

Santa Barbara Magazine

Winter 2016

ONES to WATCH in 2016

Match POINT

Polo POWER couple
Nacho and *Delfina* make
a PLAY for California



Get *away*

Endless summer

Tropical isles near and far and
a *desert oasis* make for the most
luxe way to spend the *winter*



The Dragon Sailboat in
the waters near
LAUCALA, FIJI.



Fijian FAMILY FUN

The very thought of a private South Seas island conjures up images of idyllic luxury and romance, and **LAUCALA ISLAND**, in Fiji, has all of that in spades. Once the private domain of publishing entrepreneur Malcolm Forbes, Laucala's 4.7 square miles embrace tropical rainforest and stunning white-sand beaches surrounded by a sparkling turquoise sea.

The resort itself occupies the northern section of the island, and indeed the 25 exquisite residences—one, two, and three-bedroom beachfront, bayfront, and hillside villas, as well as the exclusive Overwater, Peninsula, and Hilltop Villas—bring Oceanic-inspired design and indoor-outdoor living to a new level of bespoke pampering that not only welcomes couples but also appeals to families with children.

While the adults enjoy the championship-level 18-hole golf course, pristine water adventures, and spa treatments, an extensive kids program tailors these and other activities to the youngsters. For the sports minded, there's horseback riding, mountain bike tours, and nature walks as well as private golf instruction. The kids' club offers arts and crafts, but children may also learn about Fijian language, cuisine, and crafts on visits to the island's traditional cultural village. At the beach, kid-friendly pastimes range from tubing, knee boarding, and snorkeling to waterskiing and sailing on a Hobie Cat.

The entire family will be interested in a tour of Laucala's 240-acre hydroponic farm, which not only produces the fruit and vegetables for the resort's five superb restaurants but is also home to the cattle, pigs, ducks, and quail whose meat appears on the gourmet menus. Meals range from the fine dining of the Plantation House and Asian specialties at the Seagrass Restaurant to barbecues at the Beach Bar, while the Rock Lounge is the perfect place for a sunset cocktail. But there may be nothing more memorable—for young and old alike—than simply relaxing around the spectacular pool and feasting on Laucala's natural beauty. *Rates: From \$5,520/night double, including meals.* **JOAN TAPPER**

LAUCALA.COM



Clockwise from top right: The three-bedroom **SEAGRASS VILLA**; activities including private yoga instruction at the **PLANTATION VILLA**; snorkeling above a reef. **Opposite, top to bottom:** Fiji Airways; a couple enjoys a horseback ride.





Taking FLIGHT

Formerly Air Pacific, the recently reintroduced **FIJI AIRWAYS** offers flyers daily direct flights from Los Angeles to Nadi and Suva, Fiji. Before your business-class flight, enjoy complimentary food and beverages at the newly remodeled Fijian Airways International Lounge at LAX's Tom Bradley terminal. In the air, enjoy luxe amenities such as flat-bed seats (the airline's "Go to sleep in L.A., wake up in Fiji" schedule offers late-evening departures with early morning arrivals), on-demand entertainment, a three-course fine-dining menu created by celebrity chef Lance Seeto, a *Yadra Vinaka* ("good morning" in Fijian) breakfast service, and more. What's more, while in-flight, donate unused foreign currency to the airline's nonprofit organization Wings of Hope, whose Cash for Kids program aids Fijian youth. GINA Z. TERLINDEN

FIJIAIRWAYS.COM



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