

SPAS

CUISINART RESORT & SPA

A treasure on the shores of sun-soaked Anguilla, CuisinArt is the perfect Rx for the stresses of everyday life.

Nestled in the pristine curve of Rendezvous Bay on the island of Anguilla, **CuisinArt Resort & Spa** (www.cuisinartresort.com) is a Mediterranean-style bastion of gourmet cuisine, spectacular service, white sand and decadent spa treatments.

Travel advisors can contact General Manager Stephane Zaharia (szaharia@cuisinart.ai; 264 498 2000) or Concierge Ena Boasman-Hodge (concierge@cuisinart.ai; 264 498 2000, ext. 3060), who has booked private boats to take guests to offshore keys, including Prickly Pear Key and the privately owned Sandy Island (which requires permission from the owner).

The expansive resort, a member of The Leading Small Hotels of the World, has 93 guest rooms and suites ranging in size from 900 to 3,600 square feet. Request a beachfront villa for the most spectacular vistas, including direct views of the ocean, St. Martin and gorgeous



GUEST ROOMS at CuisinArt feature fresh Caribbean style and vibrant color palettes (right).

CUISINART'S expansive pool complex leads directly to the crystal Caribbean (opposite, left).

SPA GUESTS can choose from a variety of venues for their treatments (opposite, right).

sunrises. The most luxurious private room is Penthouse 2001, which also includes a secluded 4,000-square-foot sundeck and private Jacuzzi. The suite comprises a large master bedroom with elegant bath, an additional bedroom with bath and office suite, a large living room, full kitchen and dining room. Penthouse Suite 2000, measuring 3,300 square feet, features a master bedroom with marble bath, two additional bedrooms with private baths, a living room and full kitchen and a 1,000-square-foot terrace overlooking the pool and beach. Booked together, the penthouses give guests exclusive use of the entire third floor and a total of eight bedrooms. This space is ideal for weddings and special events. Tip: Private butler service is available in the penthouse suites.

As the name suggests, cuisine is taken very seriously at CuisinArt, which has two restaurants. Café Mediterraneo offers poolside meals, while finer dining is enjoyed at the five-star Santorini Restaurant. One of the most interesting options for guests is the Kitchen Stadium, located in Santorini, where Chef Athenia Walker-Fabian performs cooking demonstrations. Guests can dine in the Stadium, and they can participate in group or individual cooking classes. Contact concierge Boasman-Hodge prior to arrival for information on current menus and class schedules.

A highlight of the property is the Hydroponic Farm and Organic Gardens, the only such offering in the Caribbean. Meals at the resort's restaurants are particularly delicious due to the use of fresh herbs and vegetables that are grown on site. Aside from enjoying the fresh produce in their meals, guests can also tour the Hydroponic Farm Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 11:00 am. Private tours are also available and can be set up with Farm Manager Howard M. Resh, Ph.D.

The three-story, 8,000-square-foot Venus Spa is another highlight of the resort and the place where guests can enjoy a bevy of treatments, ranging from aromatherapy, facials, massage, and reflexology to hydrotherapy, seaweed wraps, and sea-salt and loofah scrubs in



one of five treatment rooms. Guests may also partake in outdoor treatments on two breezy terraces with an ocean view or directly on the beach in the spa's treatment tent. Manicures, pedicures, and hairstyling services are available in the Rusk salon. Tennis with private instructors, as well as personal training and indoor and beachside fitness classes, are also offered.

The most popular treatments at the spa include the Anguillan Massage, a customized treatment that incorporates several modalities of massage; the Hydroponic Cucumber and Aloe Wrap (50 minutes), which helps sunburned spa-goers get cooling, hydrating relief by using cucumbers culled from CuisinArt's distinctive hydroponic farm; and the Anguillan Coconut Pineapple Scrub, which quenches skin with indigenous coconut milk and pineapple juice. Agents can contact Spa Director Kathy Eggleston (keggleston@cuisinart.ai; ext. 3028) directly for pre-booking, which is recommended.

Due to the overwhelming demand for treatments at the spa, an expansion is in the works. Starting in August and with a scheduled completion in 2007, Venus Spa will more than triple its space and expand to approximately 30,000 square feet. New features will include spa suites, Watsu and thalassotherapy pools, specialty showers, relaxation rooms, an expanded gym with state-of-the-art fitness equipment and private rooms for personal training and Pilates, a spa café, larger locker facilities, and additional treatment rooms with terraces and outdoor showers.

Anguilla measures only 16 miles in length and three miles in width, so high-end shopping

ACCESS:

Recommended dining in Anguilla

Altamer: 264 498 4040; Shoal Bay West

Blanchards: 264 497 6100; Meads Bay

Malliouhana: 264 497 6111; Meads Bay

Straw Hat: 264 497 8300; Forest Bay

on the island isn't always readily available. But at CuisinArt, luxury clothing and jewelry boutiques can be found on site. Fashions from such designers as La Perla and Lolita are found at Boutique Blu, while jewelry from acclaimed designer David Yurman is among the treasures that can be discovered at Capri Boutique.

Guests can also tie the knot in CuisinArt's idyllic beach setting, either on the beach, in the picturesque wedding gazebo or in the private rooftop penthouse suite. Wedding Coordinator Ernie Hodge (ernie@cuisinart.ai; ext. 3095) can be contacted directly.

Aside from the traditionally busy holiday weeks of Christmas, New Year's Eve and Day, President's Day, Easter, and Thanksgiving, visitors to the island should also take note of the annual Tranquility Jazz Festival, which occurs yearly in early November. It's best to book well in advance for visits during these occasions.

Ground service is offered from Wallblake Airport, as well as the Blowing Point ferry dock from St. Martin, where several airlines offer direct flights from major cities. Anyone checking into the resort is greeted by a representative and directed to the resort's limo service. ■

— Julie Keller