

The Ultimate In Affordable Privacy for Luxury Travelers

The Best Luxury Spots on the Caribbean Island of Aruba:
Not the Jersey Shore Anymore
- Jim Dobson

There is a small island in the southern Caribbean that keeps calling my name. I have been visiting Aruba for over 15 years and have quickly fallen in love with the people, the weather, the amazing dining and arguably one of the best beaches in the world.

I had heard a lot of buzz about the intimate and private Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort located on my favorite Eagle Beach. **This was the ultimate in affordable privacy for luxury travellers and is a romantic retreat for adults only. No children.** The 104 rooms and suites look out to the spectacular white sands and ocean and there is a civilized calm that instantly grabs you when you arrive. You won't hear lounge music or steel drums, screaming children or Jersey Shore boom boxes, you will hear something else... peace and quiet.

There is a dedicated concierge for VIP guests with private entry and you are waited on 24 hours as if you are a movie star. My Zen-like Tara Suite overlooking the beach was comfortably furnished with a private balcony and filled with goodies. There is also a more roomy option in the Penthouse suite that I would recommend. The resort has four large 1,259 sq ft penthouse suites, each with private terraces with a daybed and lounge furnishings. The great room features a full living area with a large flatpanel TV and laptop computer, next



why his resort is nearly sold out far in advance. We dined in the resort Elements Restaurant and had the most delicious Italian food and Lamb Chops under the stars on the huge outdoor deck. **You really feel like there are only 12 other guests at this resort because of the way it is designed.** Lots of privacy to be romantic and celebrate an anniversary or engagement. It is not wonder Trip Advisor recently awarded the resort as the Most Romantic for 2016.

The next morning after the large breakfast buffet (complimentary for guests), our padded chaise lounges and umbrellas were waiting in on the magnificent beachfront. All guests are guar-

anteed beach lounges with umbrellas but location is first come, first served. Our sand butler (as I came to call him) had an ice bucket with bottle of water and amenities waiting for us. He even knew our favorite drink and snacks by the second day. This was a day for reading and napping and when you want service you simply raise the red flag on the lounge and a server immediately appears. Now this is service!

product. The resort is also building an outdoor cabana for spa services on the beach.

Bucuti & Tara resort view from Penthouse Dinner that evening was on the sand in a private palapa with a soft breeze keeping us cool. **There were no insects on this trip which is also a welcome relief compared to most other islands.** Our dedicated waitress brought champagne and a four course meal with wine pairings from the Chief Director of Food and Beverage Kurt Hoffmann including: Antipasto chichetti paired with Prosecco Villa Sandi Superiore Millesimato Di Valdobbiadene, Italy followed by the Risotto al funghi and Oyster mushroom, black truffle paired with La Crema Chardonnay, Sonoma. For the entrée it was Agnello al Limoncello Lamb fillet with Limoncello sauce paired with Decoy by Duckhorn Cabernet Sauvignon and also a huge hot skillet of meat pairings from the menu. Finally for desert, a Bourbon vanilla panna cotta Cherry compote, citrus crumble.

Our daily itinerary remained unchanged and relaxed, sunbathing, reading and relaxing. Cocktails at the huge outdoor SandBar with my favorite bartenders Aldrick and Karen, while Jessie and James, the talking parrots entertain nearby.

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to the fullsize and fully equipped kitchen with stainless-steel appliances and full dining table. The bedroom includes a kingsized fourposter bed with pillowtopped mattress, double sinks, granite counters, a modern clawfoot type tub and a spacious separate shower adding to the spalike bathroom. The Penthouse offers the privilege of a reserved and private cabana (thatched palapa) on the beach for the guest's exclusive use during the day. **You can actually sleep in at this resort and be guaranteed a spot with umbrella on the sand.**

My first evening at Bucuti was a private dinner with the owner (and noted environmentalist) Ewald Biemans. Charming, gracious and full of passion for his property, it is obvious

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I was surprised by two therapists from the spa who appeared that afternoon to give us hour long reflexology foot massages as we reclined on our lounges. The Purun Spa uses locally produced Aloe products and after our blissful treatment, much to the envy of the neighboring guests, we were given gift bags filled with the



BUCUTI & TARA
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