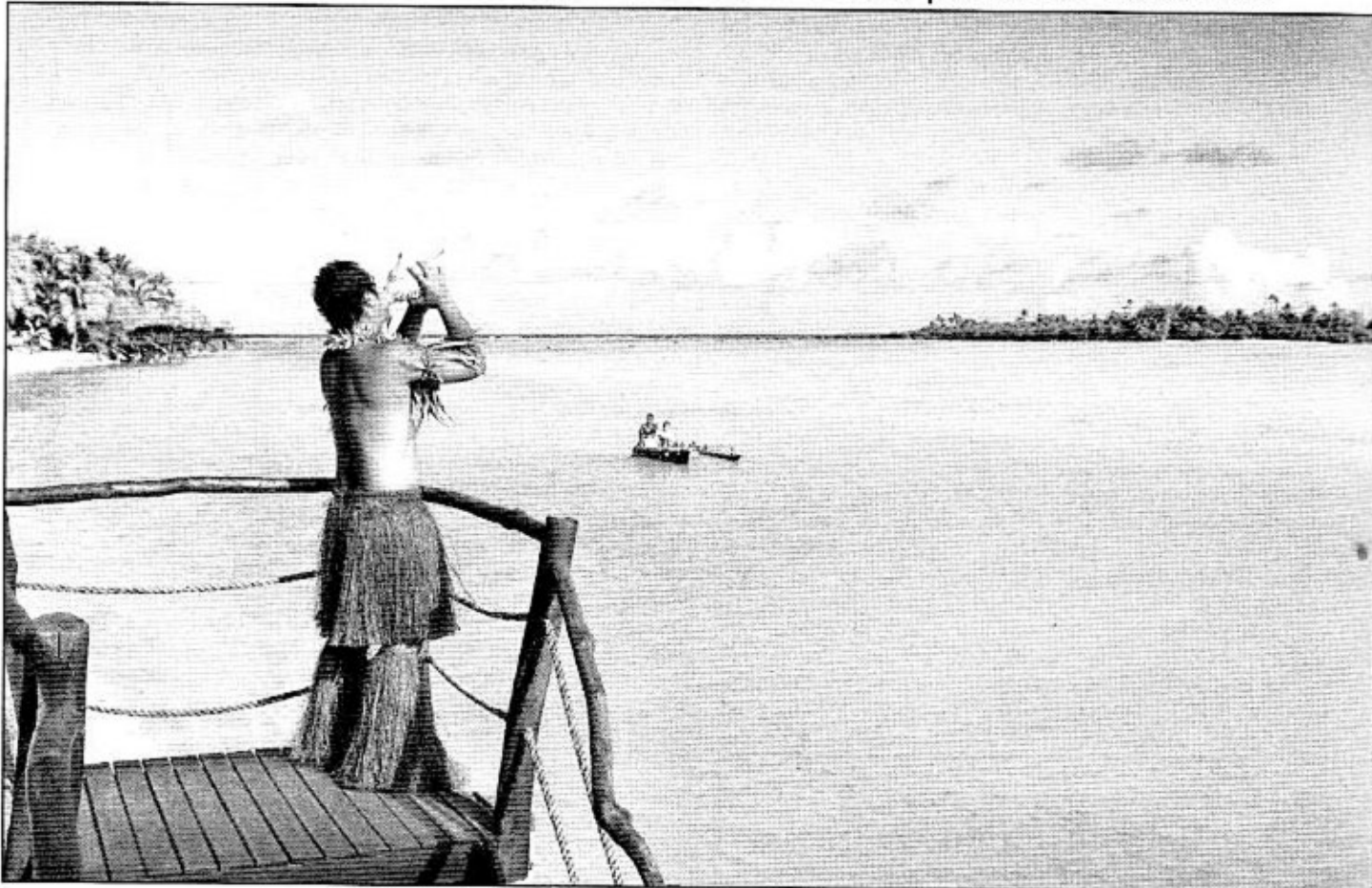


Accolade for Aitutaki Lagoon Resort

Resort named one of the world's best private islands



Credit: Photo by Joanne Buck | Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa

All of us dream of escaping the humdrum and hullabaloo of the madding crowd, and for many of us that dream is embodied in the shape of our own private island to retreat to, if only for an all-too-short while. Our own little piece of paradise where we can turn our back on the world and rediscover our own good humour, rekindle the flames of our passion.

Such a place is Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa, set right in the heart of the South Seas within the necklace of far flung pearls called the Cook Islands.

And now, recognition of this rare jewel has come from the prestigious US-based ISLANDS magazine which has named Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa one of the world's 12 BEST PRIVATE ISLAND RESORTS.

ISLANDS has scoured the globe searching for the best of the best, and has come up with the ultimate list of private island escapes. According to

the article in ISLANDS April/May issue, "these private islands hold the promise of the dream escape, where you can have the luxury amenities of a resort while still feeling like the island is all yours."

Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa is the only private island resort in the Cook Islands, set on the magical isle of Motu Akitua (Akitua Island) – the place where the HMS Bounty made landfall to become the first Europeans to discover Aitutaki, just 17 days before the infamous mutiny.

It is also the only resort set on the expanse of world-famous Aitutaki Lagoon, named in the book "Unforgettable Places to See Before You Die" as the World's Most Beautiful Lagoon. The views from the resort of this wonder-of-the-world are nothing short of jaw-droppingly beautiful. Aitutaki Lagoon was even a magnet for such screen luminaries as Cary Grant and John Wayne during the glamorous era of the Coral Route

in the 1950s when Solent Flying Boats used to land directly on its dazzling turquoise waters.

This unique retreat also features the Cook Islands' only Overwater Bungalows and Aitutaki's only private luxury pool villa, the 5-star Royal Honeymoon Pool Villa 'Te Arau'.

ISLANDS says of the resort: "Only one resort lets you stay on the stunning Aitutaki Lagoon: the appropriately named Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa. Built on the small sand tear-drop known as Akitua, 29 bungalows put guests steps from the water; 7 more are actually over the water. They're the only such accommodations in the Cook Islands, and all a direct flight from Los Angeles. To enjoy the lagoon, step onto a windsurf board, hop into an outrigger canoe or jump in for a snorkel. You may never want to towel off - until you smell that night's authentic feast sizzling in the umu kai earth oven on the beach. Few have had yellowfin tuna like this.

Fall asleep to the rustling of the coconut grove and the ripples of the lagoon. You'll feel one with the water."

Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa Managing Director, Mr Tata Crocombe, said: "We are thrilled to receive this recognition of Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa as a truly unique destination, an unspoilt slice of paradise. Our resort manager and staff work hard to ensure that each and every one of our guests feels special and well taken care of, and this is tremendous recognition of their dedication."

Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa is an all-bungalow resort enjoying one of the finest locations of any in the world. A fitting location for a truly memorable occasion, whether it be your honeymoon, wedding, or a once-in-a-lifetime journey to the very heart of the South Pacific to experience the World's Most Beautiful Lagoon, staying on your own private island.