

HOMEFRONT™

Your magazine for design and quality living

SPRING 2009 • \$5.95

Happily ever after:

An intimately
romantic spa escape

On tour:

Cape Cod charm
Mucho fantástico Mexico
Discovering hidden gems
Memories of Miami

Design that moves you:

From classic to modern



014099274745 3

Paradise overload...

I have often wondered—what becomes paradise most? Pristine white sand beaches?

Surreal turquoise coloured waters? Beautifully appointed accommodations situated in the midst of a remarkably unspoiled corner of the globe? Or, by chance, some elaborately well-balanced combination of moments in time?

When it comes to providing a definition of a place, I usually can't decide, but thankfully now that I've discovered the perfect trifecta in Turks and Caicos, I suspect I shall never toil again for a definition.

Arriving in Providenciales this past December for the very first time, I was awash with the traditionally sunny, fun-filled, beachside expectations one generally associates with spending time in the Caribbean as most of the rest of the world slogs through the chilly depths of winter. After all, it is most ungracious to be ungrateful, n'est ce pas?

Gratitude aside however, imagine my surprise when I discovered that Provo, as Providenciales is affectionately nicknamed, wasn't just any ordinary slice of Caribbean paradise, but instead one of its most resplendent gems.

My journey into "paradise found" began at the hipster Nikki Beach Hotel and Resort.

being lulled into listless bliss by the resident DJ against a picturesque landscape dotted by the mega yachts docked at the resort's "first of its kind" ecologically friendly marina has always been just the sort of thing that appeals to me.

Ditto for those carefree moments spent skipping across the property's private beach and chatting up the well-heeled international crowd of swells that are part and parcel of the Nikki Beach hallmark.

When evening falls, the resort's Pearl Bar becomes the VIP epicenter of nightlife on Provo and guests have their choice of a first class invitation to take part in the raucous fun or a free pass to retire for the evening without care. Now, for those whose tastes run counter to the social whirl of Nikki Beach and more toward the quieter spectrum of things, The Tuscany on breathtaking Grace Bay is among Provo's optimal choices for serenity, privacy and pure relaxation.

At the Tuscany you won't find a nightclub or even a restaurant for that matter, but what you will find are large one, two and three-bedroom villas with fully loaded gourmet kitchens, oceanfront views, expansive patios and amenities galore. Terribly homey and remarkably laidback, a stay at The Tuscany feels a great deal more like borrowing a great friend's condo for a getaway than it does checking into a traditional resort. And that is perhaps the great charm of the place, aside from the fact that it is literally steps away from a beach that more than a few have described as one of the world's best.

That said, I would be doing The Tuscany a tremendous disservice if I didn't point out that despite its easy going vibe, the resort does not skimp on services. From stocking guests' villas with their favorite groceries and arrang-



Photo: The Tuscany on Grace Bay, Jim Stephens

ing private chefs to cater intimate or familial meals, to setting up horseback riding expeditions on the beach and private spa treatments, all can be arranged.

And for those who still need just a touch of social interaction, a short five-minute walk along the sand lies the Ocean Club, where by day cocktails and a light breakfast or lunch can be enjoyed on the patio of the resort's Cabana Bar & Grill and by night a five-star dining experience and convivial bar scene are always in the offing at the elegant and modern Opus restaurant.

Be romantic...be private...get lost in your own thoughts or a great novel...or simply enjoy a glass of vino, close your eyes and listen to the waves crash on the shores of this tiny parcel of heaven, but I dare you not to feel as though the cares of the world aren't a million miles away from this most stunning of vantage points.

Now if that's not paradise, then I don't know what is.

Until next time, don't forget to never stop living well. À bientôt! **H**

Duane Wells is a Los Angeles-based fashion and entertainment wunderkind who has his eye on Toronto as his next place to stir things up. He can be reached at duane.wells@gmail.com.



Photo: Nikki Beach Hotel and Resort

From its spacious and tastefully appointed oceanfront suites, complete with state-of-the-art kitchens, private balconies and fabulous views to its uncommonly satisfying signature Café Nikki restaurant and top flight team of personal assistants, Nikki Beach Turks and Caicos enticed me to expect the unexpected at every turn. And rarely have I been so giddy. But then again, sipping poolside cocktails while