

ForbesLife



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THE CULTURE ISSUE

**HOLLAND'S
HIDDEN TROVE
OF VAN GOGHS**

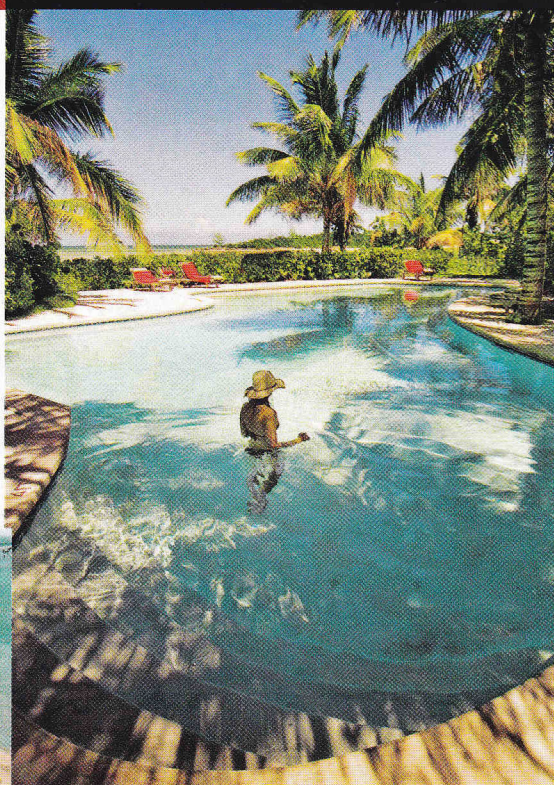
**REMEMBERING
THE WILD MAN OF
ITALIAN FUTURISM**

**OPERA'S NEW
ALL-AMERICAN DIVA**

**THE GREATEST ROAD
RACER EVER BUILT**

**15 WINES THAT
REIGN IN SPAIN**

From top: Kamalame Cay's palm-shaded pool; a seagull's view of the private beach and spa pier; high Bahamian style—muslin draperies, lofty ceilings, limestone walls—in the Cottage Suite; the two-bedroom Mahogany Villa.



Barefoot Luxury

KAMALAME CAY, BAHAMAS

Kamalame Cay is for people whose idea of paradise is a private island stocked with good Champagne, where a sarong counts as being “dressed” for dinner. The preserve of Jennifer and Brian Hew, Caribbean natives with an inborn feel for tropical architecture and design, Kamalame Cay houses its 35 guests in a collection of seaside cottages, thatch-roofed bungalows, and villas, all nestled in flowering gardens that feel natural, not overmanicured in that tropical-landscaping-as-golf-green way.

In fact, there is no golf here at all, although guests on the 96-acre island are assigned a golf cart to navigate the circuit of sugar-sand pathways, edged in pale-pink conch shells and silver palms. Signposts direct you to the spa at the end of a 200-foot-long pier, offering hibiscus wraps and coconut scrubs, and a well-trained massage therapist from nearby Andros Island. Other signs point to the Dive Centre, tennis courts, and the Great House, with a pool and well-stocked open bar.

The rooms showcase pure Caribbean-style touches like billowing white muslin curtains, airy, beamed cathedral ceilings, and limestone walls. But the most appreciated touch may be the seclusion—one reason guests like model Carolyn Murphy, actor Michael Keaton, and European royals take the half-hour private seaplane flight from Nassau to Kamalame. (There is also a daily flight from Nassau into

Andros Town airport, a taxi and short ferry ride away.)

You could indeed spend the entire day naked in a hammock in front of your bungalow in perfect privacy. But for utter isolation, book Kamalame Cove, the Hews' own four-bedroom villa on an even more private island, a five-minute ferry ride from the resort. You walk up a winding stone pathway flanked by two beaches. The villa's interiors, like those on the larger island, are done up in a breezy fusion of bamboo and rattan, with piles of coffee-table books, double-height ceilings, Indonesian armchairs, seashells, and slipcovers. The walls consist mainly of French doors.

Should you venture beyond your room, you'll find some of the best bonefishing in the Bahamas right outside Kamalame Cay's lagoon, and the barrier reef nearby offers endless dive sites—including the Tongue of the Ocean, where the wall drops off to more than 6,000 feet. There is also plenty to see closer to home: spotted eagle rays and clouds of vivid fish in water that is as clear as polished glass. And waiting for the ferry, cocktail in hand, you'll likely spot the resort's “pet”—the 50-pound tuna that lives under the main dock. —VIA BEAUMANIS

\$400–\$7,350. 242-368-6281, www.kamalame.com

