



Coral, granite & champagne

Lavish hotel upgrades create irresistible attractions

BY BRETT ALEXANDER-ESTES

After checking in, where do your guests usually go to relax? If you say “poolside bar or restaurant,” is French champagne in a private cabana a more inviting alternative? If “yes,” pull up a chair at your property’s next planning session. And you might want to share some of the following strategies that Hawaii hotels are using to amp up their powers of attraction:



Bathroom detail and wall mural by acclaimed surf photographer Zak Noyle at the newly modernized Waikiki Beachcomber by Outrigger

PHOTO COURTESY OUTRIGGER HOTELS AND RESORTS

Hale Cabanas

At the Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort, new *Hale* cabanas are making a big splash this year. Inspired by the spirit of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, Outrigger's *Hales* offer poolside privacy—and more.



Kelly Hoen

“More,” as Outrigger defines it, includes plush furnishings, a select snack basket and a dedicated concierge. “With the engaging pool concierge, our guests can enjoy Island-inspired cuisine from Kani Ka Pila Grille, and dive into Hawaiian culture with live music performances and personalized storytelling,” says Kelly Hoen, the resort’s general manager.

Moet champagne and other top-tier libations are also available through the *Hale* Bottle Service.

By Day and By Night

Can attractions that shine by day be even more alluring at night? Philpotts Interiors thinks so. The design firm’s



Marion Philpotts-Miller

Hotel Wailea renovation team has “created a juxtaposition of ‘by-day’ and ‘by-night’ atmospheres” at the pool, says Marion Philpotts-Miller, a firm partner.



A private Hale cabana at Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort

PHOTO COURTESY OUTRIGGER HOTELS AND RESORTS

“During the day, there is a fun and colorful vibe. From a mai tai at the pool bar to lounging in the custom-designed cabanas, there is a lively energy.”

New energy was sorely needed at this older property, says Philpotts-Miller. “The challenge was to create a fresh, exotic and rustic atmosphere. Philpotts Interiors worked with the new Hotel Wailea ownership to create a romantic couple’s getaway that was ultimately worthy of becoming Relais & Chateaux’s first Hawaii location.”

To dramatize the hotel’s appeal, “by night the pool area transforms into a moody and romantic gathering place for couples to mingle,” says Philpotts-Miller. “The fire pit and softly lit cabanas provide the perfect backdrop for cocktails or simply gazing at the stars.”

“With the engaging pool concierge, our guests can enjoy Island-inspired cuisine.”

— KELLY HOEN

A Golden Age

Deck, a new Plan Do See restaurant on Queen Kapiolani Hotel’s airy third-level lanai, offers guests a sweeping view of Kapiolani Park and Diamond Head. The open vista recalls Waikiki’s golden age, and is just one facet of the hotel’s \$35 million renovation.



Jeff Perkins

“Lush views that energize and encourage guests to get outside are amplified by the on-site surf school, Hawaii’s first dining concept by international culinary sensation Plan Do See, and a collection of vintage Hawaiian art that allows guests to immerse themselves in dreamy scenes of midcentury Hawaiiana,” says Jeff Perkins, general manager at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel.

“The property always has, and will

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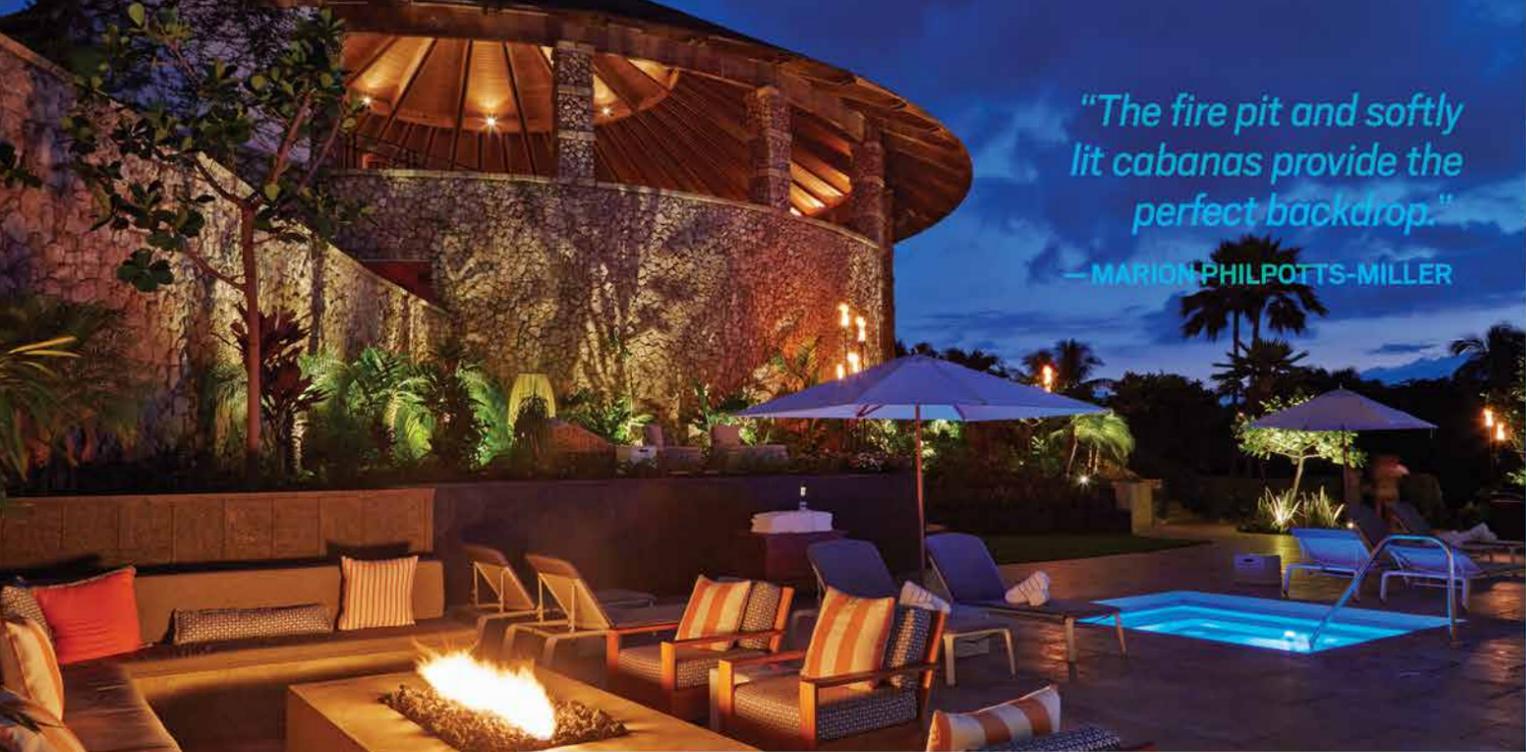
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"The fire pit and softly lit cabanas provide the perfect backdrop."
 —MARION PHILPOTTS-MILLER

Poolside "By Night" at Hotel Wailea
 PHOTO COURTESY LINNY MORRIS

continue to be, set apart from other properties by our unique heritage and association with Queen Kapiolani, who was an integral figure in Hawaiian history and culture."

A Black-Tie Beachcomber

When the \$32 million renovation of the Waikiki Beachcomber by Outrigger is complete, the resort "will be an upscale property featuring modern Hawaiian elegance in the heart of Waikiki," says Mike Shaff, vice president for hotel operations in Hawaii and Guam for Outrigger Hotels & Resorts.



Mike Shaff

The renovation, which is nearly finished in some areas, will modernize the property's guestrooms (which will number 498 when done), the pool area, lobby, meeting rooms and porte cochere.

"The pool deck will undergo a modernization that includes all new furnishings, shade structures and an expanded spa," Shaff says. "The public spaces include lobby, corridors,



Deck, a Plan Do See restaurant on Queen Kapiolani Hotel's lanai
 RENDERING COURTESY PHILPOTTS INTERIORS



Coral-clad walls in a Hotel Wailea suite
 PHOTO COURTESY TRAVIS ROWAN

elevators and the hotel exterior. The exterior porte cochere will feature an eye-catching living wall."

The upgrades, Shaff says, are directed "to those with an affinity for travel to high-end boutique hotels, international travelers, those who have looked at our resorts and decided not to book, and similar profiles of those customers who booked our hotel.

"Guests will enjoy a fully modernized experience, the end of December 2018."

A Grand Finale

Hotel Wailea's poolside luxury echoes throughout the resort. In the guestrooms, oak hardwood floors, a small kitchenette with hand-crafted ohia cabinetry and flame-brushed granite, and sliding barn doors and custom trough sinks in the bathroom evoke a custom vacation home. "The headboard wall is anchored with a coral-stone skin which adds rustic elegance," says Philpotts-Miller. "This is repeated as a signature finish throughout the property."

As Hawaii properties increasingly compete in the global market, Philpotts-Miller may be speaking to the aims of many current upgrades when she says, "Beginning as a simple renovation, this project ultimately evolved into a full-on re-invention." Hotel Wailea, she says, is now "internationally recognized for its fresh and vibrant atmosphere."



Mariah Va'a



Ryan Guinan



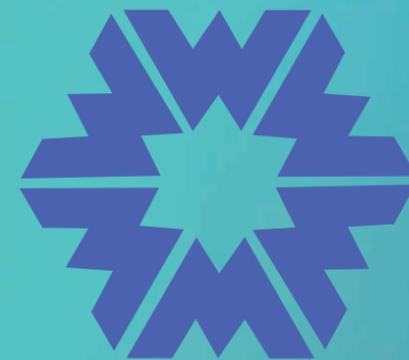
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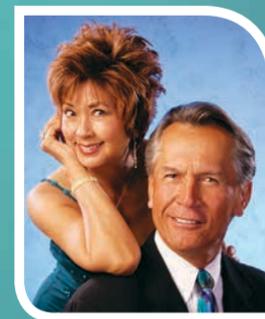
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