

the BEST of HAWAII

Many travelers may prefer spending a few days on the western edge of Maui before their journey begins—yet others often extend their stay at the end of their trip in the lovely garden island of Kauai.

More pleasures can be found in the new 17,500 square-foot, two-level Ritz-Carlton Spa. The spa offers 15 treatment rooms opening to an outdoor shower garden as well as a private relaxation area that resembles a volcanic stone grotto complete with whirlpools, steam rooms and saunas. But, the spa isn't the only stress-reliever at this exclusive Maui resort. From the beachfront to poolside, the charming staff was so attentive that they fulfilled wishes even I didn't know I had! Returning to my cabana after a swim, the poolside butler had set up a platter of fresh pineapple with cold beverages. I soon came to realize during my visit that the Ritz-Carlton doesn't just aim to please; it aims to surpass all expectations!

And, the Ritz's simple pleasures soon become exhilarating culinary discoveries. The hotel has six restaurants, but its signature award-winning restaurant, **The Banyan Tree**, is truly a culinary adventure. With dramatic views of the Pacific Ocean, Chef de Cuisine Jojo Vasquez suggested guests begin dinner with a trio of starters. We opted for the roasted beets, seared scallops and house smoked salmon ravioli that captured the very essence of each ingredient. Although his diverse menu changes with the seasons, the chef continues to offer several fresh catches, such as chorizo Opah with a pine nut crust and braised ocean trout. While an array of wonderful desserts added to our festive mood, the "chocolate tasting" fudge and molten cakes rates top billing!

Regardless of when you visit, Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua offers their guests a perfect getaway with all the comforts of an elegant Hawaiian resort lifestyle. *For more information on Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, call 800.262.8440 or visit www.ritzcarlton.com*

The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua

Nestled among swaying coconut palms, lush landscapes and breathtaking Maui sunsets, The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua is the ideal setting for an inspiring, rejuvenating tropical getaway. Located on the western edge of the island of Maui, this Five-Diamond beachfront hotel casts a welcoming glow throughout the property, matched only by the warm hospitality of its staff. The Ritz-Carlton recently completed an extensive \$180 million transformation boasting a museum quality collection of Hawaiian art, 36-holes of championship golf on two courses, a 10,000 square-foot tri-level swimming pool and the Jean-Michel Cousteau eco-adventure program.

The Ritz-Carlton also brings the same unparalleled excellence to its 463 remodeled guestrooms and suites. Beautiful woods and rich earthy tones of deep green, brown and cream hues created a warm ambiance. Our one bedroom suite provided us the utmost in luxury, including flat-screen LCD televisions, a new marble bathroom and expansive oceanfront vistas from the spacious lanai.



Grand Hyatt Regency Kauai Resort and Spa

Commonly known as the Garden Isle, Kauai showcases lush tropical vistas, striking waterfalls and impressive year-round resorts. As nature's playground for families as well as honeymooners, the island also offers 50 miles of white sand beaches, a colorful canyon, a fern grotto and wild refuges. We discovered our own piece of Hawaiian paradise at the Grand Hyatt Regency Kauai Resort and Spa — a spacious mega resort featuring 602 guest rooms with private balconies overlooking the