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Lust in Paradise

Discover the unforgettable marvel of Turtle Island, Fiji

BY ADRIENNE PAPP



Only 14 couples visit the 500-acre island at a time, served by a Fijian staff of 100.

TURTLE ISLAND is a dream come true for couples. In *The Thomas Crown Affair*, when Pierce Brosnan lavishly surprises Rene Russo with extreme indulgence in a perfectly natural setting, we see Turtle Island for what it is: luxury without high heels; barefoot walks on a white, coral, private beach; champagne flowing like the ocean.

Perhaps a sunset cruise or peaceful evening of kayaking would satisfy your senses. Or you could choose private gondola dining, the night illuminated with old fashioned lanterns—just the two of you on the dark blue waves of the ocean. You might begin with an elegant salad: marinated Spanish mackerel and filo pastry filled with lobster, dressed with wasabi mayonnaise; accompanied by the day's fresh catch on a bed of creamy potatoes, topped with vegetables from the island's organic garden. Dessert is a must. No one is watching their weight; the food is too exquisite for such ordinary concern. On this island, nothing is ordinary.

Only 14 couples visit the 500-acre island at a time, served by a Fijian staff of 100. Each couple is given a walkie-talkie for emergencies, such as running out of champagne on one of the deserted beaches that is yours alone during your stay. And hidden in the luscious green of the tropical forest is the hammock, swaying to the music of nature. You are in love and lust, lost in nature, the only footprints yours and your loved one's.

The island is the perfect place for a private wedding or anniversary celebration. Ignite your passion in a champagne-induced Jacuzzi and create the memory of a lifetime. Red hibiscus flowers cover your bed as your 24-hour butler brings




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that special red wine ordered minutes before.

After a luxurious evening, women sleep in while the men go fishing. Choose a gourmet breakfast in bed or on the beach, inches away from the water. Or horseback-ride on the beach at sunrise with a champagne breakfast, followed by windsurfing, scuba diving, snorkeling, sailing, mountain biking, or hiking. Everything is included, except hassles from the outside world.

“If you really love your partner, and you’ve got some adventure and excitement left in your bones, come along. We’re gonna have a great time!” says Turtle Island’s visionary owner, Richard Evanson, who lives on the island with his wife and children, along with his larger family: the Fijian staff with whom he has bonded over the years. Richard bought the island without leav-

ing his airplane, then transformed it into paradise redefined.

Among the celebrities and politicians who have spent time here are pro quarterback Kurt Warner and actors Dennis Quaid, Rob Lowe, Vanessa Williams, and Andie MacDowell. Once discovered, the island is never forgotten. And just as this majestic ocean is an end and a beginning, the island it embraces will hold memories for a lifetime. 

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