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[Maui Nui Newsletter Updated with Fresh New Look](#)

by kelii on January 12, 2011

With the new year comes a fresh and updated look for Maui Visitors and Convention Bureau's newsletter. The quarterly e-publication features "what's new" on the islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai. Categories include accommodations, tours and activities, dining, culture and ag-tourism, romance and much more. The next newsletter publishes in April. Enjoy!



Named "Best Island" year after year by national travel publications, Maui, and her sister islands Molokai and Lanai, continue to offer memorable experiences for first-time visitors and seasoned travelers alike.

World-class resorts, award winning cuisine, championship golf, staggering natural beauty and the islands' host Hawaiian culture have propelled Maui Nui into the limelight. Here are just a few reasons why "The Magic Isles" are among the most desirable destinations in the world.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Fairmont Kea Lani completes \$16M property-wide renovations



Renovations to all guestrooms are complete at Maui's only all-suite and villa luxury oceanfront resort! All 413 one-bedroom suites are enhanced with attractive new furniture, top of the line amenities, luxurious linens, HD flat screen TVs and more. The new look for the exclusive 2- and 3-bedroom villas is classic and timeless with thoughtful Hawaiian touches. Earlier this year, all three main swimming pools were enhanced with elegant quartzite pool decks giving warmth to the property. For more information, call 808-875-4100 or visit www.fairmont.com/kealani.

Aloha Campers



For those looking to be travelers, not tourists, Aloha Campers offers a truly unique Maui vacation experience. Why choose a pre-packaged vacation when you can navigate the island and create your own adventure? The only camper rental company in Maui, Aloha Campers rents VW Westfalia Campers, letting you choose where you would like to camp each night and what beaches you would like to hear each morning. The size of a small van, each camper comes with two double beds and fully equipped kitchenette. From Haleakala to Hana, your alternative Maui vacation awaits with Aloha Campers. www.alohacampers.com.

Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa completes guestroom renovations

In December 2010, Hyatt Regency Maui announced the completion of an extensive transformation that included exquisite guestroom updates and an exciting new dining destination. Inspired by the vibrant natural beauty of the surrounding blue pacific, red clay soil, deep green plantations, and vivid yellows and oranges of the island sun, all of Hyatt's guestrooms have been luxuriously renovated with a sleek, contemporary Hawaiian design, bold textiles, and vibrant accent colors for an island-themed ambiance that is both comfortable and sophisticated. For information, call 808-661-1234, or visit www.maui.hyatt.com.

Largest Resort Lanai is on Maui



Honua Kai Resort & Spa on Maui knows bigger is better. The Kamehameha Suite (H#650) is located oceanfront on the 6th floor of Hokulani tower. While the interior measures an impressive 2650 square feet, the expansive lanai is a jaw-dropping 3200 square feet, more than doubling the living space. The 270-degree view wraps from the West Maui Mountains, islands of Molokai and Lanai, and the Pacific Ocean. The lanai is an extension of the interior with a glass Nana wall system that folds back opening up to the outdoors. For information, please visit www.honuakaimaui.com.

Aston Kaanapali Shores completes renovations

The Aston Kaanapali Shores recently completed a \$14 million renovation to all studios and one- and two-bedroom suites. The makeover included a refreshed look to the kitchens with new cabinets, appliances and granite countertops along with remodeled bathrooms featuring new showers, cabinets and granite sinks. Other improvements to the beachfront property included resurfaced tennis courts and a new shuffleboard deck. For more information, visit www.astonhotels.com.

Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa is smoke-free

As of November 2010, Hyatt Regency Maui declared all guest rooms to be 100% smoke free. With the recent completion of an extensive \$10 million guestroom renovation and the addition of new hallway carpeting, Hyatt Regency Maui elected to dedicate all the brand new, never-before-smoked-in room to non-smoking designation. For more information, call 808-661-1234, or visit www.maui.hyatt.com.

TOURS AND ACTIVITIES

The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua presents new whale watching expeditions

Experience exclusive, intimate whale watching adventures that promise wondrous views! Revel in an opportunity to get up close and personal with Maui's most famous visitors, Humpback Whales, through three new voyages via a Zodiac, outrigger canoe or private sea kayak through April 15th. For further information, pricing and to book these limited seating tours, please contact Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment Center 808-665-7292 or ambassadors.kapalua@ritzcarlton.com.

Hotel Molokai celebrates community appreciation

Hotel Molokai celebrates community with its 4th Annual Community Appreciation Party on Tuesday, January 25, 2011. The event is Hotel Molokai's way of giving back to its island namesake and its surrounding island communities. Enjoy an exciting evening filled with music, entertainment, free food, giveaways and a fantastic time with family and friends, all Molokai style! The celebration begins at 4 p.m. Go early if you want a good seat. The Hotel Molokai Team extends their mahalo (thanks) for the continued support of many in the community and beyond. For more information, please call 877-553-5347.

Maui's Cirque Polynesia introduces new death-defying act



Cirque Polynesia, Maui's premier cirque show, has added a new act – The Wheel of Death. This amazing contraption is a 35-foot-high structure that resembles a giant pendulum with a wheel on one end. The wheel rotates around a central axle without any gears or pistons but is instead powered by the performer's own leg strength. The artist performs a range of tricks while running, skipping and jumping. Cirque Polynesia continues to feature high-wire acts, contortion, aerial illusionists and acrobats, daredevil balancing and split second quick-change. For info, call 808-667-4540 or visit www.CirquePolynesia.com.

New outdoor setting at Spa Helani



The award-winning Spa Helani, a Heavenly Spa by Westin™ now offers a brand new outdoor relaxation lounge for spa guests to relax amidst serene surroundings with added privacy. The exciting transformation includes dark wood trellis with beautifully-designed partitions for cozy couple lounging areas and dining tables for spa guests to enjoy healthy spa cuisine. Bamboo water features with bronze artifacts complement the spa's overall earthy look and feel. Located at The Westin Kaanapali Ocean Resort Villas, Spa Helani signature amenities include a tree-house couple's spa suite with high-beamed ceilings and latticed windows. Visit www.westinkaanapali.com.

Four Seasons Resort Lanai at Manele Bay offers guided hike

Recently launched as part of Manele Bay's new fitness program, guests are invited on a guided hike to explore the Fisherman's Trail. The hike includes historical and island insight, with views of an ancient Hawaiian village site and heiau (temple). The hike is offered every Saturday at 8 a.m., with a suggested \$10 donation to benefit the Lanai Cultural & Heritage Center. For more information, please call Concierge at 808-565-2388.

Learn culinary techniques of the Pacific Rim



Join Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa Executive Chef Bryan Ashlock on his weekly chef demonstration and tour as part of the Sheraton Adventure Club. Guests are invited to explore the resort kitchens on a brief tour ending in the bake shop for a small treat from the resort's pastry chefs. After the tour, Chef Ashlock gathers participants for an intimate demonstration of vegetable and fruit

carvings, or how to cook a signature dish. Each week is different. For more info, please visit www.sheraton-maui.com.

Maui zipline newest attraction at Maui Tropical Plantation

Come and soar over lush tropical gardens while learning about Maui's rich agricultural history. Experience spectacular views of the Tropical Plantation, West Maui Mountains, and Haleakala. The tour features five side-by-side ziplines, ranging from 350 to 900 feet, with the last line zipping through giant swaying palms and over the tropical lagoon. The zipline tour is a fun and exciting activity the entire family will enjoy. Participants must weigh between 50 lbs. and 260 lbs. For reservations or more information, contact Maui Zipline Company at 808-633-2464 or on the web at www.mauizipline.com.

Hula O Na Keiki 20th Celebration



November 12-14, 2010 highlighted two days of competition by children five to 17 years old in the 20th Celebration of Hula O Na Keiki at Kaanapali Beach Hotel. Maui's only keiki hula competition was a celebration of Hawaiian culture. Overall awards were captured by 17 year old, Ezra Theodore "Kaui" Kaleonahenaheonalani Nakaahiki Krueger, of Halau Hula Kauluokala directed by Kumu Hula Uluwehi Guerrero, and 10 year old Kaya Givensel, of Ka Pa o Ka Ulu Koa, directed by Na Kumu Hula Kamakaeu and Kaaula Williams. Join KBH for next year's exciting event, November 4-6, 2011. For more information call 800-262-8450, or visit www.kbhmaui.com.

Lanai's got more adventures

Western Adventures is a welcome addition to Lanai's fast-growing list of activities. They offer a variety of specially designed horseback riding adventures for the experienced rider, lessons for novices, easy scenic rides for the nature lover and lots more. Trophy hunts for Axis deer and Mufalon sheep are a specialty and they promise an experience like no other in the secluded, serene environment of the island of Lanai. For more information, please call Lanai Hospitality Partners at 808-565-7211.

22nd Annual Maui Onion Festival



Whalers Village Fine Shops & Restaurants hosts their signature event, the Maui Onion Festival, honoring Maui's most famous export Saturday, May 7, 2011. The fun, family event is open to the public, featuring a full day of celebrity chefs demonstrating cooking techniques followed by food sampling, best onion recipe contest, keiki and adult 'raw' Maui Onion eating contest, food and product booths, and entertainment. Chefs include Roy Yamaguchi, Roy's Restaurants; D.K. Kodama, Sansei Restaurants and Cane & Taro; Brian Etheredge, Capische? and 2010 winner James McDonald of Pacific'O and I'o and Oo Farm. Visit www.whalersvillage.com or 808-661-4567.

KPOA live Sunday brunch broadcasts

Beginning January 23, 2011, Kaanapali Beach Hotel will be partnering with Maui's KPOA Radio to produce live broadcasts during their award winning Sunday Champagne Brunch. The live broadcasts will take place on the 4th Sunday of each month, and will include live entertainment, live guest interviews and lots of fun with Maui's favorite local deejays. For reservations, please call 808-667-0124 or visit: www.hawaiiansundaybrunch.com.

Four Seasons Resort Lanai at Manele Bay offers sunrise beachside Yoga



Experience a true Hawaiian yoga program with Manele Bay's Sunrise Beachside yoga, offered to resort guests on Wednesday mornings. The gentle lulling of the waves, combined with the fragrant trade winds, creates a relaxing setting for flow yoga on the beach. The complimentary program increases flexibility and awareness in the body. For more information, please call the Concierge at 808-565-2388.

Tour da Food Maui – and The Maui Food Bank



During the months of February and March 2011, a portion of the proceeds from all Tour da Food Maui tours will be donated to The Maui Food Bank. As food banks get most of their donations during holidays, TDFM is hoping to help after the holidays when the need may be just as great. Tour da Food Maui offers intimate excursions to Maui's hidden culinary treasures in Wailuku and Upcountry Maui. Guests "talk story" with locals and experience "broke da mouth" specialties not found in hotel or fine dining restaurants. Tours are customized for a maximum of four guests. Reservations required. Please call 808-242-8383 or visit www.tourdafoodmaui.com for more information.

Sea Escape Boat Rentals



Sea Escape Boat Rentals, Maui's only boat rental company allows you to be your own captain and navigate the waters of Maui on your very own boat. Spend your day on the water fishing, snorkeling, scuba diving, whale watching or enjoying the scenic Maui coastline. Choose between luxury 24' Glacier Bay Catamarans or a fun and fast 17' Rigid Inflatable. Hop over for a quick trip to Molokini Crater or private voyage to Lanai. Boating experience is required, although licenses are not. A truly unique Maui experience, boating memberships are also available for frequent Maui travelers. www.maui-boat-rental.com.

DINING

Lanai City Grille's Andis Wine Dinner



Lanai City Grille will feature Andis Wines, Amador County's newest winery, at a wine dinner on February 10, 2011. Andis Winery is the creation of local entrepreneur Andy Friedlander and his wife Janis Akuna. It is a fresh, modern design and a welcome addition to California's Shenandoah Valley and its fast growing number of wineries. Chef Bev Gannon, Hawaii's Grand Dame of Cuisine, will design the menu around these great new wines. For more information, please call Lanai City Grille at 808-565-7211.

Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa unveils Japengo

Part of the resort's extensive \$15 million transformation, Hyatt Regency Maui is pleased to announce the opening of Japengo, a Pacific Rim restaurant and sushi lounge. Opened in December 2010, Japengo celebrates its grand debut with a gala event on Jan. 22, 2011. A sexy and sophisticated dining destination, Japengo draws on Hawaii's freshest, locally-grown products, coupled with exotic ingredients from neighboring Pacific Rim countries to create a culinary adventure showcasing modern Asian-inspired flavors with Hawaiian flair. For more information, call 808-661-1234, or visit www.maui.hyatt.com.

Village Café opens in Kapalua Resort

The Village Café and Sweet Shoppe opened in December at the Village Center at Kapalua Resort. It offers guests casual, family-style table service for breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as the convenience of a service counter with baked goods, coffee and assorted beverages with lounge seating. The restaurant is open daily from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. For reservations, please call 808-665-1122.

Oenophiles raise your glass each month at The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua



The award-winning Banyan Tree will tempt even the most discerning palates with featured wine dinners during 2011. Romance your loved one in February with an epicurean adventure highlighted by Banfi Wines. Gourmands visiting in March are promised a beautiful pairing of wines by Far Niente & Nichol & Nichol. To make reservations or for more information on pricing and featured wineries by month, please call 808-669-6200.



Makena opens Raku Japanese Restaurant

Makena ushers the return of authentic Japanese food to the former Maui Prince Hotel. Raku restaurant-goers can enjoy a “reinvented Japanese experience” featuring an authentic Japanese menu. Under the direction of Executive Chef Marc McDowell, the restaurant features the return of Hakone Chef De Cuisine Tom Kamijo and continues the sushi making talents of Chef Ivan Bersamin. Raku is open Wednesday thru Saturday from 6 – 9 p.m. and includes a happy hour from 6 – 7 p.m. featuring 50% off its pau hana sushi menu. For reservations, please call 808-875-5888.

Start the year with a new you

Start afresh with a healthy dining option at The Westin Maui Resort & Spa. Overlooking lush gardens with koi ponds, flamingos and other wildlife, Colonnade Café is the perfect place to enjoy a renewing breakfast or all-day refreshments. Its latest offering is the delicious “Renew-A-Bowl” inspired by Westin’s partnership with SuperfoodsRX. Flavors include strawberry acai or the blueberry granola bowl. The granola is made fresh at the resort using executive chef Garret Fuijieda’s special recipe with oats, honey and other healthy nutrients. Visit www.westinmaui.com.

The Fairmont Kea Lani offers menus catering to guests with specific dietary requests

Lifestyle Cuisine Plus, a new culinary program, will give guests with specific diet-dependent conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and gluten free, as well as unique dietary preferences including, macrobiotic, raw and vegan diets, nutritious dining options. Fairmont Lifestyle Cuisine Plus menus will include a selection of appetizers, entrees and desserts and will be available at the resort’s restaurants including the signature restaurant, Ko. Resort chefs are equipped with cutting-edge recipe analysis software to help customize entrees to fit with guests’ requests for caloric and nutritional requirements. Call 808-875-4100 or visit www.fairmont.com/kealani for more information.

Hawaiian Airlines introduces new menu



Hawaiian Airlines is offering an entirely new menu for First and Coach Class customers to enjoy on all long-distance flights in 2011, featuring the culinary artistry and fresh pan-Asian approach of Chef Chai Chaowasaree, owner of two renowned Honolulu restaurants. Hawaiian continues to be the only domestic carrier serving Hawaii to offer free meals to Coach Class passengers. Chef Chai’s meals are being paired with wines selected by Master Sommelier Chuck Furuya of Honolulu, a recognized expert at pairing wines with Pacific Rim cuisine. For more information, please visit www.HawaiianAirlines.com.

Monkeypod Kitchen by Merriman announces opening date in Wailea Resort

Award winning Chef and Restaurateur Peter Merriman will open his first Wailea restaurant, Monkeypod Kitchen in February 2011. The chef-driven concept will stay true to Peter’s locavore ideals,

supporting local farmers while using the freshest and highest quality ingredients. The island style pub will feature locally sourced handcrafted cuisine, with a kiawe wood-burning oven for handcrafted pizzas and home made breads. Thirty-six handcrafted beers will be on tap in addition to an extensive list of wines and culinary cocktails. The family friendly establishment will feature a lounge, bar, indoor and outdoor dining and communal table. For more info, visit www.monkeypodkitchen.com.

Back to the Classics, latest trend in cocktails in full swing at Fairmont Kea Lani



Remember the Singapore Sling? Ever heard of the White Lady? Or the Sidecar? The latest beverage trend is bringing back Classic Cocktails and all the glamour associated with that era. With Fairmont Kea Lani's new "Classic Cocktails" program, the barkeeps can create the cool old-school drinks in Luana Lounge, Ko Restaurant, and at Polo Beach Grille and Bar. Call 808-875-4100 or visit www.fairmont.com/kealani for more information.

New Barefoot Bar debuts at Royal Lahaina Resort

Royal Lahaina Resort is proud to announce the grand reopening of the newly renovated Barefoot Bar, located oceanfront on the resort grounds. The refurbished bar will be home to live music 3-4 days a week during the sunset happy hours and will feature local talent in a laid back and approachable setting. The refurbishment will continue throughout the month of January and will include the resurfacing of two oceanfront shuffle board courts, new oceanfront food service and updated beachfront grounds for relaxing, sipping mai tais! www.hawaiianhotels.com.

Sushi and Sake at Ocean Pool Bar & Grill



Join sous chef Raymond Nicasio on a sushi culinary adventure at the Ocean Pool Bar & Grill. Experience authentic, oriental flavors of the sushi hand rolls with delectable choices, served with sake. Offered Fridays as a Happy Hour special from 4:00 pm to 6:00pm, the restaurant's poolside surroundings is idyllic to enjoy Maui's captivating sunsets and live entertainment performed by local musicians. Ocean Pool Bar & Grill is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner and is located at The Westin Kaanapali Ocean Resort Villas. Visit www.westinkaanapali.com.

Okole Wow anyone?

Tropica Restaurant & Bar on Kaanapali Beachwalk introduces "Okole Wow" – its newest and most innovative cocktail! Featuring locally-produced 'Okolehao Liqueur by Haleakala Distillers, the tantalizing cocktail brings out the flavors of butterscotch and vanilla characteristics of Okolehao made from Ti plants in Hawaii. The cocktail recipe features other local ingredients such as Maui Gold Pineapple muddled with fresh lime and hibiscus juice with an edible hibiscus bud as its distinctive garnish. Located at The Westin Maui Resort & Spa, the restaurant bar is open for happy hour and dinner, Wednesdays to Sundays. Visit www.westinmaui.com.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Spa Grande grander than ever

Spa Grande at Grand Wailea completes a restoration project enhancing the remarkable features that already make it the best in its class. The updates include refinishing the marble walls restoring the original shine, updating color of the walls to a soft biscuit beige to instill calmness and relaxation, and installation of new mosaic tile floors in the changing areas. These updates assist in preserving and conserving the unique features of Spa Grande. For info, visit grandwailea.com or call 800-888-6100 ext 4949.

CULTURE AND AGRI-TOURISM

Maui artists take the challenge from Maui Coastal Land Trust



Schaefer International Gallery presents “The Legacy of Land” exhibition, January 9 – February 19. It reveals a unique collaboration between 24 artists, open-space land tracts and two high-power nonprofits-Maui Arts & Cultural Center and Maui Coastal Land Trust. Together, they present a stunning art exhibit certain to raise public awareness about resource conservation and the preservation of culturally significant sites on Maui. The MACC gallery in Central Maui is open Wednesday-Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and before Castle Theater shows; admission is free. Call 808-243-4288 or visit www.MauiArts.org.

KBH Hawaiian language classes

Kaanapali Beach Hotel’s commitment to preserving and promoting Hawaiian culture continues with the addition of Hawaiian language classes to their array of complimentary Hawaiian activities offered to its guests. The language class is taught by guest services agents and is presented at a variety of times throughout the week. Guests learn pronunciation, diacritical marks, names, greetings, and more. This is just another reason why Kaanapali Beach Hotel has earned the title, “Hawaii’s Most Hawaiian Hotel.” To learn more or plan your stay now, visit www.kbhmaui.com or call 800-262-8450.



19th Annual East Maui Taro Festival returns to Hana

The East Maui Taro Festival returns to Hana from April 30-May 1, 2011. This lively two-day event takes place at the Hana Ballpark, adjacent to Hotel Hana-Maui, and celebrates taro, a staple of the Hawaiian diet. Demonstrations of all aspects of taro and poi production, as well as feasting, live entertainment, dance, and arts and crafts make up this free event. Hotel Hana-Maui's executive chef Barry Villiarimo, a Hana native, plans to incorporate taro into his menus at Hotel Hana-Maui throughout the week. For more information, please visit www.hotelhanamaui.com.

Four Seasons Resorts Lanai launches cultural Hookipa Program

Four Seasons is pleased to introduce the Hookipa Program, a series of interactive cultural classes created by Lanai's kupuna (Hawaiian elders) for resort guests. The kupuna are available to teach and share their cultural knowledge, oral history and tradition. Complimentary classes include ukulele lessons and lei making.



4th Annual Maui County Agricultural Festival

Maui's prime event to raise awareness about Maui agriculture while invigorating Maui agriculture, will take place on Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The entire industry, its allies, and supporters come together to share what each group does for the collective good of agriculture in the County, and to showcase agriculture's vital role in the economy, environment, and lifestyle of Maui. Taste Education celebrates Maui's famed regional cuisine based on locally grown produce. Meet local chefs and farmers and ranchers who are creating menus that matter. Tickets and more information at mauicountyfarmbureau.org or 808-243-2290.

ROMANCE

Romantic oceanfront dining for couples at Tropica



Overlooking Kaanapali Beach, The Westin Maui Resort & Spa's signature Tropica Restaurant & Bar introduces a romantic oceanfront dining experience for couples. The new seating area includes tables for two set on a grassy lawn with panoramic ocean and sunset views. The new setting is a hit amongst couples seeking an intimate experience with award-winning menu selections presented by chef de cuisine Ikaika Manaku, accompanied by an extensive wine and cocktail list. The restaurant bar is

open Wednesdays to Sundays for dinner from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Visit www.westinmaui.com.

Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa creates new wedding ceremony location



Located on a quaint, private lawn, Kaanapali Point is a divine wedding location for ceremonies with up to 40 guests. The lawn is perched just steps above Puu Kekaa (Black Rock) offering a beautiful lava rock formation as the backdrop for wedding vows. In the distance, guests will be treated to panoramic views of Molokai and Lanai across the sparkling Pacific. For more information, please visit www.sheraton-maui.com/weddings.

Give Maui-grown flowers this Valentine Season



Maui welcomes winter's wonders with blooming Protea flowers. Like velvet ornaments, Protea buds decorate silvery-limbed evergreens in Upcountry, Maui. The King Protea's flower head's fluffy white center tempts your touch. Banksia flowers feel like a tightly woven knitted afghan: as these buds begin to open, the flower head is adorned with a fluffy band of fur. As the loops of the Pincushion's flower heads unfurl, each resembles a mini burst of fireworks. Avoid the predictable and move towards the unexpected! Give gorgeous Maui-grown protea. Call the Maui Flower Growers' Association at 1-800-805-2758 or visit www.mauiflower.com.

SHOPPING

Wailea Hearts

The Grand Wailea Retail Promenade welcomes Wailea Hearts, a Brighton exclusive store featuring the latest handbags, wallets, sunglasses, jewelry and more. Known for their quality and timeless creations, Brighton collectibles are often recognized by their defining details of hearts, love notes, and lockets. Grand Wailea Retail Promenade is on the fourth floor of Grand Wailea. Complimentary valet parking with purchase. For info, visit www.grandwailea.com or call 800-888-6100, ext. 4949.

FERRY SERVICE

Expeditions ferries passengers between Maui and Lanai



With five daily departures aboard Expeditions, visitors enjoy spectacular views of Maui County, including the islands of Maui, Lanai, Molokai and Kahoʻolawe. On a clear day you may even see the Big Island of Hawaiʻi, and from January thru April, you'll marvel at the magnificent presence of Maui's "gentle giants" and most loyal repeat visitors — the Humpback whales! Cost is \$30 per adult and \$20 per child (kamaaina or resident rates are available). For more information, visit www.go-lanai.com or call 808-661-3756 or toll-free at 1-800-695-2624.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Travel Weekly names Hawaii “Best Destination: U.S. State;” Maui captures best Hawaiian destination

The eighth annual Travel Weekly Readers' Choice Awards were recently announced in New York City. Winners were selected in 59 categories in the airline, car, hospitality, rail, GDS, tour, cruise, destination and theme park sectors. The awards are presented to suppliers considered by Travel Weekly readers to have excelled in product and service during the past year. Hawaii captured “Best Destination: U.S. State” besting California, Colorado, Florida, and New York. Maui was named best Hawaiian destination. For more info, please visit www.travelweekly.com.

Fourteen Maui Nui properties snag prized AAA Diamond Awards

Among the most coveted awards in the visitor industry, AAA Diamond honors were recently bestowed upon several Maui Nui properties. To obtain the designation, properties must meet AAA's rigorous evaluation criteria, based on member expectations, which provide travelers with quality assurance. AAA annually evaluates more than 60,000 lodging establishments and restaurants, and rates them on a scale of one to five Diamonds. One Diamond properties meet AAA's basic standards for comfort, cleanliness, and hospitality, while five diamond properties are the premier establishments that provide the ultimate in quality and service. Five Diamond winners in Maui Nui include Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea and Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua. Four Diamond designees include Fairmont Kea Lani Maui, Four Seasons Resort Lanai at Manele Bay, Four Seasons Resort Lanai – The Lodge at Koele, Grand Wailea, Hotel Hana Maui, Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa, Wailea Beach Marriott Resort & Spa and Westin Kaanapali Ocean Resort Villas. Four Diamond Restaurants winners include The Banyan Tree, Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, The Dining Room at Four Seasons Resort Lanai – The Lodge at Koele, Kauiki Dining Room at Hotel Hana-Maui and Sarento's on the Beach. For more info, visit www.aaa.net.

Hotel Hana-Maui ranks #2 on Conde Nast Traveler's readers poll



The intimate charm and warm ambiance of Hotel Hana-Maui has captured the hearts of Conde Nast Traveler readers. The resort was named #2 Hawaii hotel in the 2010 Conde Nast Traveler Reader's Choice Awards Poll. Hotel Hana-Maui has been a favorite of generations of travelers seeking unspoiled natural beauty, tranquility, and a Hawaiian sense of place since it opened as Maui's first resort in 1947. For more information, visit www.hotelhanamaui.com.

The Westin Maui Resort & Spa wins spa award

For the second consecutive year, The Westin Maui Resort & Spa is acknowledged with SPA magazine's Silver Sage Readers' Choice Award for "Favorite Resort & Hotel Spas in Hawaii & South Pacific". The 2010 award recognizes the resort's Heavenly Spa by Westin™, Maui's only award-winning oceanfront spa on Kaanapali Beach. It is the first Westin-branded Heavenly Spa to open worldwide and has contributed over \$100,000 to the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii's watershed program by donating a dollar from each spa service booked at the resort the past six years. Visit www.westinmaui.com.

Spa Helani wins coveted award

Spa Helani, a Heavenly Spa by Westin™ was most recently awarded the 2010 SpaFinder Readers' Choice Award under the category of "Top 10 Favorite New Getaway Spas". Spa-goers cast a record number of votes in the eighth-annual awards, which are considered the most thorough and independent assessment of spas worldwide. The elegantly-designed spa oasis is set amidst the lush gardens of The Westin Kaanapali Ocean Resort Villas and is renowned for its extensive spa services including its popular Heavenly Mango Nectar Wrap with Opio Facial Enhancement using organic essences for complete rejuvenation. Visit www.westinkaapanali.com.

Hawaii's Most Hawaiian Hotel receives Quality Assurance Award

Kaanapali Beach Hotel, "Hawaii's Most Hawaiian Hotel" was recently awarded MLT's Quality Assurance Award for 2010. The award ceremony was held in combination with the MLT University in September 2010 in St. Paul, Minnesota. The MLT Quality Assurance Award recognizes a very exclusive group of hotels that achieve a 99% customer satisfaction score and 99% delivery of product performance, based on outstanding quality, customer service, and product delivery. Call today to make your reservation at 800-262-8450 or visit www.kbhmaui.com.

Kapalua Zipline Voted #1



Kapalua Adventure Ziplines was voted #1 by Maui News for the Best Land Activity (2010-2011). Kapalua Adventure Ziplines is the largest zip line course in Hawaii and features nearly two miles of parallel line zipline action that takes you soaring within the West Maui Mountains. A few unique elements sets Kapalua Adventures apart from the rest. The Giant Swing entails the following; two people are attached in their harness side-by-side in the swing and pulled upward by guests working with a guide to a height of 50 feet between constructed poles, then released across a ravine to absorb the free-fall while enjoying breathtaking views. Another feature is Hawaii's largest suspension bridge at 360' long and nearly 5' wide. It's nearly 200' high in the middle and the towers are 40' high. Call for reservations at 808-665-3753 or visit Kapaluaadventures.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

ExploringMaui.com releases iPhone application for whale watchers

"The Humpback Whale Guide" iPhone application is intended for anyone that wants a reference guide to these beautiful mammals. It's a wonderful guide, written by Melissa Meeker and filled with the photography of Jim Tierney and Michael Sweet. Interactive features include allowing users to use GPS to track where they've seen whales (and post it on Facebook) and a Humpback Quiz Show game for kids where they can compete to see who knows more about these amazing cetaceans. The iPhone application is downloadable through iTunes for \$2.99. For more information, please contact jim@exploringmaui.com.

Greening our meetings

With the recent launch of Sustainable Meeting Practices at The Westin Maui Resort & Spa, customizing and selecting menu choices is literally at your finger-tips! The newly developed Westin Emenu online program offers a paperless meeting planning process with electronic sales tools to conserve paper – including sales proposals, menu selection, room list creation, and reservation cross-check. Other practices integrating environmental and social responsibility include “Meetings with Aloha” where attendees give back to the local community through team-building and volunteer activities such as Malama Honokowai valley restoration project and sustainable menu options using locally-grown ingredients. Visit www.westinmaui.com.

Enjoy true local island cuisine with “What Maui Likes to Eat” cookbook



Executive Chef of The Fairmont Kea Lani, Tylun Pang, has published a new cookbook with recipes from Maui’s most popular and beloved dishes, including some from Ko, the hotel’s signature restaurant. Pang included local stories of growing up in the Islands and how Maui’s culture comes together over food, making this a true treasure of Maui’s culinary history. Guest chefs including Ryan Luckey of Pineapple Grill and Perry Bateman of Mama’s Fish House also contributed delicious recipes. A longtime supporter of Maui Culinary Academy, Chef Pang is donating all of his proceeds to the school. Cookbooks may be purchased through Amazon.com.

Kai Ala Market launches online grocery purchases

The next time you book a stay at The Westin Kaanapali Ocean Resort Villas, take advantage of the resort’s online grocery shopping services. Accessible on the resort’s website, the online order form offers breakfast items such as eggs and cereal, deli meats, juices and sodas, frozen meals, snacks, cookies and crackers, butter, cheeses and other dairy products. Other selections include fresh produce, condiments, sauces, marinated meats and seafood skewers for a tasty home-cooked meal within the comfort of your resort villa or at the poolside barbeque grills overlooking the ocean. Visit www.westinkaanapali.com.

“Just Go With It” at Grand Wailea

Grand Wailea recently served as the primary filming location of the upcoming romantic comedy, “Just Go With It” starring Jennifer Aniston, Adam Sandler, Nicole Kidman, Brooklyn Decker and Dave Matthews. Grand Wailea was the place to be as Hollywood’s most recognizable faces filmed throughout the resort including our restaurants and lounges, spa, courtyards, beach and pools, and other public spaces. The movie premieres on February 11, 2011. To view the trailer, visit www.justgowithit-movie.com.



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[Maui Nui 2011: Special Events](#)

5 January 2011

Welcome to 2011, we have many wonderful events for everyone to enjoy on Maui Nui. The first big event is Hyundai Tournament of Champions in Kapalua. Tournament play starts on Thursday, January 6th at 10am on the Plantation Course. There will be exciting golf and events in Kapalua through Sunday, January 9th get the complete [...]

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[Maui and Lanai to Welcome 2011 In Style!](#)

29 December 2010

2010 is almost history and we are about to ring in 2011. Where did the year go? To bid aloha to 2010 and a warm welcome to 2011, there are several events and celebrations to choose from on both Maui and Lanai. Thanks to our friend Sheila Beal of www.govisithawaii.com (check out her site, it [...])

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[Tropica Holiday Treats and Okolehao](#)

22 December 2010

It is the season for celebrating and what could be better treat then a toast with a traditional Hawaiian spirit Okolehao. Okolehao is distilled high proof spirit that has been made in Hawaii for generations and it is now being locally produced in Maui by Haleakala Distillers. The Haleakala Distillers Okolehao liqueur is made from [...]

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[Here Comes Santa in a Red Canoe! Fairmont Kea Lani Welcomes 'Ole St. Nick](#)

16 December 2010

Okay, so the canoe isn't exactly red (it's white), but you get the idea! The holidays are upon us and while there are many exciting festivities taking place all across Maui Nui, one of my all-time favorite happenings is Santa and Mrs. Claus' arrival at the Fairmont Kea Lani in Wailea. This festive event takes [...]

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The Maui Insider ~ Winter 2010

8 December 2010

Escape the Ordinary on Maui Add some surprises into the season with an island-hopping vacation to Maui, Moloka'i and Lana'i. Whether you come for a wedding, honeymoon or relaxing break from the daily grind, there is much to explore on the isles of Maui Nui. Read on for tips on what to see and do [...]

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Festive Tree Lighting Ceremonies Across Maui Nui Welcome the Holidays

1 December 2010

Aloha Kalikimaka! The holiday season has arrived across Maui Nui with Christmas tree lighting ceremonies dotting the Islands. From Maui's Kapalua, Lahaina and Wailea to Lanai City, Lanai as well as the Christmas Light Parade on Molokai, there are myriad holiday events to help you celebrate the season, Hawaiian style! Thursday, December 2nd marks the [...]

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Hula Shores Molokai Sweet Potato Crepes

24 November 2010

Hotel Molokai and Hula Shores Sweet Potato Crepes Hotel Molokai is located on Kamiloloa Beach, adjacent to Hawaii's only barrier reef. Its styled after a Polynesian village from a time when outrigger canoes were the only transportation. The Hotel Molokai has spacious low-rise bungalows. At the hotel and ocean front restaurant and bar, the Hula Shores, [...]

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Restaurant Week Wailea

7 November 2010

Back by popular demand, Wailea Resort is proud to announce the return of its very successful dinner promotion, "Restaurant Week Wailea". This celebration of Wailea's finest cuisine will take place at 17 participating resort restaurants throughout Wailea starting Sunday, November 7th, through Saturday, November 13th. Check out the yummy special menus at www.WaileaResortAssociation.com. Wailea

Resort [...]

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[Kaanapali Beach Hotel's "Hula o Na Keiki" Marks 20th Anniversary](#)

3 November 2010

The 20th "Hula O Na Keiki", Maui's only children's hula competition, is set for November 12-14, 2010 at Kaanapali Beach Hotel. The weekend event commemorates one of Hawaii's richest traditions and is open to hula students from all across Hawaii Nei and around the world. Children ages five to seventeen dance solo and in pairs. [...]

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[Maui Photo Festival & Fantastic Food](#)

27 October 2010

Maui Photo Festival & Fantastic Food The Maui Photo Festival always presents a fantastic blend of classroom sessions, location shoots, real-world assignments, demos and hands-on opportunities and photo excursions led by professional photographers. They also have a series of event-long photo competitions for both amateurs and pros. Each evening the Festival hosts their own Paradise [...]

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E kipa mai - welcome

Join us as a team of bloggers and podcasters travel around Maui sharing their stories with you. [Learn more here](#). We want to hear from you too, so please leave a comment or connect with us on your favorite social network. You can also visit the main [Maui Visitors Bureau web site](#).



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 - [Festive Tree Lighting Ceremonies Across Maui Nui Welcome the Holidays](#)
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- [November 2010](#)
- [October 2010](#)
- [September 2010](#)
- [August 2010](#)
- [July 2010](#)
- [June 2010](#)
- [May 2010](#)
- [April 2010](#)
- [March 2010](#)

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