



Live like Robinson Crusoe in a luxury thatched-roof villa set amongst the flowering plants on Little Palm Island.



South Pacific-style *Getaway*

JUST OFF MILE MARKER 28.5 IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

WRITTEN BY JANE COLOCCIA | PHOTOGRAPHY BY LITTLE PALM ISLAND

Leave it to Hollywood to find **Little Palm Island** first. This **secluded** isle in the lower Florida Keys was used as the setting for the movie PT 109 in the early 1960s because of its **South Pacific-style ambiance**. Four American presidents including Harry S. Truman have fished here, and Al Gore, Marvin Hamlisch, Katie Couric, Paul Newman, Michael J. Fox, and Ivana Trump can be counted among its guests.

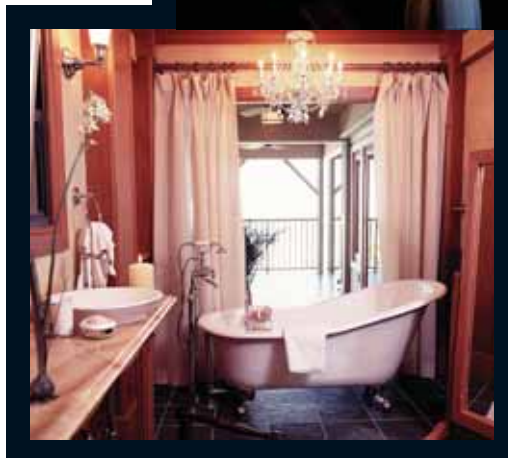
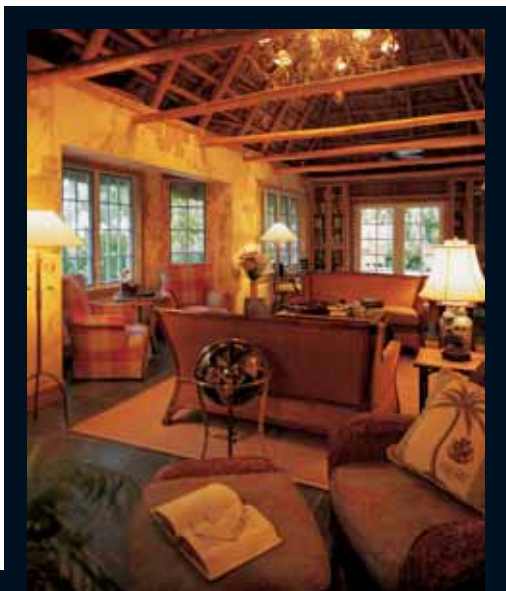
Approximately four miles offshore from Little Torch Key, Little Palm Island is accessible only by boat or seaplane. If you're heading down US1 in the Keys, turn left onto Pirates Road at Mile Marker 28.5, park in the Shore Station, grab a rum cooler, and board the resort's mahogany yacht for the tranquil journey to the island—far away from civilization, as we know it. Once here, you can completely detach from the pressures of everyday life. Forget about the alarm clock, the telephone, and the television—there aren't any. There is, however, dial-up Internet access for those who simply cannot do without e-mail and stock quotes—a nod to the ubiquity of technology, one might say.

More than 250 Jamaican coconut palm trees grace Little Palm Island's shoreline—a legacy from the island's first inhabitant, Newton Munson. Today all five

acres comprise the Little Palm Island Resort & Spa, a romantic island getaway where luxury and pampering are the way of life.

The compound is composed of thirty thatched-roof villas surrounded by bougainvillea, oleander, and hibiscus and scattered among crushed seashell paths (tiny torch lights romantically illuminate the walkways at night). Upon further exploration one will find a Balinese-style spa with outdoor massage pavilions; a Zen garden; private hammocks strung from palm trees; secluded hot tubs; and a freshwater lagoon-style pool complete with waterfall, a life-size chess board, and a pristine white beach. Sound like paradise? It is.

If this were indeed a Hollywood set, one would say



that the accommodations could not have been dressed more perfectly for romance. Four-poster beds clad in fine linens, comfy pillows, and drapes of butterfly netting are the focal point. The one-bedroom suites feature a spacious living room, an indoor and private outdoor shower, a dressing room, and a private verandah overlooking the ocean. The décor in these spacious 550-square foot hideaways

reflects one of three island themes: Indonesian, Polynesian, or British Colonial.

Little Palm Island is a completely inclusive resort; no matter what you may be looking for, you will find it here. Visit the SpaTerre for pampering body treatments, including exotic Balinese and Thai body rituals incorporating a blend of ancient traditions once reserved for

royalty. The healing properties of flowers and spices are used liberally to enhance each experience. A variety of healing and meditative classes from yoga to reiki are also offered. Barnes & Noble lovers will appreciate the resort's collection of classic literature—and the thoughtful inclusion

of a book light on the nightstand.

If you are more of an adventurous type, Little Palm Island will not disappoint. The Keys are known for superb scuba diving and snorkeling, and the resort offers daily trips to Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary and the wreck of the *Adolphus Busch*. You can even arrange to receive PADI scuba certification



Left: Every villa features a private verandah overlooking the ocean.
 Above: Throughout the island there are secluded spots just for two.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- Nov 1 to May 31- *KeyWest Old Island Days* (Key West)
- January 15 to March 17 - *Sculpture KeyWest Edition* (Key West)
- January 20 to 22 - *KeyWest International Jazz Festival* (Key West)
- January 28 to 29 - *21st-Annual KeyWest Craft Show* (Key West)

February

- February 5 - *Terry Cassidy's Pickin' Party* (Big Pine Key)
- February 10 - *Island Opera Theatre presents "An Evening of Love"* (Big Pine Key)
- February 20 - *Keys Chamber Orchestra Fundraiser featuring Lynne Greenwood on saxophone* (Big Pine Key)
- February 25 to 26 - *41st-Annual Old Island Days Art Festival* (Key West)

April

- April 14 - *Island Opera Theatre presents "Love that Lerner & Loewe"* (Big Pine Key)

June

- June 25 - *Island Opera Theatre presents "Love that Lerner & Loewe"* (Big Pine Key)

INFORMATION

Little Palm Island Resort & Spa
800.3.GET.LOST or **www.littlepalmisland.com** or
www.noblehousehotels.com

The Florida Keys & Key West/Monroe County Tourism
 Development Council
www.fla-keys.com

while here. Other island activities include tours to Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge; sailing charters; and deep-sea, backcountry, and flats fishing. The resort also has a variety of water sports equipment at your disposal including kayaks, sailboats, and windsurfers. Key West is nearby, providing an opportunity to tour the Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum and stroll past the boutiques, galleries, and restaurants along historic Duval Street.

Dining at Little Palm Island is a true exercise in indulgence. You can have an exquisite meal in the dining room, or feel free to turn any setting around the island into your ideal dining spot, from ocean-side banquets to romantic dinners on the Sunset Dock to a pajama party in your villa. Lobster croissants, conch chowders, crab cakes, and chocolate soufflés are just some of the chef's offerings. His menus vary each day depending on what is fresh and available.

So when you feel it's time to truly get away, head on down to Mile Marker 28.5 in the Keys. And remember: let's keep Little Palm Island Resort & Spa our little secret. ■