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**World Awards Back Cuban Tourist Destinations' Quality**

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Havana, Jan 5 (Prensa Latina) Cuba holds today various awards that distinguish its accommodations and tourist destinations as some of the most outstanding in the area, and even in the world.

Thus, during the last weeks of 2018, the Buenavista and Paradisus Rio de Oro hotels, both belonging to the Melia Cuba hotel chain, received the Condé Nast Johansens 2019 Excellence Award for the region of Canada, the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean.

The facilities, located in the tourist poles of Cayo Santa Maria and Holguin, respectively, are distinguished by high standards of comfort and a refined gastronomic offer.

According to Melia, this distinction is the result of quality surveys of guests added to the assessment of the international team of inspectors and is a relevant worldwide recognition to the travel and tourism industry.

Also, just a few days ago, Varadero was ranked third best beach in the world according to the Travellers' Choice 2018 Awards.

The award, based on the opinions of millions of visitors of different nationalities, places the Cuban resort in the third seat only preceded by Grace Bay beach (Turks and Caicos Islands), and Baia Do Sancho, in Brazil.

There are currently 52 hotels in Varadero, according to recent data released by the delegation of the Ministry of Tourism in the province of Matanzas.

On top of that, the World Travel Awards, in its 2019 edition, included seven facilities of the Melia Cuba chain in its list of nominations according to information provided by the corporation.

Created in 1993, the World Travel Awards distinguish quality in various activities related to the global travel and tourism industry and are currently recognized internationally as a seal of excellence for the tourism industry.

In addition, he added, it is estimated that for the first time tourism revenues exceed three billion dollars, representing an increase of 17 percent in this field.

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