

# At Home in Hawaii

*The pull of Hawaii keeps this AAA family coming back for more*

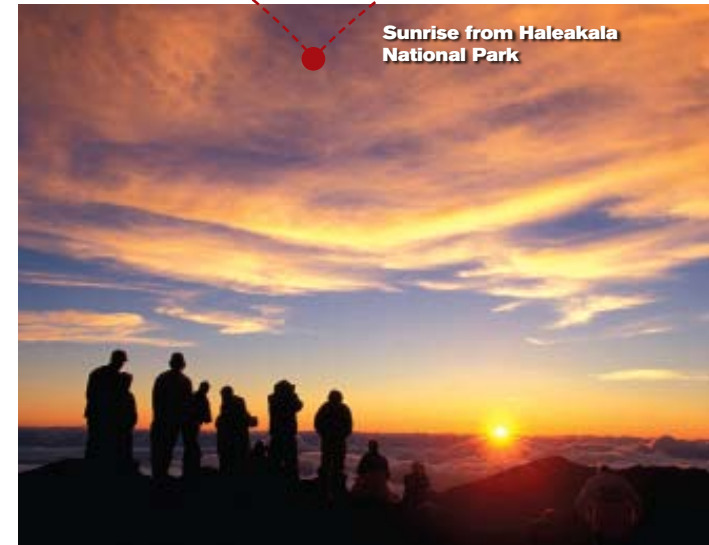
A CONVERSATION WITH AAA MEMBER MARIE CROCIANI



The Crociani family with friends in Hawaii



Kaanapali Beach is home to The Whaler



Sunrise from Haleakala National Park

**O**ld habits are hard to break. AAA Member Marie Crociani and her husband, Tony, started a tradition of taking family vacations in Hawaii more than 30 years ago, and they wouldn't have it any other way.

Crociani and her husband (above, fourth and third from right) started traveling to Maui from their home in San Francisco when their son Joey, now 30, was less than a year old. It's where he learned to walk, and Crociani says the memories only grew as the years went on. The trips even became multigenerational with time—siblings, parents, grandparents and even friends all came along.

With so many details to attend to for a gathering of up to 14 people, Crociani turned to AAA Vacation Specialist Becky

Nolasco of the Concord, Calif., office.

"She was awesome," Crociani says of Nolasco. "She knew our likes and our dislikes and really took care of us all."

Nolasco has been helping plan the vacations using Pleasant Holidays from the very start of this travel tradition. From always reserving the same condo, to arranging rental cars, to getting everyone in the group on the same flight (and seated near each other!), Crociani praises Nolasco for taking care of everything.

## The Perfect Family Vacation

When it came to choosing where to stay, the Crociani family never varied in their choice: The Whaler on Kaanapali Beach. Crociani says the property is "fantastic" because the staff was always welcoming.

IMAGE: NINA WOODCOCK

"I think it felt, after all those years, like a home away from home. It just seemed like the perfect family vacation. It really took you away from the hustle and bustle of daily life."

## Memories for a Lifetime

In their many trips to the island, the family has enjoyed seeing fireworks on the beach, splashing into watersports like jet skiing, playing golf on nearby courses and even getting to know local jewelers.

Crociani's favorite memory, though, is seeing the sunrise from Haleakala National Park.

To make sure they arrived before the sun came up, the family piled into three cars and left The Whaler before 3 a.m. Crociani says the drive was well worth it.

IMAGES: ALAMY

"Experiencing a sunrise was wonderful because on the West Coast you always see the sunset," she says. "There are so many good memories."

With experiences like those, it's no wonder other vacations felt incomplete.

"All roads lead back to Maui, no matter what vacation we go on," Crociani says. "We had a beautiful vacation a year ago to Europe. It was wonderful, but it wasn't the same as being in Maui."

No surprise, she and her husband are planning to return to Maui this year. Just talking about the time they've spent there has her ready to pack her bags. "I've got the fever now, for sure," jokes Crociani.

*Lesley Tkaczyk, AAA Traveler assistant editor, helped tell this Member story.*

To learn about all the ways Pleasant Holidays can make Hawaii perfect for your family, turn to page 7 in *Navigator* or discover great family activities with "Find Your Hawaii" on page 27.