

Castaway Island RESORT

By ROXANNE WILLIAMS

The very instant Castaway Island comes into view is an 'aha moment'. It is truly a vision of utopia, the kind of tropical island getaway children envision or grownups daydream about from behind an office desk. Set on a 174-acre rainforest preserve, with palm draped beaches, dazzling coral reefs and still living Fijian culture, what's not to like? The question remains unanswered until it's time to leave.

ARRIVE IN STYLE

The adrenaline rush of being chauffeured in by Pacific Island Air helicopter (with a handsome French pilot) gave way to awe to see coral reefs dotted with islands from an aerial vantage point.

Pacific Island Air also offers seaplane transfers to Castaway Island while the regular South Sea Cruise catamaran makes the trip from Denarau.

ISLAND ACCOMMODATION

Free standing ocean front bures feature traditional thatched roofs and high vaulted, hand painted 'tapa' lined ceilings. All are stylishly appointed with natural timbers and Fijian style furnishings, plus uninterrupted ocean views.

Garden Bures also feature great design, are still close to the beach and have rainforest views. They are ideal for families or groups and are have the bonus of being nearby to many of the resort facilities; restaurants, tennis courts, the day spa, swimming pools, nature walks and the 'cute and cool' kids club area.





**CASTAWAY DINING
SUNDOWNER BAR**

This is a spot to sit and watch dreamscape Castaway sunsets! Happy hour is conveniently timed 5-7pm, so guests can meditate in the sea breeze with an expertly mixed cocktail in hand. Castaway's Sundowner Bar is known throughout Fiji and with international yachties for their wood-fired pizzas, running hot from 12-9pm.

Water's Edge Restaurant

Definitely a celebratory kind of place. There's an a la carte menu available in case the buffet theme that changes daily doesn't appeal. Either way is impressive. The restaurant crew at

Castaway take their 'fresh is best' dining ethos seriously.

RESTAURANT "1808"

This outdoor restaurant on the beach, feet in sand, stars above, is a unique dining adventure. The award-winning '1808' is touted as a 'Fijian Asian Fusion Experience' and its well-executed menu is inspired by Fijian history, culture and culinary techniques combined with a notable Chinese influence. The open plan kitchen makes it possible to watch the chefs create dishes such as Heavenly Beef, a tender spicy flame grilled Tavua beef cut with citrus Asian slaw, caramelized

onion jam, roast almonds and chili flakes or Duck Kokoda, served with silky scorched coconut milk, lychee ginger juice and a tomato chili salsa.

A word to the wise – the wine list impressive so take time to select a vino to compliment the meal, something like the the deluxe New Zealand Central Otago Pinot Noir.

Unsurprisingly, Castaway has a high percentage of return guests. It's the kind of place that makes visitors want to come back again and again – definitely a dream vacation destination.

