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LUXURY TROPICAL LIVING & INTERIOR DESIGN

AN ARCHITECTURAL
MASTERCLASS WITH
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THE FORMULA FOR SUCCESS **PART 2**
FOUR SEASONS RESORT

HUALALAI

ZAK ARCHITECT
& ASSEMBLY HOUSE

PLUS
THE PRIVATE ISLAND OF
CAYO ESPANTO

AN AWARD WINNING
MAGAZINE

HAWAIIAN

DESIGN SPECIAL

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ISLAND LIFE. RESORTS. VILLAS. HOMES. ARCHITECTURE. PROPERTIES & CULTURE

FOUR SEASONS RESORT
HUALALAI





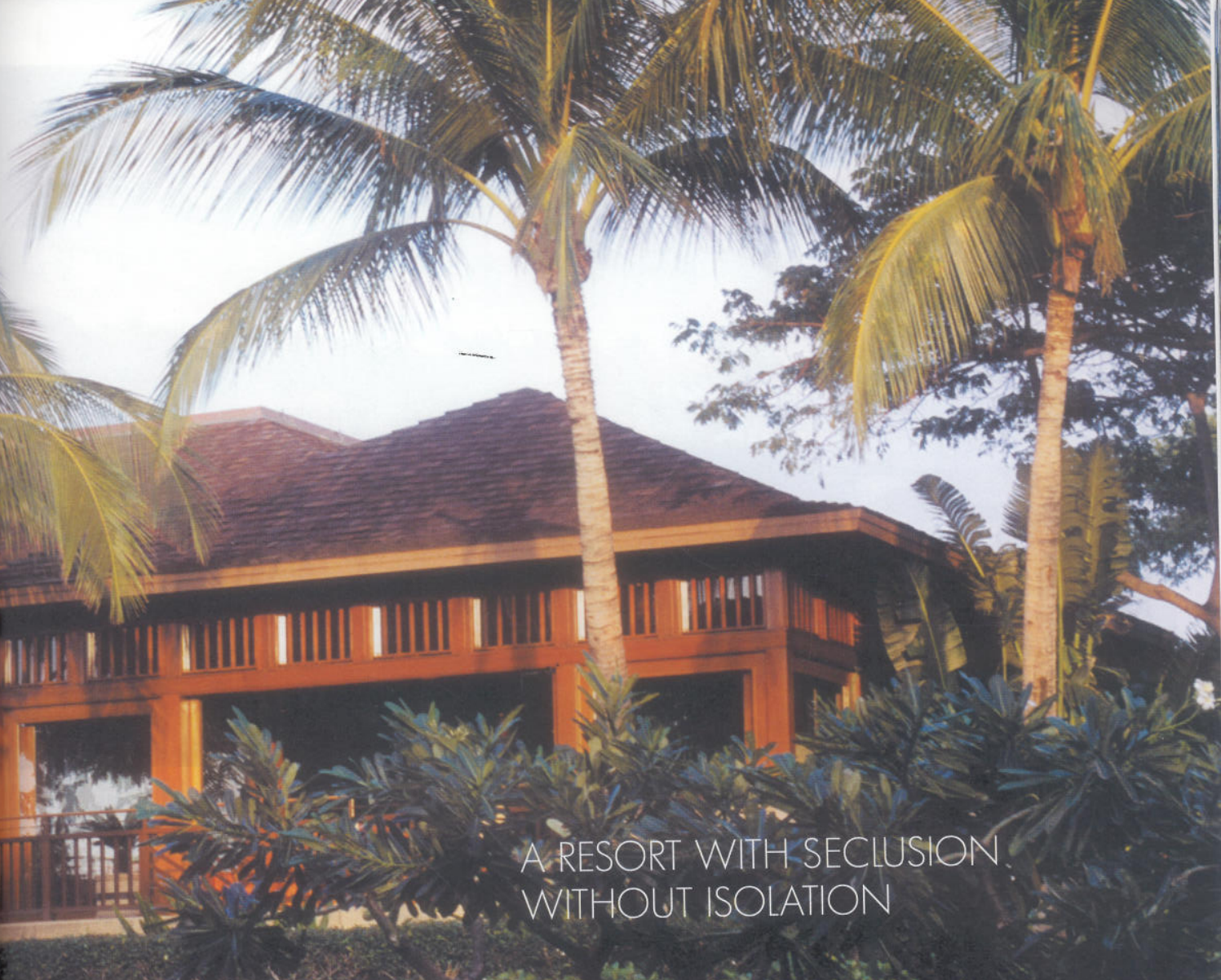
Gloriously tranquil, this unparalleled yet understated resort reaffirms its reputation as a destination that honours the essence of Hawai'i's golden age in its culture and traditions, designed specifically to reflect the nature of its surroundings.



Four Seasons strategy for their Hotels is simple,

"To make the experience as rewarding as possible, we infuse each property with the very best of the local design aesthetic and culture. The final product is a place that exudes quality and style, whilst tastefully reflecting the destination"

Isadore Sharp, Founder and Chairman Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts.



A RESORT WITH SECLUSION WITHOUT ISOLATION

One of the key aspects of Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts which sets them apart from the very best luxury resorts around the world is their unparalleled level of service, there's no scripted ceremony, no fuss, just effortless professionalism.

Tireless in their attention to detail, staff seem to know instinctively when and how to approach guests, they step forward, address your needs, manage expectations and then with a smile fade away.

We had previously experienced this effortless service on a recent trip to a Four Seasons Resort in Nevis (*March 2012 issue*) and were pleased to see that the employees, like those in Nevis, were here in Hawai'i also, the embodiment of both their culture and the Four Seasons culture of excellence.

Four Seasons encourages guests to visit each of their resorts on the islands of Hawai'i, Lana'i, and Maui. They help guests craft their own stay on the island, with each of their resorts perfectly tailored to suit any desired mood, style or recreational activity.

So for our special Hawai'i resorts feature we decided to "keep it in the family" and try out all 4 of their resorts... were they really that different? ▶





The luxurious and very intimate Four Seasons Hualalai is located on a stunning one and a half mile stretch of beach on the exclusive Northwest Kona Coast of the Big Island of Hawai'i. This showpiece tropical oasis was the first AAA Five Diamond rated resort on the island of Hawai'i, and one of only three in the entire state.

Built within its natural surroundings of starkly mesmerising black-lava fields, the resort combines history, culture, pure pampering and true "Aloha" to all who visit. Deeply rooted into the island community, the resort weaves Hawai'i's "Golden Age" into guest experiences, providing insight into the way the Islands once were, though with all the service and amenities Four Seasons is renowned for. Four Seasons Resort Hualalai first opened its doors for guests in 1996, and completed a \$40-million enhancement in late 2009, followed by a further \$20-million in enhancements over the past few years.

The contrast of ancient black lava rock with towering coconut palms, white sand beaches and azure sea creates opportunities for memories and photographs at every turn. With the Hualalai volcano behind it and the island of Maui in the distance in front, the resort is situated on sacred grounds on one of the world's most beautiful and mystifying islands.





Project development for Four Seasons Hualalai began in 1989, the design process was the coming together of creative minds and talented artists - Hill Glazier Architects, interior designers Wilson & Associates and BaMo, art consultant Julie Cline and landscape architects, Bill Bensley Design Group.

Their collaborative vision was that of the village of Hualalai, bringing the outside in, use of natural materials, casual elegance and a true sense of place. After almost eight years of planning, development, and construction, the resort with its site sensitive design opened in September 1996 to critical acclaim. The architectural style of this resort is a collection of rambling low-slung two-story bungalows arranged in a series of crescent shapes, connected by landscaped paths around pools. Designed and decorated with indigenous rattan, bamboo, and lava rock, some face the ocean and others, one of Hawai'i's most dramatic golf courses designed by Jack Nicklaus.

The post-and-beam structures of ancient Hawaiian villages influenced the style, incorporating broad overhangs, exposed eaves, and loosely defined interior and exterior spaces. The structures and resort services are designed as "open-air pavilions with unobstructed views of the Pacific Ocean. To add authenticity, Honduran mahogany, koa, bamboo, and teak were used in the exterior and interior. ►





The 243 expansive guest rooms, including 51 suites, feature private furnished lanai outdoor decking, slate floors and natural hardwood trim to complement the palette of the surrounding environment, while walls are adorned with local art.

Deluxe and Superior Suites are exceptionally spacious, with one or two bedrooms, while speciality suites and villas provide the utmost in space, comfort and privacy. Even the so-called 'standard rooms' are extraordinarily large and handsomely outfitted. Most first-level guest rooms and suites also offer outdoor gardens and lava rock showers.

The overall effect of the design is that the rooms have private exterior entrances and very private balconies or ground-floor terraces, so that staying here feels more like spending time in a peaceful, albeit ultra-exclusive village.

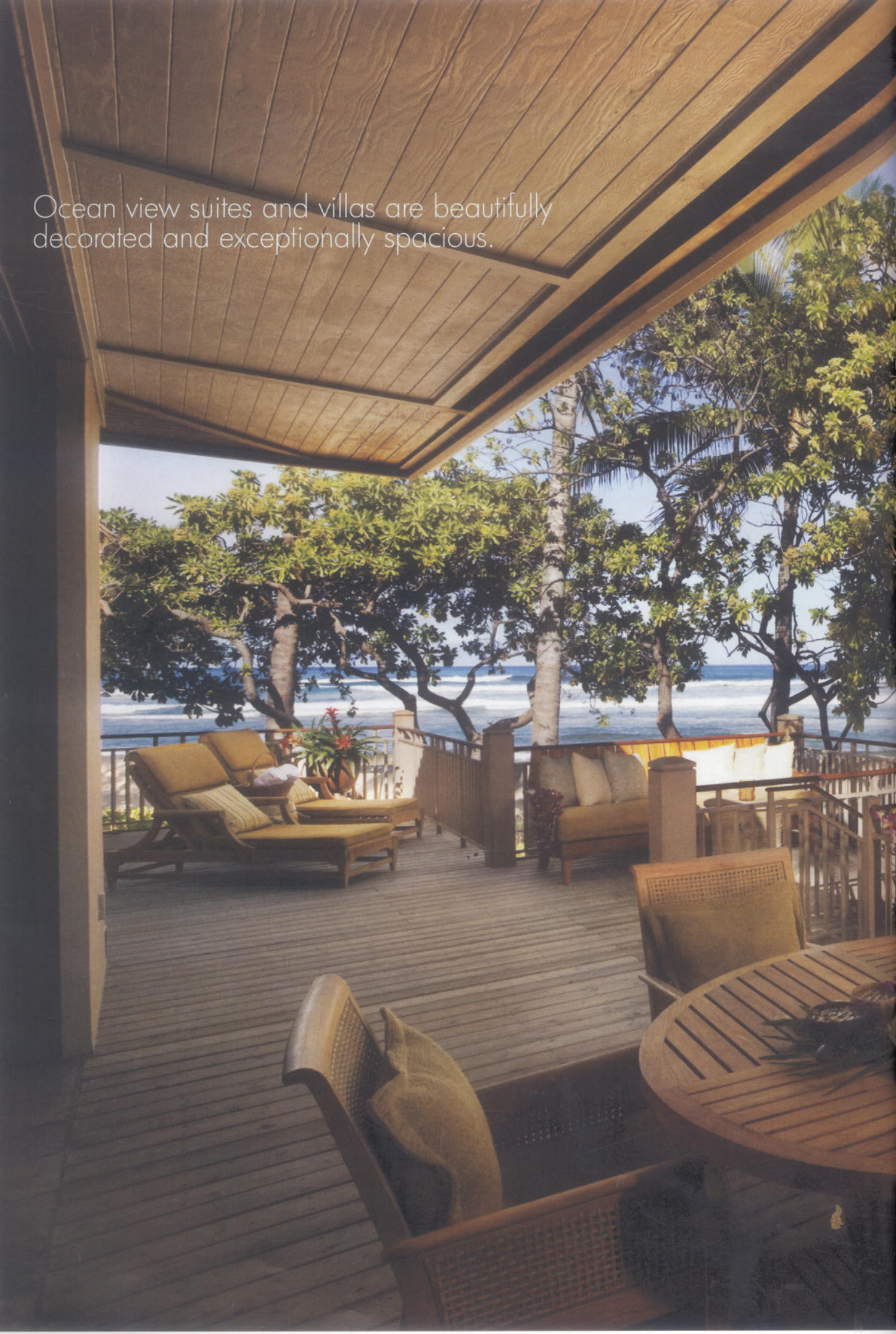
From our guest room we had uninterrupted views of not only the ocean but one of the resort's true wonders the King's Pond, a 1.8 million gallon freshwater "aquarium" built into the ancient lava rock. It holds more than 3,000 fish from 75 species, including a spotted eagle ray that guests have the opportunity to feed daily. A great afternoon of snorkelling or simply lounging pond-side, in the adjacent whirlpool can be had here. ▶

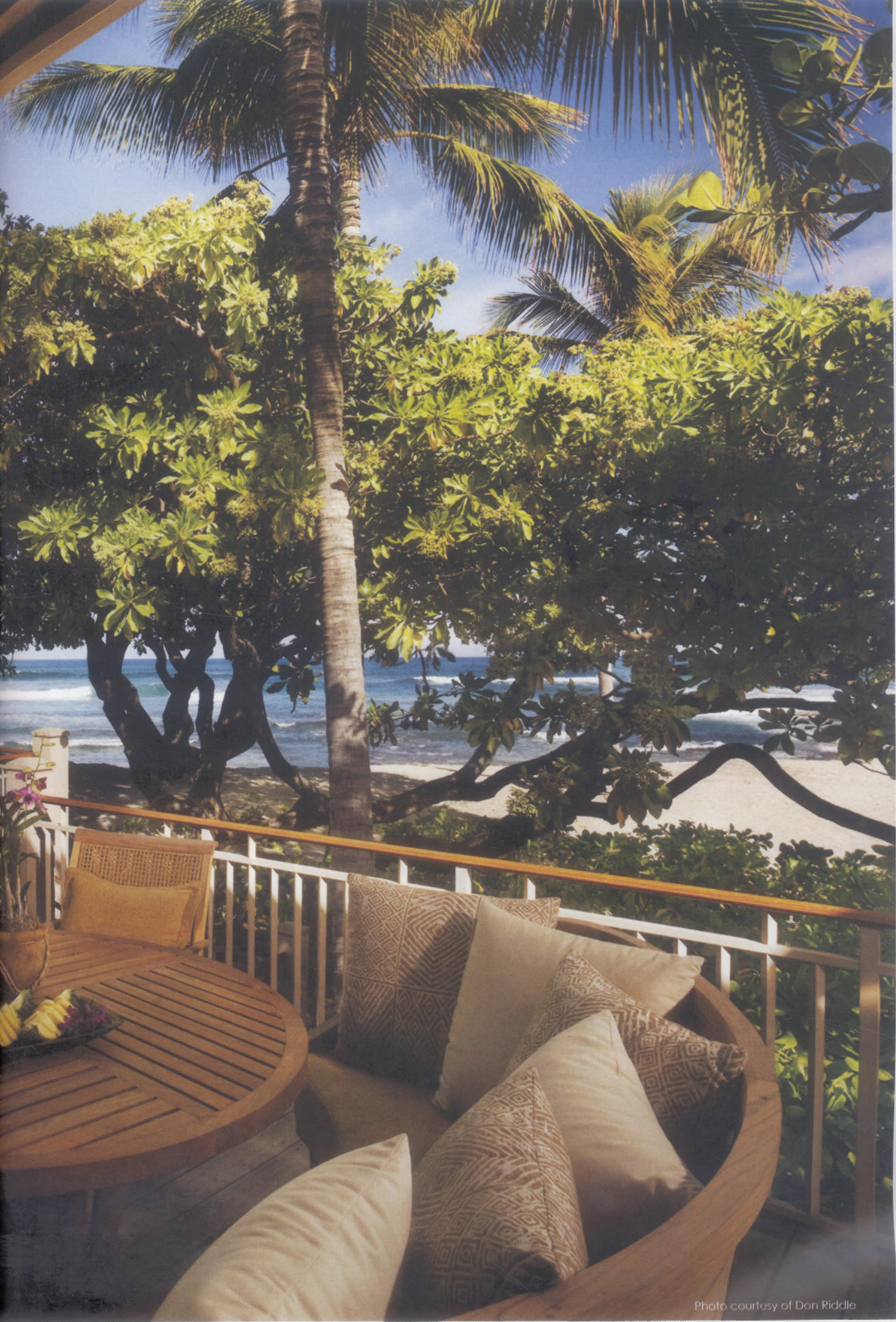




Photo courtesy of Don Riddle

Ocean view suites and villas are beautifully decorated and exceptionally spacious.





Whilst there are multiple dining options, there are 2 main restaurants to choose from each offering a wide variety of experiences, settings and flavours. The culinary philosophy here is to start with ingredients from the island, working with over 160 local farms, approximately 75% of the food served at the Resort is from Hawai'i, the Big Island.

The Beach Tree restaurant which has the feel of a Hawaiian beach house. Diners choose between *al fresco* beach-side seating or an elegant covered dining room with a 16-foot vaulted ceiling. An outdoor lounge sets the stage for the perfect beach-front cocktail in front of nightly live entertainment.

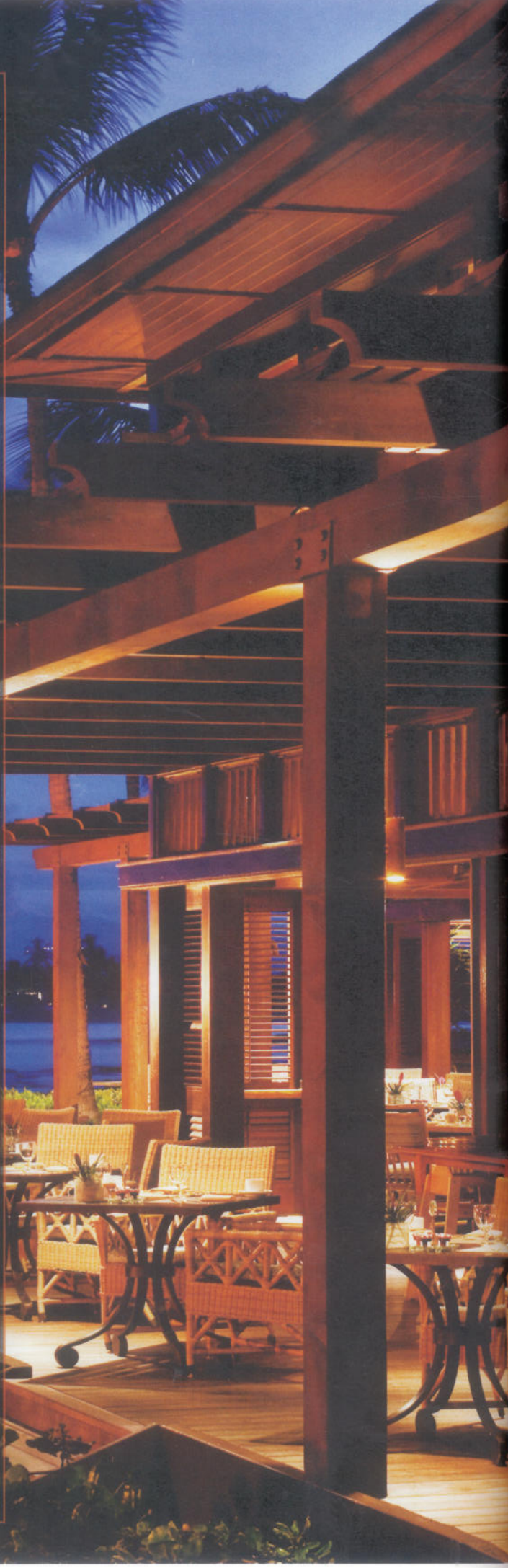
Pahu i'a ("Aquarium" in Hawaiian) ocean grille, graced by a magnificent aquarium. This award winning restaurant has breath taking views of the Pacific Ocean, a mere yard or so away and at night views of the island of Maui on the horizon. The Naupaka Terrace extension to the side, can be pleasantly intimate, or a great location for private events.

Pahu i'a has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades, including the DiRoNA and the Ivy Award. Whilst we had the opportunity to "feast" at either of these 2 restaurants, or the Residents' Beach House nestled just beyond the Waiakauhi Pond and 18th tee box of the Hualalai golf course, I was inexplicably drawn time and time again back to Pahu i'a, not only because of its location and very stylish beach fire lounge area, but by a new heavenly dish I had never tasted before, Kiawe (kee-ah-vey) smoked potato.

Kiawe smoked potatoes is made by boiling potatoes in cream and water until cooked through, then removed and placed in a perforated pan. In a deeper pan Kiawe wood chips, (produced naturally during the wood carving process of the indigenous Hawaiian Kiawe tree) are heated on a stove until they start to smoke. The drained potatoes are then covered and placed over the Kiawe wood chip smoke for about 5 minutes, then the now smoke-infused potatoes are whisked with butter and seasoned to taste. I need to be as detailed about this as possible. I find myself salivating as I write, because with grilled salmon or tender steak and garlic butter spinach, the taste is incredible.

Breakfast, which can also be had at Pahu i'a is quite an adventure in itself. Fresh fruit abound the selection is both excellent and vast alas no Kiawe smoked potato, although I'm sure if I'd asked...!►

Thanks to Sous Chef **Shaun Acosta** for the Kiawe smoked potato dish receipt







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FOUR SEASONS RESORTS HUALALAI

HAWAII

For some the measurement of a resort's luxury is their Spa and here also Four seasons Hualalai have excelled themselves. The 28,000-square-foot Hualalai Spa incorporates tropical gardens with cool interior spaces and feels distinctly Hawaiian. Guests are welcomed into a tranquil interior space rich with dark tropical woods, high-pitched woven ceilings and dappled sunlight falling through bamboo screens.



The Spa's 28 treatment rooms (14 outdoor, including two couples haies; eight indoor, including two vichy rooms; and four manicure/pedicure rooms) make up this healing sanctuary of wellness. A number of treatments include the Apothecary, a unique place where Hawaiian ingredients from the earth are chosen and mixed especially for the guest, based on specific needs and conditions of the body and mind. With the guidance of their spa therapist, guests can choose from nearly 40 natural ingredients, 20 of them from Hawai'i.

Ranging from Hawaiian sea salt and volcanic mud to crushed macadamia nuts and fresh island flowers, these ingredients are custom-blended to create unique personalised spa treatments. For treatments, guests choose from among four new outdoor haies (including a couple's haie) or an indoor air conditioned treatment room in which to enjoy their spa experience.

The couple's haie features dual outdoor showers, a hinoki (Japanese cedar) soaking tub and a private garden for relaxation or spa dining. I'm not sure which treatment I had but I was left completely refreshed, relaxed and regenerated, ready for a run, ok gentle troll, along the beach.

Four Seasons Resort Hualalai is a tropical oasis in the traditional sense which for me captures the essence of Hawai'i that, as I have discovered on this trip, once was. ■

