

Girl's Day Getaway ~ at The Westin Ka'anapali Ocean Resort Villas

We didn't plan it that way, but by the time we all arrived (from off island and the mainland) we realized it was GIRL'S DAY. A holiday of Japanese origin, this day imported naturally to Hawaii, where an ethnic mix makes for more holidays per annum than anywhere else I know. Not that we needed a special day for our special occasion. We were also celebrating Julie's birthday, Paige's new job, Heidi's escape from winter on the mainland...and a well-deserved and long-expected getaway for all of us.

It was Paige's idea. "You'll love the Ocean Resort Villas – they have everything!" We were looking for some R&R in the company of friends...and some fun activities. Pampering was crucial. No one wanted to cook, and commuting was out of the question. We're all 30-somethings, leading busy career and family lives (with children), but we learned long years ago that time out with girlfriends is essential. And so we get away often...for a dinner out, a Sunday horseback ride or hike, a concert, etc. Usually a few hours here...or there, but just the *idea* of 3 days away in sunny Maui was bliss.

Warmly welcomed, we arrived just in time for mimosas and breakfast at the Ocean Pool Bar and Grill. Leis and hugs were shared as we gathered around, catching up and planning our weekend together. Some of us needed rest – so a nap by the pool was imperative. And facials, massages – we all needed serious spa time. Great food was essential ...and shopping.

We found a concierge in the lobby of our wing, so before we even took the elevator up we had booked zip-lining and a wine tour Upcountry the following day...and dinner in Lahaina for the birthday party. We debated a sunrise trek to the summit of Haleakala, but remembered we were there for R&R so decided against a 4:30 am wake-up call. We'd find plenty to do right on property. During daylight hours.

Two adjacent suites provided ample room for all of us, our stuff, hair curlers, ironing boards, martinis and cosmos in one kitchen, wine tasting in the other. Elegantly spacious, the suites looked out across an eye-searing blue to sailboats, whales, and the island of Lanai. Yep, we were home.

But first the pool and some sun, sliding and splashing – and did I mention the electric lemonade?



(vodka, lemonade, and a splash of cranberry). A few hours later we were ready for sushi rolls and chicken quesadillas...shared nibbles, poolside of course. The resort enjoys a wide swath of sugary white beach, which a couple of us power-walked to spot whales playing – and banish the guilt of overeating (did I mention the banana-macnut pancakes?)

Later, immersing in whirlpools, we wiped out the stress of our fast-paced lives, afterwards slathering on sunscreen to take full advantage of Maui's spring sun. Some of us checked out the game room for billiards before hitting the General Store...and a little shopping. How could we resist?



A resort shuttle ferries guests back and forth between the Westin Ka'anapali Ocean Resort Villas and the Westin Maui Resort and Spa, leaving every 15 minutes, so once landed and comfy in our villas, we could take advantage of additional choices for dining, shopping, and the magnificent new spa at the hotel – two venues for the price of one!

By late afternoon we hopped on and found ourselves at the hotel...just minutes away. It was the perfect venue for our first dinner. Dining at Tropicana (the hotel's signature restaurant) we enjoyed a spectacular (and typical) Maui sunset, tiki torches and live music. Following the obligatory maitais and seafood antipasto appetizer, I chose the Hawaiian snapper, which was cooked to perfection with a porcini-caper-maui onion-pinot reduction. Soon a New York steak appeared and pasta and fresh grilled ahi...with a foie gras demiglace. Dinner was seasoned with the kind of conversation only great friends share...and fabulous wines. We finished off with the crème brûlée sampler – a trio of passionfruit, lavender, and chocolate. (All low cal, low carb of course.)

The next morning we took off for our Upcountry trip – for zip-lining with Skyline Eco-Adventures (awesome fun, but how was this R&R?) and a stop at Tedeschi Vineyards (now we're talking!) for some wine tasting and a couple bottles to re-stock our rooms. This is the only winery located in Hawaii. While at Ulupalakua we downed grilled elk burgers and taro chips across the road at the General Store, then cruised downhill and back to the West side to our fabulous rooms at the Ocean Resort Villas.

With no rest for the weary, we grabbed the shuttle and made our way over to the hotel for a couple of indulging hours at the Heavenly Spa – and was it! Wrapped in plush terrycloth robes, we relaxed with laughter and lavender tea until ushered in for our facials and massages, regrouping in between treatments to ohhh and ahhh in unison.

Our concierge had recommended a new spot for dinner, so we drove down the road to the Lahaina Store for rooftop dining and another fabulous sunset, along with cards, presents, champagne and birthday cake. Mmmmmm. Delicious memories.

Sunday was pretty much a repeat – great breakfast, pool, sun and laughter...until we had to say our farewells and return to our lives. Will we be back? Will we recommend the Westin Ka'anapali Ocean Resort Villas? Yes and Amen!! Sun-kissed, pampered, informed, wined and dined, we vowed a repeat weekend...soon. It's the perfect spot for a getaway when girls just want to have fun. Friends, R&R, and great memories...what could be better than a girls day getaway at the fabulous Westin Ka'anapali Ocean Resort Villas?

Fast Facts



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**THE WESTIN
 KA'ANAPALI OCEAN RESORT VILLAS**

The Westin Ka'anapali Ocean Resort Villas is an uncommonly luxurious Hawaii vacation ownership opportunity... offering unique residences that embrace both Westin's standard of quality and Maui's most spectacular oceanfront vistas. The Westin Kaanapali is set along a pristine expanse of Ka'anapali's North Beach (ranked #1 on "America's Best Beaches" list for 2003).

Newly opened in September of 2003, "The Villas" are Hawaii vacation homes of extraordinary comfort... masterfully designed, richly furnished, and impeccably finished. Add to this an extensive list of amenities, a magnificent recreation lagoon, and an unlimited array of activity options... and it's easy to see why The Westin Ka'anapali Ocean Resort Villas have quickly become one of Maui's premier vacation ownership properties.

**THE WESTIN MAUI
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<http://www.westinmaui.com/index.htm>

Tropica Menu: http://www.westinmaui.com/pdf/WMAU-12889%201_24_07_APPROVED.pdf

Heavenly Spa at the Westin Maui – 18086612588

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