

# Hawaiian Hospitality

Service shines at Maui's Montage Kapalua Bay.

BY AMBER GIBSON



**T**he Kapalua Bay Hotel was Maui's finest when it opened in 1978, and the prime real estate on the island's west coast continues its luxurious pedigree with Montage Hotels' first Hawaiian property. After a \$15-million renovation, the all-suite Montage Kapalua Bay replaces The Residences at Kapalua Bay with 50 spacious residential-style rooms and unparalleled *ho'okipa* (hospitality).

Upon arrival, spend a full day at the 30,000-square-foot Spa Montage. Sip a mango smoothie poolside or relax in the

eucalyptus steam room before a massage or facial. The most luxurious of treatments is the Royal Renewal: two hours of full-body pampering, including a bamboo and sea salt scrub and invigorating ginger oil that leaves skin glowing. Arms and legs will be just as radiant as your visage after a customized facial using Kerstin Florian products.

Whether the agenda is relaxation or adventure, options abound on the impeccably manicured grounds. Braid a *haku po'o* lei to wear as a wreath headpiece or learn the art of the ukulele from native cultural ambassadors. Take a hula lesson

before attending a luau to better understand the elements of nature represented by the dance's fluid movements. Sportive types can snorkel, paddleboard, surf or kayak on the gentle ocean, while landlubbers can explore the tide pool and coastal trail.

Service is remarkably thoughtful. Starting with the bellman, everyone goes above and beyond to customize each guest's experience, from making a specialty cocktail to leaving in-room handwritten notes and small gifts.



**alluring accommodations** Whether the agenda includes adventure or relaxation, Montage Kapalua Bay doesn't disappoint.

The staff nails the niceties, allowing guests plenty of privacy while anticipating and assuaging every need. A sequestered private pool is a peaceful escape if ever the main pool becomes too crowded. It is the subtle distinctions — instead of traditional chocolate, turndown service includes house-made *lilikoi* (passion fruit) mochi — that set apart Montage Kapalua Bay.

Cane & Canoe, the property's fine-dining restaurant, showcases Chef Riko Bartolome's talents. Fresh naan made with Molokai sweet potatoes comes with *ulu* (breadfruit) hummus and simple, fresh seafood, such as classic hamachi poke and local monchong. Breakfast in bed is an alluring temptation, whether it's a refreshing kale-mint smoothie or indulgent sweet-potato pancakes smothered in bananas, pecans and coconut glaze. For private parties, book the Cliff House, a humble sliver of paradise overlooking the coruscating sapphire ocean.

If Maui steals your heart, stay forever. Featuring mountain to ocean views, 54 residences are available for outright ownership starting at \$3.5 million for three bedrooms. [RL](#)