



Greetings!

We hope your winter is wonderful so far!

We have a number of exciting updates to share with you here at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts, read on!

Aruba's Most Celebrated Restaurant, Carte Blanche, Opens at Bucuti

We are thrilled to kick off 2013 with the opening of Aruba's favorite restaurant, Carte Blanche, here at Bucuti on January 2, 2013. Carte Blanche has been praised by locals and visitors alike, having attained the #1 ranking on TripAdvisor. We look forward to offering our guests this unique dining experience right here on property. Dining at Carte Blanche introduces the Chef's Table concept with the focal point on Chef Dennis van Daatselaar as he prepares a five-course "Chef Surprise" meal right at the guests' table. Fine wines and premium drinks are paired with the meal, expertly selected and presented by the charming Maitre d' Glen Bonset.

Carte Blanche serves dinner five nights a week in the newly completed space in our garden, adjacent to the Tara Lounge. Due to popular demand and extremely limited seating, reservations are required in advance at carteblancharuba.com.

Bucuti's beachfront restaurant, managed by outstanding restaurateur Kurt Hoffmann, continues to serve breakfast, lunch and dinner, every day of the week as well.



Keeping Fit and Staying Cool

With the completion of our new extension to the Tara Lounge, we have converted our Fitness Center from the previous open-air space to a beautiful, air-conditioned facility. The new Fitness Center has opened for use and is well-equipped with free weights, bikes, treadmills, elliptical machines, rowing machines, fitness balls, incline bench, and a most wonderful view. Our guests can comfortably keep up with their workout routine throughout their stay.



And the Award Goes to... Bucuti!

Bucuti wrapped up 2012 and kicked off the New Year with two awards from the prestigious Condé Nast Traveler. To end the year, the resort was ranked in the top ten of the "Top Resorts in the Caribbean," winning a Condé Nast Traveler 2012 Readers' Choice Award. Following up on the honor, Bucuti has been named to the publication's celebrated Gold List, recognizing the world's best places to stay for 2013. A special thank you to all who voted!

Condé Nast
Traveler

**Bucuti Marks 25 Years Proudly Serving
our Guests, Environment and Community**



25 years ago, we opened the door to a 60 room boutique property welcoming 30 guests. Since then, Bucuti has grown to become TripAdvisor's top-rated property in Aruba with nearly 68,000 guests checking into 104 rooms and suites annually. Our resort has grown both in size and reputation, including the addition of a restaurant, enhanced lobby, pool, spa and a number of environmentally-conscious initiatives seldom before seen in the Caribbean. Looking back, it's hard to believe that, when we first opened, our entire staff consisted of a gardener, six housekeepers and a supervisor. Since then, we've grown to a staff of 100 welcoming guests from around the world.

Bucuti opened 11 days early on October 19, 1987, to accommodate our first guests from Austria, who had made a special request to stay at the resort. This date also marks "Black Monday" when stock markets around the world crashed, leading us to believe that tourism would greatly suffer. However, since that first group checked out, we have been fortunate enough to enjoy over 90 percent occupancy year-after-year.

Today, we remain as committed as we were 25 years ago to offering you an amazing experience and do so by constantly adding additional resort amenities, continuously maintaining our rooms and implementing property upgrades. It is because of this commitment and the staff's genuine hospitality that we've earned the recognition of travelers worldwide achieving a number of awards and accolades including, the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence and, most recently, a Condé Nast Reader's Choice Award. We look forward to serving our guests, our community and our environment for the next 25 years, and more, and we thank you again for your support.

New "Elements" Coming Soon to Bucuti



We have a number of major changes underway here at Bucuti and lots of good news to share with our valued guests. First and foremost, the time has come for us to replace the iconic galleon-shaped Pirate's Nest restaurant on our beach with a spectacular contemporary facility that will be called Elements. We have recently received the necessary permits to proceed with this upgrade and have finalized an agreement on the timeline with the contractor.

The project will take place between May 13 and August 11, 2013 and will entail three phases described below.

PHASE 1 (May 13 through May 31)

The project will begin with the demolition of the ship and the excavation of the foundation for the new structure. As this phase will involve substantial noise and equipment, we have decided that it is in the best interest of our guests to close out the entire resort during this three week period.

PHASE 2 (June 1 - July 5)

This time period entails the assembly of prefabricated elements of the structure within a fenced enclosure, which will be much less disruptive than Phase 1. We are familiar with this method of construction as it is the same as the one we utilized for the Tara extension and our new Fitness Center in our garden these past couple of months. To minimize any disruption, work will take place between 9:30 am and 6:00 pm.

Since our beachfront restaurant will not yet be complete, we will be serving breakfast, lunch and dinner in our Tara Lounge. The renowned Carte Blanche Restaurant with its' Chef's Table concept will also be open and accepting dinner reservations five nights a week.

Our pool and the entire beach area, including new lounge chairs and umbrellas, will be accessible. However, the fenced-in renovation project will be visible and nearby to

beachgoers. The Sand Bar will be open for our guests during this time and we will also have an alternate bar location available in one of the Bungalow Suites. Our famous Red Flag Beach Service will also continue as usual.

Our Bucuti Wing Superior rooms facing south (towards Manchebo Beach Resort - with smoking balconies) and the Bungalow Suites will be closed during this phase, as these rooms would face the traffic for equipment and supplies delivery to the restaurant site. For smoking balconies, we will have our Deluxe Ocean View rooms available.

All our other room categories will remain available to guests at a very special rate. Take advantage of a 35% reduction in the net room rate during this period.

PHASE 3 (July 6 - August 11)

The last phase involves the detail work inside the new restaurant including the stylish interior design and the renovation of our restaurant deck.

Our restaurant will remain closed, and breakfast lunch and dinner will continue to be served in the Tara Lounge. Carte Blanche will also be open and accepting dinner reservations 5 nights a week.

The Superior rooms on the south (Manchebo) side will reopen for reservations during Phase 3 and all rooms in all categories will be offered at a special rate during this period with a 25% reduction of the net room rate.

Should any of our guests feel inconvenienced by this project, we would ask you to contact management immediately so we can attend to your needs. We can address your concerns on-site or offer alternate accommodation on the island, if that is your preference.

We are thrilled with the plans for the new air-conditioned Elements restaurant that offers a glorious view of the beach, as well as the improvements to Bucuti's Sand Bar Lounge with its spectacular oceanfront deck.

Service with a Smile

Each year here in Aruba, the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation and Labour, in collaboration with the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) and the Aruba Trade and Industry Association (ATIA), present the Shoco Awards, honoring the people working directly in the tourism sector. Individuals are recognized for their excellence in service and their unique qualities and contributions to the success of Aruba's tourism industry and genuine hospitality. One of our friendly beach attendants, Angelo Tromp, was Bucuti's nominee. He was joined by Owner Ewald Biemans and Director of Food & Beverage, Kurt Hoffmann, at the awards gala this December. Congratulations on your nomination Angelo and thank you for your continued service and commitment to Bucuti and our valued guests.



We Want to Hear From You

In an effort to continue finding ways to reduce our environmental impact we have replaced our paper guest comment cards with an electronic system. Now guests will receive a questionnaire via their email within 24 hours of checking out. This system allows us to receive, follow up and keep track of the valuable feedback we receive, so that we may correct our mistakes and continue to improve the overall Bucuti experience.

The electronic form will also provide our guests an opportunity to name associates that offered excellent and personalized service to them. The associates mentioned will be entered into our Bucuti's Best program for a possible financial prize. Please note that we no longer will be handing out paper questionnaires at check-out or need to have them in the rooms. We are happy to have made this transition and to continue our valuable conversation with our guests, even after their vacation comes to an end.

No Cash Needed

As a friendly reminder, please keep in mind that we are a cashless resort - meaning we do not accept cash on property, including at the restaurant and bar. All major credit cards are accepted and room-signing privileges are available for all services at the resort except down payments of activities purchased via our concierges. Prior special arrangements can be made with the resort manager or manager on duty for a onetime cash deposit at check-in that will be credited to your room bill, allowing you to sign against the balance. We also advise our guests to let their banks know, prior to their arrival, that they will be using their credit or debit card abroad. This will avoid any difficulty using the card while on vacation.



No Kidding Around



As the only boutique-style beach resort in Aruba catering exclusively to adults, we are able to perfect the tranquil vacation experience our guests are seeking. While we haven't always been adults-only, we believe that, at heart, Bucuti has always been a haven for couples and like many of the decisions we've made here, the transition to an adults-only policy came based on the feedback provided by our loyal guests.

Since making the transition in December 2010, we've had an overwhelmingly positive response. Our honeymoon bookings have grown exponentially because we have made a concerted effort to provide couples with an experience they will treasure for years to come. Bucuti is a place where people come to relax and reconnect and this policy has enabled us to truly focus on being an environment where that is possible.

What guests may notice is that there can be children on the beach at times. While no children are permitted as guests at Bucuti, the beaches of Aruba are public and, therefore, open to all. In addition, we do allow children to attend the occasional weddings on the beach but extend our adult-only policy to celebrations in our restaurant.

There are many beach hotel options here on the beautiful island of Aruba but only one that focuses on creating a peaceful romantic environment exclusively for adults. We are proud to be different and look forward to being a part of many couples' love stories for years to come.

Connecting

To keep up with the latest news at Bucuti please join us on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages where you can share your Bucuti experience and even reserve your upcoming stay through the online booking application for real time reservations.

Hope you are having a cozy winter,

Ewald Biemans

Owner and Managing Director
Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts

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