

[THE SUITE LIFE]



Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora

Otemaniu over-water bungalow with plunge pool

PHOTO: MOEAVA DE ROSEMONT

NEW OVER-WATER BUNGALOWS IN POLYNESIAN PARADISE

ARRIVING BY mahogany speedboat with cream leather seating sets the stage for your stay at the Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora. Set on a secluded tropical motu (islet) in the azure lagoon encircling beautiful Bora Bora, the resort (which opened in September, 2008) is the newest luxury hotel and spa to grace the island.

Accommodations are in 100 palm-thatched bungalows perched on stilts over the bathtub-warm water. Larger than 100 square metres, they're likely roomier than the digs of many of the honeymooners who comprise over 50 per cent of the guest list. Each bungalow comes with indigenous artwork such as glass-framed mother-of-pearl necklaces, traditional teak furnishings, vaulted tatami ceiling, double stone tub facing the sea through huge sliding windows, L'Occitane bath products in ceramic pots, Espresso machine and snorkeling gear. Dive off your deck for a morning swim, or sun topless like the French (you are in French Polynesia) as you gaze at mesmerizing views of craggy Otemanu peak in the distance. These bungalows are ultra-luxe havens, giving you no reason to leave.

But leave you should – occasionally, at least – to enjoy the rest of the resort. Like the spa. Through glass floor panels beneath the table's doughnut hole, I watched a trumpet fish do lazy figure-eights as I luxuriated in a massage. At the inner lagoon, the resort's on-staff marine biologist offers coral grafting discovery, guided snorkeling and octopus feeding for children and adults. Then there's the weekly Polynesian feast on the beach. Walk on a path of palm leaves lit by tiki torches to sit on cushions in the sand, where you dine on fresh grilled spiny lobster while enjoying an authentic show of Tahitian dancers and drummers.

If you want to mellow out in dreamy surroundings, this is the place. Service is professional, but even the staff wear flip-flops. — JANICE MUCALOV



One bedroom over-water suite

PETER VITALE



Otemanu over-water bungalow

BARBARA KRAFT