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PRETTY IN PINK

THE BEAUTY OF BERMUDA LIES IN ITS STately HISTORY, LAGOONS, CLEAR SEAS, AND ELEGANT ACCOMMODATIONS- IT IS SIMPLY INTOXICATING! By: Gina Samarotto





There is a deliciously exotic, foreign allure that embraces visitors to Bermuda. Despite being situated just 650 miles off the coast of Cape Hatteras, the Frangipani-scented island of Bermuda is worlds away from her American neighbors. Here, British influence is alive and well. Proper afternoon teas, carefully groomed cricket pitches and a police force that is more “bobby” than brazen, all work to illustrate the influence Her Majesty has upon Britain’s oldest colony. Yet despite the reach of deep British roots, Bermuda sways to a relaxed beat; her clipped English accent mellifluously tempered with a tropical lilt that creates a patois all her own.

With such an affable location, rich local history, world class golf, and staggeringly beautiful beaches it’s little wonder that sun-seekers from around the globe relish the joys of a Bermudian holiday. A well-developed airport handles commercial travelers efficiently while private aircrafts are afforded the support necessary to fly into and out of the island with ease. From most points on the East Coast, Bermuda is a destination

that allows one to go from wheels up off the tarmac, to tee off at the first hole in less than three hours – an attribute that makes it a seriously persuasive contender for guests preferring to spend their time enjoying a destination rather than reaching it. This is an island that has benefitted exponentially from the experience gleaned through decades of welcoming well-heeled visitors to her warm turquoise waters and powdery, pink shores. It’s home to an idyllic lifestyle where elegance is intrinsic and natural beauty abounds.

One can hardly speak of Bermuda without extolling the virtues of the legendary Fairmont Hamilton Princess. A matriarchal monument to Bermudian hospitality, the iconic “Pink Palace” is a stately grand dame that has been captivating guests since 1885. While white coated staff may no longer line up to greet arriving luxury liners by cheerfully waving pink handkerchiefs as they once did, the greeting that guests receive today at the Fairmont Hamilton Princess is as equally earnest, and as warm as the Bermudian sun.





Having come under new ownership in 2012, the Hamilton Princess recently completed the initial phases of a ninety million dollar renovation allowing it to begin the 2014 season by debuting 69 newly redesigned guest rooms and luxury suites located in the coveted Poinciana wing. Also debuting, the hotel's impossibly stunning infinity pool overlooking Hamilton Harbor, a lap pool and a chic bar and grill named to commemorate the year the first settlers arrived in Bermuda - 1609. Sleek and polished, the newly refurbished accommodations, notable eateries, and spectacular, glass-tiled pool are elegant, modern interpretations of ageless classics.

"The property was given a luxurious, modern new feel without compromising the classic, old world personality the Hamilton Princess is famous for," explains Fairmont Marketing & Communications Manager and native Bermudian, Yelena Packwood. "The renovations have given the hotel a modern edge while still representing the best of what the Hamilton Princess has to offer."

Not yet done with their ambitious plans, the Fairmont Hamilton Princess has begun construction on a brand new, state of the art marina. Designed to accommodate everything from modest pleasure crafts to mega yachts, the marina is scheduled to open in August 2014. The location - set adjacent to 1609 - is already creating a buzz as the home to a party called, appropriately enough, Marina Nights. Each Friday evening, the open-air venue comes alive with fabulous views and equally fabulous cocktails, making Marina Nights an instant mainstay of Bermudian nightlife.

"The views from the dock and from the restaurant really are stunning," says Packwood, "There's no better place to have a Dark & Stormy or a Rum Swizzle and sample the menu from 1609 than in this gorgeous setting."

The brightest jewel in the Fairmont Hamilton Princess' culinary crown, however, is the much-lauded and highly anticipated Samuelsson at HP. While the permanent restaurant won't officially open until next season, the resort previewed Chef Samuelsson's



fare for eight weeks via a pop up interpretation. Somewhat reminiscent of Harlem’s hugely successful Red Rooster, albeit with a decidedly Bermudian vibe, Samuelsson at HP showcases the celebrity chef’s penchant for using the best ingredients – locally sourced whenever possible – in his creation of signature dishes that are at once familiar and peregrine.

“I want people to come in and be comfortable, to have a good time over a great meal,” said Chef Samuelsson over dinner in the temporary, stylish dining room. “The elegance of the restaurant should come easily, a natural extension. Like the food, it should be apparent and it should be amazing.... But it should simply be.”

While the Hamilton Princess offers sprawling grounds and myriad ways to spend a Bermudian vacation, options for guests are much further reaching. A privately operated ferry is available to whisk guests from the Fairmont Hamilton Princess across the harbor to her sister resort, the Fairmont

Southampton. Cut from the same gracious cloth as her recently renovated sister, the Fairmont Southampton offers guests entry to unique island offerings including access to the hotel’s private beach as well as the world-renown beaches of Horseshoe Bay. The Fairmont Southampton also boasts the indulgent ministrations of Willow Stream, a luxury spa replete with an exclusive, grotto inspired pool, and a sundeck offering panoramic ocean views. Guests at either resort have the ability to use their signing privileges at both, making the experience of resort shopping an easy to navigate journey.

No matter how decadent the resort, Bermuda is an island that’s meant to be explored. From Somerset Village to Tucker’s Town and all points in between, Bermuda is an island of discovery. Whether you’d like to discover art at the Masterworks Museum, shop for bespoke fragrances in Hamilton, or snorkel under the sea, it’s all there for the asking. Perhaps one of Bermuda’s most famous devotees, Mark Twain, said it best when he quipped, “You can go to Heaven if you want. I’d rather stay in Bermuda”. ✈