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## Just Back: Bucuti Beach Resort, Aruba

June 10th, 2010 by Erika Hueneke



For pure beach bliss, it doesn't get any better than [Bucuti Beach Resort & Tara Beach Suites](#). The property fronts a wide stretch of Eagle Beach on [Aruba](#), an arid Caribbean island with a curious culture that blends Indian, African, Latin and European influences. I visited Bucuti last week and can personally vouch for its fabulousness as a destination-wedding and honeymoon mecca!



### **The Resort**

Already couple-centric, this low-rise hotel is going officially adults-only this December, and its sexy, grown-up vibe is apparent everywhere you turn, from the daybeds overlooking the infinity pool to the 104 rooms and suites, each featuring a pillowtop mattress, balcony or terrace, and flat-screen TV.



Also onsite are the boutique **Intermezzo Spa** and the **Pirate's Nest** restaurant, which showcases traditional Aruban cuisine — think fish soup and croquettes — every Saturday night. (Sign up for the Dine Around Program, and you can also sample other island eateries.) Relaxation is the prime pastime here — most lovebirds I saw were stretched out under palapas on the fine white sand, and evening entertainment doesn't get much rowdier than a steel-drum player or a romcom projected on the beach.

Bucuti has also earned bragging rights for the green practices it uses, like solar-heated water, shower dispensers (rather than disposable containers) filled with local [Aruba Aloe](#) bath products, biodegradable detergents, water reducers in the faucets, in-room wastebaskets for recycling paper and more.

## Weddings

The first destination wedding on the island of Aruba took place in 1983. The location? Bucuti, of course! The resort still specializes in intimate beach affairs (up to 50 guests); its certified wedding planner, Nashette Wouters, is well-connected and can deliver any local touch you fancy, whether it be dancers in traditional dress or black cake soaked in rum.



Legal ceremonies must take place in town at the Civil House — a restored Dutch-Caribbean home that’s more than 100 years old — with Nashette handling all the logistics. After that, the celebration moves to the sand. Day-after shoots are practically standard; gorgeous around-the-isle backdrops range from a gold-mine ruin and a natural stone bridge over the waves to the iconic California Lighthouse. To see pictures of real weddings at Bucuti, check out their [Facebook page](#).

## Personal Highlight

My favorite memory was sailing on the [Tranquilo](#), a for-realsies monohull sailboat that bent at a seriously sharp angle in Aruba’s constant wind. With snorkel stops and bottomless rum punch, it’s the most quintessentially Caribbean way to pass the afternoon. Our little group was officially “tranquilized”! The boat also makes for a great postwedding photo op.

