



NAMALE REVIEW

On the Hibiscus Highway, 10 minutes from the airport and 15 minutes south of town, this resort is set in a coconut plantation and surrounded by reefs and rocky shore. It is the personal refuge of motivational speaker Tony Robbins, who uses part of the property (and all other Savusavu accommodations) for his life-enhancement seminars from January through April. Set on 10 hectares of lush gardens, the hotel consists of a village of bungalows at the entrance to a picturesque bay formed by the crater of an extinct volcano.

A soaring thatch roof covers the lounge, dining areas, bar and library. Excellent food, including vegetarian selections, can be taken alfresco overlooking the bay.

Water activities include reef and deep-sea fishing, snorkeling, sailing, sailboarding and waterskiing. Shore activities include swimming in the pool, working out in the air-conditioned state-of-the-art gym, riding, tennis, basketball, volleyball, bowling, bungee jumping and simulated golf in Robbins's huge air-conditioned recreation center. Guests pay extra only for diving, deep-sea fishing and treatments in Fiji's finest spa, which overlooks the sea.

Typical Fijian architecture marks the accommodations, which sit atop a shelf of land rather than down on the shore. Topping the list is the two-bedroom Dream House with its own movie screen, small private pool, full kitchen, two large baths with whirlpool tubs and showers, and private beach access. The more numerous bungalows show beam ceilings, polished wood floors, native woods, sitting areas with tropical furniture, minibars, baths with showers, and decks with garden or ocean views. Another honeymoon *bure* also boasts its own pool, two-person shower and private beach. Four other honeymoon units feature oversized recliners, bamboo four-poster king beds and large baths with whirlpool tubs and showers. Bright tropical-print fabrics, mosquito netting and screened jalousies add evocative island charm to these very private quarters. Ceiling fans, CD players, coffeemakers, hair dryers and stocked refrigerators are common throughout. A few are air conditioned.

No children under 12 are permitted, and single guests are allowed to stay only in the smallest bungalows.

Although its luxurious facilities are among the finest in Fiji and it has the widest array of activities, the rain-forest climate and a shoreline with minimal sand deny it the rarefied status that Turtle Island, Vatulele and The Wakaya Club enjoy. American couples and honeymooners predominate.

Review Updated: April 2006