

Ideal Destination Wedding

Montréalers Marry in Aruba

I love it when a story falls right into my lap. In this case, my lap was soaking in a whirlpool at Aruba's Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. And since there was only one other person in the whirlpool, I struck up a conversation. The woman turned out to be the mother of a bride-to-be who was about to marry on that very beach the next day, and the couple was from Montreal! What luck! So let's hear from Montréalers Sherry Bedard and Daniel Tremblay about their ideal destination wedding on Aruba's beautiful Eagle Beach.

LR: "Why did you choose Aruba?"

Sherry: "We visited many islands while on a Royal Caribbean Cruise last year, and Daniel actually proposed to me on St. Thomas! But once we discovered Aruba as a port of call, we decided that was where we wanted to tie the knot! The people were so friendly and the weather is always great year-round since it is outside of the hurricane belt, so that really sealed the deal."

LR: "So why did you choose Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort?"

Sherry: "Bucuti is the only adult-only boutique hotel on Aruba, and we wanted something intimate and kid-free. For me it was very important that we get married in a tranquil atmosphere."

LR: "Did you use a local wedding planner?"

Sherry: "We decided to use Nashette Wouters, the resort's wedding planner. She came highly recommended and we could not have been happier with the excellent service she gave us. She was always very in tune



Sherry Bedard and Daniel Tremblay

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with our needs and never tried to push anything that was not our idea of what our dream wedding was to be."

LR: "How big was your wedding party?"

Sherry: "We were eight in all, but as much as we love our family and friends, we really wanted to be ensconced in our own little private world for a while, so we found this resort ideal because there was a choice of two different buildings. The wedding party stayed at Bucuti and we stayed in the Tara Suites. But we did a lot of activities around the island together."

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Soul Mates in the Sand

Newlyweds Explore Aruba

We asked the happy couple what else they did on Aruba beyond getting married.

Sherry said, "It's more like, 'What didn't we do?' We went on a tour of Arikok National Park—the cool caves and natural pool, went on a sunset sail, a submarine adventure, snorkeled, went horseback riding, visited an ostrich farm, went on a bar-hopping bus ... and I even jumped out of a plane doing a tandem skydive! We also hired a local photographer to do photo shoots all over the island. And we bought our wedding rings there for a great price!"

LR: "So what would be your advice to couples considering a tropical destination wedding?"

Sherry: "Do your homework and look for a location that suits your vision. Talk to as many people as you can online. Find those who have done it before you, and enlist the help of locals. We were so happy with the way everything turned out that we would not have changed one single thing."

And the couple found out afterward that their choice of resort was almost uncanny. The owners of Bucuti are so in sync with their favourite causes it was as if the universe had pointed them in the right direction. Sherry says, "When I found out Bucuti was the most environmentally conscious resort on the island, and probably the greenest in the entire Caribbean, I could not have been happier. And I am a HUGE fan of animals and their rights; in fact, I am an animal behaviourist and run a business to help people with their pets on the



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side. When I found out that the resort's owner has ten adopted island dogs of his own I was over the moon. Then I found out that he also helps guests adopt their own stray island dogs to take home and pays for the entire process! It doesn't get any better than that. A perfect wedding in a perfect spot with people who are behind what you believe in. Incredible." Visit Sherry's websites at: www.animalinstinctsschool.com and www.powerpawdogclub.com.

Visit Bucuti and Tara Beach Resort at www.bucuti.com . ■

—SUSAN CAMPBELL