.31%	54.96	9.92%	27.64	28.94%
Latin America Non Comparable	746	631	55.85%	-2.85%	57.54	23.18%	32.14	19.67%
LATINAMERICA CONSOLIDATED	3,053	2,931	67.33%	3.55%	59.95	14.36%	40.36	18.42%
TOTAL CONSOLIDATED	32,699	31,140	66.77%	1.59%	77.77	8.78%	51.93	10.51%
Total Comparable NH	28,895	28,899	67.81%	2.46%	77.94	8.67%	52.85	11.34%
Total Non Comparable NH	3,804	2,241	58.93%	-1.55%	76.27	11.81%	44.95	10.07%
TOTAL NH	32,699	31,140	66.77%	1.59%	77.77	8.78%	51.93	10.51%

REVENUE AND EBITDA 9M 2006	9M 2006			9M 2005			%9M06/05 Change	
	REVENUE €m	EBITDA €m	Margin %	Revenue €m	EBITDA €m	Margin %	Revenue	EBITDA
B.U. SPAIN & PORTUGAL COMPARABLE	245.25	50.24	20.5%	227.60	41.79	18.4%	7.8%	20.2%
Spain & Portugal Non-comparable	41.86	0.44	1.1%	26.85	-0.45	-1.7%	55.9%	197.8%
B.U.SPAIN & PORTUGAL	287.11	50.68	17.7%	254.45	41.34	16.2%	12.8%	22.6%
B.U. HOLLAND & BELGIUM COMPARABLE	175.56	57.79	32.9%	160.12	46.03	28.7%	9.6%	25.5%
Holland & Belgium & Others Non-comparable	26.11	6.32	24.2%	26.28	12.40	47.2%	-0.6%	-49.0%
B.U. HOLLAND & BELGIUM & OTHERS	201.67	64.11	31.8%	186.40	58.43	31.3%	8.2%	9.7%
B.U. S&A&H COMPARABLE	37.04	2.17	5.9%	33.02	0.01	0.0%	12.2%	
B.U. SWITZERLAND & AUSTRIA & HUNGARY	37.04	2.17	5.9%	33.02	0.01	0.0%	12.2%	
B.U. GERMANY COMPARABLE	147.89	3.66	2.5%	136.40	-0.96	-0.7%	8.4%	481.3%
Germany Non-comparable	6.95	0.63	9.1%	1.39	0.00	0.0%	400.0%	0.0%
B.U. GERMANY	154.84	4.29	2.8%	137.79	-0.96	-0.7%	12.4%	546.9%
ITALY COMPARABLE	11.30	-1.29	-11.4%	9.76	-1.34	-13.7%	15.8%	3.7%
B.U. ITALY	11.30	-1.29	-11.4%	9.76	-1.34	-13.7%	15.8%	3.7%
TOTAL EUROPE COMPARABLE	617.04	112.57	18.2%	566.90	85.53	15.1%	8.8%	31.6%
B.U. LATIN AMERICA COMPARABLE	40.98	11.68	28.5%	34.25	9.18	26.8%	19.6%	27.2%
Latin America Non-comparable	7.52	2.05	27.3%	5.44	2.53	46.5%	38.2%	-19.0%
B.U. LATIN AMERICA	48.50	13.73	28.3%	39.69	11.71	29.5%	22.2%	17.3%
HOTEL ACTIVITY COMPARABLE	658.02	124.25	18.9%	601.15	94.71	15.8%	9.5%	31.2%
CORPORATE	2.99	-21.90		0.00	-18.53			-18.2%
TOTAL HOTEL ACTIVITY	744.14	111.73	15.0%	661.11	90.65	13.7%	12.6%	23.3%
SOTOGRADE REAL ESTATE	19.89	7.77	39.1%	26.48	11.17	42.2%	-24.9%	-30.4%
TOTAL CONSOLIDATED	764.03	119.50	15.6%	687.59	101.82	14.8%	11.1%	17.4%

NH HOTELES, S.A.	<u>9M 2006</u>		<u>9M 2005</u>		<u>9M 2006/2005</u>
P&L ACCOUNT AS AT SEPTEMBER, 30 th 2006	€m	%	€m	%	Change. %
Room Revenues	738.88	96.7%	658.01	95.7%	12.3%
Real estate sales and other	19.67	2.6%	26.48	3.9%	-25.7%
Other non-recurring revenues	5.48	0.7%	3.10	0.5%	76.6%
TOTAL REVENUES	764.03	100.0%	687.59	100.0%	11.1%
Cost of real estate sales	-3.95	-0.5%	-6.79	-1.0%	-41.8%
Staff Cost	-257.08	-33.6%	-238.29	-34.7%	7.9%
Operating expenses	-242.90	-31.8%	-215.99	-31.4%	12.5%
Other Non-recurring expenses	-2.45	-0.3%	-1.09	-0.2%	125.5%
GROSS OPERATING PROFIT	257.65	33.7%	225.44	32.8%	14.3%
Lease payments and property taxes	-138.15	-18.1%	-123.62	-18.0%	11.8%
EBITDA	119.50	15.6%	101.82	14.8%	17.4%
Depreciation	-57.70	-7.6%	-50.07	-7.3%	15.2%
EBIT	61.80	8.1%	51.75	7.5%	19.4%
Interest income (expense)	-19.97	-2.6%	-13.47	-2.0%	48.2%
Income from minority equity interests	0.32	0.0%	-1.26	-0.2%	-125.4%
EBT	42.15	5.5%	37.02	5.4%	13.9%
Corporate income tax	-12.65	-1.7%	-8.05	-1.2%	57.1%
NET INCOME before minorities	29.50	3.9%	28.97	4.2%	1.8%
Minority interests	-0.48	-0.1%	-4.48	-0.7%	-89.3%
NET INCOME	29.02	3.8%	24.49	3.6%	18.5%

HOTEL BUSINESS

Spain

- The positive RevPar trend of +8.94% posted in the first half of the year accelerated over the summer period, supported by a rise in ADR of 7.12% over the first nine months of 2006, accounting for 70% of the RevPar increase of +9.24%.
- The focus on yield management has enabled NH to increase ADR in all regions through the implementation of strategies to increase average prices during off-peak periods.
- Traditionally low demand periods for NH such as weekends are becoming an increasingly important source of occupancy. The remarkable positioning of NH across this business unit is benefiting from the increasing appeal of Spanish cities as tourist destinations thanks to measures taken by local government authorities, such as investments in cities' transportation infrastructure and enhancement of their cultural heritage.
- Total Ebitda was influenced by one factor:
 - The disposal of the hotel NH Sport and Orus in the first quarter of 2005 for €2.2M has negatively affected the year-on-year comparison. Excluding this exceptional gain, total Ebitda would have picked up by 29.5% instead of 22.6%.

Benelux

- The trend in RevPar performance for comparable hotels was maintained in double figures at 10.6% in the first nine months of 2006. Almost 70% of this growth stemmed from the high levels of ADR achieved due to:
 - Favourable market conditions;
 - Revenue management strategy increasingly focused on room rates; and
 - Enhancement of the most profitable distribution channels for NH on the back of a more positive environment.
- Belgium has benefited from a remarkable upturn in occupancy, while ADR has flattened.
- Total Ebitda evolution was influenced by:
 - Non-recurrent revenue in the first quarter of 2005 not repeated in 2006. Excluding this, total Ebitda in Benelux would have picked up by 22%, instead of 9.7%.

Germany

- The favorable trend continued in this B.U., with comparable RevPar rising 13.45%. The ADR increased by 12.8%.
- Positive Ebitda in comparable hotels reached €3.66m in the first nine months of 2006, as a reflection of improved demand, which was in turn due to a revenue management policy focused on maximising ADR and the tightening of lease costs due to the ongoing process of renegotiating leases. To date, savings of €3.38m have been made on 14 hotel contracts.

- It is worth mentioning that since July, three existing hotels have been incorporated into the NH Hoteles group: two hotels in Berlin and another one in Hamburg. All are on leasing contracts, two of them with a call option agreement.

Switzerland, Austria and Hungary

- The trend posted in the first half of the year has continued steadily during the third quarter, with evidence of a strong performance across all the eastern countries.
- This business unit ("B.U.") posted an Ebitda of €2.17m, partly thanks to strong demand and the renegotiation of leases at three hotels, which gave rise to €1.73m of accumulated savings.

Latin America

The positive trend showed in the first half has continued during the third quarter.

- In local currency terms:
 - In Argentina, during the first half, sales climbed 26.29% in comparable hotels, RevPar increased by 26.47% and ADR jumped 29.27%. However, this was at the expense of the occupancy, -2.16%.
 - In Mexico, year on year comparison sales has even improved at comparable hotels (+14.61% 9m versus 13.15% in first half). RevPar increased by 17.08%, occupancy gained 13.17% and prices rose 3.46%.
- EBITDA in Latin America gained 27%, reflecting improvements at the operating level. Although the exchange rate impact was fairly positive in the first six months of the year, this moderated during Q3.

SOTOGRADE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS

- Sotograde's real estate business reported total sales of €19.89m, 25% less than in the same period of previous year. The difference is explained by the product delivery schedule and a more limited number of plots sold, compared with houses and apartments.
- Sotograde's Ebitda of €7.77m, versus €11.17m last year, is explained by the more difficult comparison due to the sale of a large plot for €3.4m in February last year.
- At end-June 2006, confirmed real estate sales not reflected in the accounts amounted to €99.7m, 7% more than in the first half, with an estimated margin of €39m. The majority of these sales were made in the residential development of "Ribera del Marlin" and "Los Cortijos de La Reserva". The figure for sales not reflected in the accounts at year-end 2005 was €79.9m.

Sotogrande - Revenue Breakdown	9m 2006		9m 2005	
	€m	% total	€m	% total
Berths and Parking lots	2.0	9.9%	2.6	9.9%
Apartments	5.2	26.3%	6.9	26.2%
Plots	7.2	36.0%	11.2	42.2%
Real Estate Revenue	14.4	72.2%	20.7	78.3%
Other Revenue	5.5	27.8%	5.8	21.7%
Total Revenue	19.89	100.0%	26.48	100.0%

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- Positive Net income of €29.02m versus €24.49m last year.
- Minority interests have been reduced as a consequence of the buyout of minorities last year.
- Net consolidated debt at end-June amounted to €675.51m, compared with €690.04m at the beginning of the year.
- Financial gearing (Net Debt/Equity) was 0.73x.
- NH Hoteles has made a €4.0m contribution to the subordinated loan to refinance the leases of 17 hotels. The total amount of the subordinated loan is €58.4m, which generates an annual average return of 3%. Refinancing the hotels in Germany and Austria generated cost-savings of €5.11m, in addition to the interest on subordinated loans which generated financial revenues of €1.3m up to September of 2006. The accumulated savings for 2005 and 2006 will be €6.8m.
- For the first half of 2006, the most important events in terms of Net Debt have been:
 - NH Italy capital increase fully subscribed and cashed by Banca Intesa: €50.7m
 - Cap Cana divesture of 25%: €19.4m.
 - Investment in new projects: Cap Cana: €26.5m.
 - Payment of dividends: €32m.
 - Second payment of €15m to the Astron minorities.
 - Contribution to the subordinated loan for lease refinancing: €4m.
- Non-recurrent revenue in 2006 to date stands at €3m as a consequence of the share dilution related to the NH Italy €50m capital increase subscribed by Banca Intesa at NH Italia. As a consequence of this deal, Banca Intesa has a 49% stake in NH's Italian subsidiary.
- The 34% increase in corporate expenses to €6.36m comprises the following:

○ Restructuring costs, corporate transactions and new projects:	€1.26m
○ New marketing campaigns and launch of the NH World royalty card:	€1.25m
○ IT Systems improvements:	€0.93m
○ CPI:	€0.58m
○ Other:	€2.34m

- With regard to the agreement reached at the NH Hoteles Annual General Meeting on 5th of May of 2006, a capital increase of €57,375,000 through the issue of 4,250,000 new shares has been and fully subscribed by Equity International Properties Ltd (“EIP”) in exchange for 1,162,439 shares in Latinoamericana de Gestión Hotelera S.A. As a consequence of the capital increase, EIP holds 3.43% of NH Hoteles out of a total of 123,782,898 shares, enabling NH Hoteles to buy out the 35% minority interest in Latinoamericana de Gestión Hotelera, the investment subsidiary company of NH Hoteles in Latin America.

PORTFOLIO OF HOTELS AND EXPANSION PROJECTS

Hotels opened to date in 2006

Hotel	City, Country	Contract	# of rooms
NH Balago	Valladolid, Spain	Managed	159
NH Numancia (Room Extension)	Barcelona, Spain	Leased	46
NH Berlin City West	Berlin, Germany	Leased	136
NH Santo Stefano	Turin, Italy	Managed	125
NH Hotel de Ville	Groningen, Holland	Leased	67
NH Cayo Coco	Cayo Coco, Cuba	Managed	690
NH Agustinos	Berriozar, Spain	Managed	60
NH Puerta de la Catedral	Salamanca, Spain	Leased	37
NHOW Milano	Milano, Italy	Leased	249
NH Kensington	London, UK	Leased	150
NH City (Room Extension)	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Owned	67
NH Berlin Frankfurter Allee	Berlin, Germany	Leased with Call Option	99
NH Hamburg Norge	Hamburg, Germany	Leased with Call Option	130
NH Kurfurstendam	Berlin, Germany	Leased	140
New Openings			2155

Projects signed in 2006

Hotel	City, Country	Contract	# of rooms
NH Cayo Coco	Cayo Coco (Cuba)	Managed	690
NH Playa Bávaro	Dominican Republic	Managed	660
NH Lyon	Lyon, France	Leased	245
Nhow Cap Cana	Dominican Republic	Managed	200
NH Lancaster	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Owned	115
NH Sesto San Giovanni	Milano, Italy	Leased	155
NH Kensington	Londres, England	Leased	150
NH Parque Lisboa	Lisboa, Portugal	Leased	148
NH Berlin City West	Berlin, Germany	Leased	136
NH Poznan	Poznan, Poland	Managed	92
NH Hotel de Ville	Groningen, Holland	Leased	67
NH Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Leased with Call Option	148
NH Berlin Frankfurter Allee	Berlin, Germany	Leased with Call Option	99
NH Hamburg Norge	Hamburg, Germany	Leased with Call Option	130
NH Kurfurstendam	Berlin, Germany	Leased	140
NH Guadalajara	Guadalajara, Mexico	Managed	120
NH 9 de Julio	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Owned	106
NH Palermo	Palermo, Italy	Managed	88
Total New Projects			3489

Rooms and hotels signed due to open over the next years

Year of Openings	Total			Rest of 2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Rooms	Hotels		Hotels	Rooms	Hotels	Rooms	Hotels	Rooms	Hotels	Rooms
SPAIN	1,060	7		0	0	5	829	2	231		
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	860	2						2	860		
MEXICO	945	4		0	0	3	825	1	120		
ITALY	578	4		0	0	4	578				
SENEGAL REP.	310	2				2	310				
FRANCE	245	1								1	245
ARGENTINA	221	2		0	0	1	115	1	106		
ENGLAND	0	0		0	0						
CUBA (*)	150	0					150				
PORTUGAL	148	1		1	148						
GERMANY (*)	116	2				2	116				
POLLAND	92	1				1	92				
(*) Where hotel = 0 means additional rooms											
TOTAL SIGNED	4,725	26		1	148	18	3,015	6	1,317	1	245

Total Portfolio and signed projects

27/24/2006	Rooms	Hotels		Call Option	Leased	Rooms	Owned	Rooms	Managed
TOTAL HOTELS OPEN									
ARGENTINA	1,129	8		0	0	0	8	1,129	0
URUGUAY	136	1		0	0	0	1	136	0
MEXICO	3,042	15		0	4	462	5	1,126	6
BRASIL	135	1		0	0	0	1	135	0
CHILE	122	1		0	0	0	1	122	0
CUBA	967	2		0	0	0	0	0	2
PORTUGAL	165	2		0	2	165	0	0	0
ESPAÑA	13,577	123		0	80	9,049	17	2,504	26
ITALY	750	3		0	2	625	0	0	1
ENGLAND	350	2		0	1	150	0	0	1
HOLLAND	5,619	30		1	11	1,551	18	3,988	1
BELGIUM	1,116	8		0	1	241	7	875	0
GERMANY	9,615	57		17	56	9,471	0	0	1
SWITZERLAND	562	4		0	2	330	2	232	0
AUSTRIA	973	6		3	6	973	0	0	0
HUNGARY	160	1		0	1	160	0	0	0
RUMANIA	161	2		0	1	83	0	0	1
POLAND	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
LUXEMBOURG	148	1		1	1	148	0	0	0
SOUTH AFRICA	240	2		0	1	198	1	42	0
TOTAL OPEN	38,967	269			167	23,260	60	10,247	39
TOTAL HOTELS SIGNED									
SPAIN	1,060	7			5	902	2	158	0
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	860	2							2
MEXICO	945	4			0	0	2	275	2
ITALY	578	4			2	273	1	217	1
SENEGAL REP	310	2			0	0	0	0	2
FRANCE	245	1			1	245	0	0	0
ARGENTINA	221	1			0	0	1	221	0
CUBA	150	0			0	0	0	0	0
PORTUGAL	148	1			1	148	0	0	0
POLLAND	92	1			0	0	0	0	1
GERMANY	116	1			1	116	0	0	0
TOTAL SIGNED	4,725	24			10	1,684	6	871	8

NH Hoteles has a presence in 19 countries, with 262 hotels open totalling 37,948 rooms, and contracts signed for another 24 with a further 4,923 rooms. In the 286 hotels opened or signed for, 25.8% of the rooms are owned by the chain, 49% are leased, 8.2% are leased with a call option to buy the hotels and 16.4% are under management contracts.

The signed projects are part of the company's strategy to boost organic growth in the City hotel segment in the countries where NH Hoteles already has a strong presence, and in other countries where it has little or no presence such as Italy, Eastern Europe and the UK. NH Hoteles also wants to strengthen its position in leisure hotels, particularly top-end resorts in the Caribbean.