

LOS ANGELES CONFIDENTIAL

THE HOLIDAY ISSU

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THE SUPERSTAR SIZZLES
ON THE BIG SCREEN



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ALOHA, HAWAII!

America's very own paradise has some of the best resorts in the country, including these four standouts. *By Eric Rosen*

Wailea Canyon at the Grand Wailea



What a view! A Waikiki Edition suite



The Waikiki Edition, Honolulu

The partnership that's been setting the hotel world atwitter lately has been that of boutique-hotel impresario Ian Schrager and megachain potentate Bill Marriott: Edition Hotels. The first location of this "urban resort" chain opened in October, bringing some contemporary swank to the shores of Waikiki. The hotel's 353 guest rooms and suites come with amenities such as 46-inch LCD TVs, glass-enclosed showers, plush Frette linens and views of the pool, ocean, harbor and city. Technophiles can enjoy specially programmed iPads upon request, though die-hard foodies gravitate toward Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto's eponymous Western-Japanese fusion restaurant. There's also a private beach, a lobby bar hidden behind a secret passage and a nightclub. Just don't indulge too much, or you won't be able to participate in the custom-designed Surf and Bikini Boot Camps. *Visit editionhotels.com.*

Hualalai Resort, Hawaii

This sprawling 865-acre resort community, which includes a Four Seasons property and beautiful homes and villas to rent or purchase,

Treat yourself at Hualalai Spa.



is located on the awe-inspiring island that gave its name to the whole archipelago: Hawaii. The resort is nestled into the dramatic landscape carved by volcanic eruptions and recently underwent a \$40-million renovation that includes 20 new suites, an expanded Hualalai Spa, a new beachfront restaurant and an outdoor adventure program with surfing and fishing called Voyages. No wonder it's the first and only hotel on the Big Island to score Forbes Five Star and AAA Five Diamond ratings. The resort's other unique features include three restaurants and two lounges, a Jack Nicklaus Signature 18-hole private golf course, a half-dozen pools and a lava-rock outdoor "aquarium." *Visit hualalairesort.com.*

Grand Wailea, Maui

This award-winning Waldorf Astoria Collection resort on Maui is looking sparkling and fresh after a \$50-million renovation. All that money went into updating elements such as Spa Grande, which is now the largest spa in Hawaii and features ocean-themed treatments, a fitness center with squash courts and a cycling studio. There's also Wailea Canyon, a water park with nine pools connected by water slides, a "baby beach" and the world's first "water elevator." The 780 guest rooms boast dark-wood furnishings, frameless shower enclosures, flat-screen TVs and a new blend of Western and Polynesian décor. When guests aren't playing on the championship Wailea Gold Course or enjoying breezy Wailea Beach, they can peruse the hotel's impressive \$35-million art collection, which includes works by Fernando Botero and Vladimir Kush. *Visit grandwailea.com.*



The lovely Makana Terrace at St. Regis Princeville

St. Regis Princeville Resort, Kaua'i

We like one-of-a-kind luxuries like the St. Regis Princeville Resort on Kaua'i. The resort is built into the dramatic cliffs overlooking Hanalei Bay, and the 252 guest rooms have unique features, including a "privacy glass reveal" in the bathrooms that cloud up or clear on your command for views of the spectacular scenery. Then again, you won't be spending much time in the room when there are amenities such as the Makai Golf Club; a 5,000-square-foot infinity pool overlooking Hanalei Bay; five restaurants and bars, including the Kauai Grill from Jean-Georges Vongerichten; and Halele'a Spa, with treatments inspired by Hawaii's natural wonders. This hotel even takes butler service a step further with a marine biologist on staff as an "Ocean Butler" to escort guests on snorkeling and scuba tours of the coral reef fronting the resort. *Visit stregisprinceville.com.*