

STOP PRESS! - The Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa makes the cover of the prestigious international travel magazine Conde Nast Traveler!



Aitutaki's premier resort, The Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa, was featured on the front cover of Conde Nast Traveler (US Edition, Dec 03) where it was described as "*the resort on the beach... nowhere could be more idyllic*". Conde Nast Traveller is one of the world's most prestigious travel magazines so it was indeed an honour for the Resort to be featured on its cover and to receive such a wonderful endorsement in the international marketplace.

The Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa enjoys Aitutaki's most superb location, situated on its own secluded private island ~ Motu Akitua. As well as being the Cooks' only island resort, it is the only resort in Aitutaki located directly on fabled Aitutaki Lagoon, and is the only one to offer Overwater Bungalows. This is a dream South Seas hideaway which enjoys panoramic views across the glistening azure lagoon waters to the tiny deserted isles (motu) beyond. The romance of Aitutaki began with ancient Polynesian voyagers and continued with its discovery by Captain Bligh just 17 days before the infamous Mutiny on the Bounty, and more recently with the glamorous Coral Route by Solent Flying Boat in the 1950s hosting many of the world's rich and famous movie stars and tycoons. Today, Conde Nast Traveler has described Aitutaki as "an exquisite atoll" with "the most vivid lagoon colours anyone has ever seen" and the Cook Islands archipelago as having a "scenic brilliance which remains unimpaired"

With the recent upgrade of the Aitutaki Airport the island has become even more accessible whilst still retaining its exclusive and exotic allure. The sister relationship between The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa and The Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa means that travellers to the Cook Islands can now easily combine a twin island escape, ensuring that they get to experience "The Best of Both" ~ lushly beautiful Rarotonga and sublime Aitutaki. Ask for your copy of our new Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa DLE brochure today!

New Wholesaler & Retail Agent Specials!

The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa and The Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa have just released some fantastic new Retail Travel Agent & Wholesale Agent specials! Why not treat someone close to you to a warm tropical beach holiday. Contact Rose Kareroa on Rose.Kareroa@rarotongan.co.ck for more details on these fabulous industry specials.

New Year's Eve Extravaganza!



The last sunset anywhere on Earth for 2003 as seen from the Lagoonside Verandah at The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa!



Island warriors prepare the flame torches to farewell 2003

New Year's Eve at The Rarotongan was definitely a night to remember. The feasting kicked off with a selection of the world's most distinctive cuisine including a Seafood buffet, Japanese sushi bar, Island BBQ, Christmas Turkey and Ham, Pig-on-a Spit, Island Buffet, Mongolian-style BBQ, and a Divine Dessert Banquet before guests partied the night away to a spectacular line-up of entertainment including Fire Dancing, award-winning musicians, and a high-octane local group which pumped out some high-energy favourites. 2004 was certainly welcomed in high-style and high-spirits at The Rarotongan, and we're now preparing for New Year's Eve 2004!

New Restaurant & New Menus

To mark the re-launching of The Rarotongan's Poolside Café & Bar to **Captain Andy's Beach Bar & Grill** the Resort recently released a scrumptious new All-Day Menu which is already receiving rave reviews from guests. Named in honour of a noted South Seas trading schooner captain, the new menu showcases fresh tropical flavours within favourite dishes, and includes such delectable offerings as a Bruchetta topped with manuka-smoked gamefish and a banana cucumber raita, Gamefish Salad Nicoise, Warm Chicken & Pawpaw Salad, The Tropical Pork Wrap, Chicken & Island Spinach Crepe, Gamefish Baked in Banana Leaf, Fragrant Coconut Seafood Curry, Sizzling Chicken and Pork Fajitas and Island Pork Ribs with a Honey Soy BBQ Sauce and Coconut-Sweet Potato Cakes. Captain Andy Thomson lived in

the historic coral and limestone house across from The Rarotongan which the Resort has since restored and which now houses The Rarotongan Dive Centre and Budget Rent-A-Car. Born in Long Island, New York, Captain Andy later made his home on Rarotonga and was well-loved and respected as the skipper of the trading schooner 'Tiare Taporo' which plied the trade routes between Tahiti, the Cook Islands and New Zealand in the 1940s and 50s.

In conjunction with our new All-Day Menu the Resort has also launched a new Captain Andy's **Cocktail & Drinks Menu** which features some delicious new Iced Tea selections (Passionfruit and Mango are proving extremely popular) as well as the essential accessories to the perfect tropical holiday... the fruity Cocktails and Mocktails! It is probably the Cook Islands most extensive drinks offer and is already proving a big hit with guests needing to cool off after some hard sunbathing!

New Daily Guest Newsletters

With so much to tell our guests The Rarotongan has recently introduced a daily guest newsletter. Called "When in Raro..." the newsletter is delivered nightly to keep guests up to date on current tidbits of useful information including details about the extensive and ever-popular Daily Activities Programme, the nightly theme dinner shows, any special offers as well as slices of Cook Islands life and things of interest around the island.

The Westover Family – 16th visit to Rarotonga!

The Westover family from Alaska and North America visited The Rarotongan for the 16th time over January/February this year. Family patriarch Papa Ralph Westover celebrated his 88th birthday at a scrumptious afternoon tea held by the Resort in his honour at the Garden Gazebo, and was attended by family and long-serving staff members many of whom have been welcoming the family since they first started coming 16 years ago. The crew of 14 family members stayed for a little over three weeks soaking up the sun, sand and the warm island welcome, and enjoying some quality family time together. Said Papa Ralph: "The Cook Islands is the world's richest country" referring to the love and warmth the family has experienced here which keeps them coming back year after year. See you in 2005 Papa Ralph!!

New Public Rest Rooms

As part of our ongoing upgrade the four public bathrooms at The Rarotongan have undergone a complete renovation with imported Italian tile, sheer blue glass hand basins, black pearl listello highlights, dark raintree accents and custom tiling featuring enduring signature Resort motifs such as the Tiare Maori gardenia. All four public bathrooms (two mens and two womens) are individually designed and are completely different from one other. Already there have been men spotted who emerge from the Gentlemen's having ascertained there are no other patrons present, and then usher in their wife to come in and inspect the cutting-edge new look. Yes, the new loos are definitely talking points with both guests and visitors to the Resort alike!