



Heavenly Halekulani is truly a slice of paradise

HALEKULANI MEANS “house befitting heaven” in Hawaiian and the elegant Halekulani hotel in Honolulu certainly qualifies. Not because of its physical construction – the 453-room resort occupies five relatively standard buildings – but because of the serenity it manages to instill throughout a guest’s stay.

It sits on the quiet end of Waikiki Beach (but still tantalizingly close to luxury shops) and its rooms are Zen-like and calming. “Seven shades of white” is the theme of the décor. The carpets and sofa are ivory, sliding louvered doors opening onto the balcony are white, and the palest blue-grey silk wallpaper covers a feature wall, adorned with a silver-framed, sea-themed picture. Big bathrooms are also tiled in all-white with marble countertops.

The service is what really makes you cast off the burdens of the outside world the moment you check in. You’re personally escorted to your room for the process (no standing in line at a busy front reception

desk) where you discover a welcome fruit bowl and a box of Halekulani’s own chocolates to sweeten your stay. WiFi is free too – also very sweet.

We chilled out, relaxing by the pool which had a beautiful orchid mosaic in the center, made from 1.2 million glass tiles. Beside the pool was a large expanse of lawn, sprinkled with lounge chairs shaded by swaying palm trees. Attendants made sure we didn’t lack for a drink or a towel.

The sea-view Orchids dining room was lovely for brunch – crisp white tablecloths, gracious service by black-jacketed waiters (who shelter you from splashing water with a napkin when pouring ice water from a silver jug) and everything from sashimi to tempting desserts.

Other guests seemed to think Halekulani was pretty heavenly too. It’s won a string of awards over the years and is consistently rated one of Honolulu’s best hotels.

—JANICE MUCALOV

