



# Romance in Hawaii

by Bekah Wright

Courtesy of Grand Wailea Resort and Hotel

*The lush, surrounding landscape and Pacific views provide numerous ways to get carried away with Maui's beauty.*

## Hotel Wailea Maui: an escape to amour

Sometimes it's good to be "above it all." For couples seeking a romantic escape, this means being away from big cities with a stay at the hidden sanctuary of Hotel Wailea Maui. Set in the headlands of the West Maui Mountains, the luxury, boutique hotel offers 72 one-bedroom ocean-view suites with private lanai from which Maui sunsets dazzle.

Romance kicks off at the hotel's entrance via the property's tranquil koi pond and garden. Further amour can be found with the Maui Romance Package (visit [www.hotelwailea.com](http://www.hotelwailea.com) for available rates). Champagne,

passion fruit juice and chocolates are bestowed upon arrival – a hint of indulgence to come. Included, too, is a daily continental breakfast.

Another treat that comes with the Maui Romance Package – two, 50-minute massages through Hotel Wailea Spa. Once lulled by massages, further pampering comes through the Japanese art of ofuro, a type of spa bathing, which in Hotel Wailea Spa's case includes a hydrotherapy system made up of a whirlpool, dry sauna, pressure body shower waterfall shower and reclining baths.

The lush, surrounding landscape and Pacific views provide numerous ways to get carried away with Maui's beauty. For those looking to experi-

ence the white sands of Wailea Beach, shuttle service is available for transport to The Beach Club, a reserved section of beach for Hotel Wailea guests. Hotel Wailea's concierge can also arrange preferred tee times at Wailea's outstanding golf courses, as well as suggest romance-worthy activities on the island, like a catching sunrise atop Haleakala volcano or a picnic in a bamboo forest along the Road to Hana.

A must for itineraries is a romantic dinner for two at Capische?, Hotel Wailea's intimate, al fresco restaurant serving Southern Italian cuisine with French elements. Honeymooning guests, or those celebrating their anniversary, are welcomed with a sparkling wine toast. From here, they're escorted to the best seat in the house, which for many means different things. There are numerous tables for two with exceptional views, be it those on the terrace with vistas of the ocean, or tucked away in a serene, Japanese rock garden. Another option is a private dining room for duos partaking in Il Teatro, a Prix Fixed menu based on the restaurant's wine collection that's paired with dishes from owner and chef Brian Etheredge. Some of the delicacies Etheredge typically tempts palates with include Braised Lamb Shank with Lemon Risotto and Savory Herb Broth.

After dinner, Capische's martini and piano bar calls for a nightcap. Of course, the siren song of the suite's deep soaking tub may win out. Here, plotting to recapture the romance of the Hotel Wailea on a return trip can continue. One that might be just right, the "Own Your Own Resort," where for \$25,000 a day, the entire hotel is reserved for couples tying the knot and their family and friends. Who wouldn't want to say, "I do." Hotel Wailea is managed by Aqua Hotels & Resorts. To learn more about the Hotel Wailea Maui visit [www.hotelwailea.com](http://www.hotelwailea.com) or phone (800) 800-0720. For information about other Aqua Hotels and Resorts visit [www.aquaresorts.com](http://www.aquaresorts.com) or phone 1-866-406-2782.



Terme Hydrotherapy Circuit's water therapies at Grand Wailea Resort & Hotel

## Sweetheart rendezvous at Grand Wailea Resort and Hotel

Evidence that romance abounds at the Grand Wailea Resort Hotel and Spa – the Seaside Chapel and Chapel Gardens, one of several sites on property where those heady with love can tie the knot or renew their vows. Indeed, the intimate chapel's welcoming steeple and stained glass windows cause sighs of their own, as does the resort itself.

Getting amour started is the Ku'uiipo 'Sweetheart' package, through which couples can make the Grand Wailea their personal hideaway for five days and four nights from \$1,776 USD (starting price depends on room choice).

Nearby activities duos can share are plentiful, such as time on Wailea Golf Club's five, 18-hole championship courses, matches at the Wailea Tennis Club, snorkeling, sea kayaking, surfing or boogie boarding off the beach fronting the resort or escaping to one of Grand Wailea's renowned swimming pools. One of the best places for canoodling is a private cabana at the adults' only Hibiscus Pool.

Included in the Ku'uiipo Package is time for reconnecting in Spa Grande. Two hours in fact, during which spa-goers use the Terme Hydrotherapy

Circuit's water therapies to loosen up for a Honey Mango Loofah Polish, followed by a 50-minute Hawaiian Lomi-Lomi couple's massage in a spa suite.

The perfect follow-up is a four-course, wine paired dinner (included in package) at Grand Wailea's signature restaurant, Humuhumunukunuku pua'a. An island unto itself, this floating, thatched roof restaurant is the ideal place for toasting the sunset with the complimentary bottle of champagne that comes with the Ku'uiipo Package and to share bites of entrees like Alakahiki Channel Mahi Mahi crusted with Waiehu Grown Macadamia Nut and drizzled with a Citrus Butter Sauce.

The idyllic evening concludes back in the room with flower petals sprinkled over the bed and in a tub that's been drawn and is waiting for sharing kisses and whispered goodnights. To learn more about the Grand Wailea Resort Hotel & Spa visit [www.grandwailea.com](http://www.grandwailea.com) or phone (800) 888-6100.

## Bliss filled packages from the Plantation Inn & Ka'anapaali Beach Hotel

A great way for couples to experience two different romantic settings on Maui – packages offered through sister properties The Plantation Inn

and Ka'anapali Beach Hotel (KBH).

Transitioning from hectic daily routines may be difficult for some. A perfect solution is a stay at The Plantation Inn. This bed and breakfast's location in the quaint waterfront Lahaina district brings with it shops, galleries, restaurants and activities that help with high-energy transitions to laidback island relaxation.

Nineteen rooms are available at the turn of the century style inn, each with custom interiors befitting various personalities. Couples looking to immerse themselves in island amour should consider The Plantation Inn's Love and Romance Package. The three-night package (\$869 USD) comes with a Lanai Room with a gift of his and hers Hawaiian robes laid on a queen-size poster or canopy bed. Chilled and waiting, too, is champagne with two keepsake glasses that call for throwing open the room's double French doors and toasting the getaway from the private lanai.

Included in the package is a compact car rental, just right for exploring the island. This time of year other guests arrive at the island as well – humpback whales. Settling in at sites to watch these magnificent creatures during their migratory process is pure romance at its best.

Passion of another sort awaits back at The Plantation Inn with a table for two on the porch of Gerard's Restaurant (dinner for two included in this package). This is the place to share bites of appetizers like Fried Oysters and Fresh Snapper Dumplings. Dinner is an affair unto itself with French cuisine made with local ingredients by renowned Chef Gerard Reversade. Some to savor – Honey Glazed Pork Tenderloin or Duck Confit.

Left craving more of Chef Reversade's culinary wonders, there's always The Plantation Inn's daily, complimentary breakfast served by the pool. Giving taste buds a reason to rejoice – gourmet French toast, Eggs Basquaise and fresh island fruit.

When the three-day stay is at an end, there's a way to prolong the dreamy mood it's evoked – Ka'anpaali



Kaanpaali Beach Hotel

Beach Hotel's (KBH) Island Romance 2010 package. Guests are welcomed with kukui nut leis and hugs upon arrival. From here, it's check-in time for a five-night stay at \$1,899 USD. Accommodations are in an Ocean View Room, where views of the Pacific lure for some playtime. Inspired by the waves, couples can take surfing lessons for two through Island Style Surf Adventures or the Royal Hawaiian Surf Academy, an optional activity offered through the Island Romance Package.

Fronting the hotel is Ka'anpaali

Beach, a spot to consider for sharing the package's picnic lunch that comes in a keepsake logo picnic backpack. The included compact rental car can transport duos to breathtaking locales, such as the Kipahulu area of Haleakala National Park for a hike to the Seven Sacred Pools.

Afterwards may be the time to make use of another of the package's benefits – a 25-minute massage (Swedish, sports, lomilomi and deep tissue techniques available) or facial (pineapple, oxygen or Coco's signature facial) for two from KBH's Beauty

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of Aloha Salon & Spa.

Well pampered, couples can kick back and contemplate when to use other elements of their package. There's a dinner for two of Hawaiian regional cuisine from executive chef Tom Muromoto and the hotel's nightly hula show, or KBH's famous Sunday Brunch.

Also on tap – some choices of evening entertainment that will leave couples wishing they had more time on island. There's a Hawaiian Luau – either the Royal Lahaina Resort's 'Myths of Maui' luau or the Hyatt Regency Maui's 'Drums of the Pacific'. Another option finds sweethearts sailing, and dining, upon the Pacific under a starlit Maui sky. Two evening dinner cruises are available aboard either the Maui Princess or the Teralani.

Lastly, there's the possibility of a night of magic at KBH's Kupanaha Magic Dinner Theater. Whatever the decision, sweethearts can rest easy knowing they have five nights of bliss and togetherness in the most romantic

of places – Maui. For more information visit [www.kbhmaui.com](http://www.kbhmaui.com) or phone 1-800-262-8450 or to learn about The Plantation Inn visit [www.theplantationinn.com](http://www.theplantationinn.com) or phone 1-800-433-6815.

## Two for two at Honua Kai Resort & Spa

Ask any couple and they'll tell you – good things come in twos. Proving this point is the unveiling of Honua Kai Resort & Spa's second tower, the Konea building with 310 guest suites and two pools. Additionally, a lobby café and a spa will launch in the spring. To celebrate, the resort is offering a Manager's Special with 35% off published rates in Ohana category one- and two-bedroom suites (based on availability). The Manager's Special rates start at \$260 USD per night, plus tax and resort fee, for Ohana Resort View category rooms and are valid Feb. 1 through April 10 when booking by Feb. 15. The Manager's Special cannot be combined with any

other promotional offer.

Beyond special rates, couples will find many other offerings at the resort that give cause to celebrate. First and foremost, the suites themselves with special touches like gourmet kitchens where it's easy to whip up cuisine of the aphrodisiac variety and a private lanai for dining by moonlight and listening to the gentle waves lap against the shore.

Kaanapali's North Beach, which fronts the resort, should definitely be enjoyed in daylight hours as well. Through Honua Kai, guests can snorkel and explore a living coral reef, kayak and give stand-up paddling a go. Within walking distance, too, are prime snorkelling sites like Black Rock.

As for walking, it's best done hand-in-hand on the beach path that meanders along Kaanapali Beach. An option for those seeking quiet time for reflecting or sharing kisses is a stroll around the resort's wetland pond, home to nesting Hawaiian Green Sea



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When hunger strikes, executive chef James McDonald's 'Aina Gourmet Market might be in order. Based on the concept of the "100-Mile Market," 'Aina Gourmet Market provides organic produce, meats, cheeses and wines from regional vendors located within a 100-mile radius of the Honua Kai. Items from 'Aina Market Café let others do the work with items that can be taken back to suites or on picnics.

For romance coupled with a prime view of the Pacific and neighbouring islands of Lana'i and Moloka'i, reservations at the open-air Duke's Beach House are in order. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, the restaurant, whose name and decor pays homage to Hawai'i surfing icon Duke Kahanamoku, features Hawaiian-influenced cuisine including sustainable seafood and premium steaks. Some local dishes to try from executive chef Scott McGill or chef Todd Carlos – Poke Rolls

with raw ahi mixed with Maui onions and encased in seared rice paper, followed by slow-roasted baby back ribs in mango BBQ sauce. Not to be missed – Kimo's Original Hula Pie for dessert. Sweets for the sweet. To learn more about Honua Kai Resort & Spa visit [www.honuakaimaui.com](http://www.honuakaimaui.com) or phone 1-888-718-5789.

## Sunspots Holidays revs up romance

For couples that never fight, or at least strive not to, a Sunspots Holidays customized vacation will be right up their alley. The company provides numerous options when it comes to flights, accommodations and land tours. Letting someone else take care of the details, while taking the personalities of a twosome into account, equals a peaceful start to a sublime holiday.

Airport hassles often come into play in the planning process. Sunspots, which works with all major

airline carriers, including American, USAir, Delta and WestJet, makes the process one of ease. Another perk – they offer business class service from several Canadian gateways to Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i, Maui and O'ahu. With six islands to choose from, each vastly different from the other, deciding on one may be difficult. Sunspots Holidays can also book intra-island flights and accommodations, giving travellers the opportunity to make the most of their visit.

A great first stop – O'ahu. Accommodation selections on Sunspots' roster are outstanding. Among them, Halekulani. The 453-room luxury resort is in the Leading Hotels of the World collection. Situated on Waikiki Beach, it guarantees days filled with gentle tradewinds.

A one-week package with a Garden Courtyard View room through Sunspots Holidays runs \$2,855 CAD, two weeks for \$4,928 CAD. Greeting from the room are decadent chocolates. An alluring spot for feeding them to one



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Westin Resort & Spa, Waikiki

another – the room’s Kohler deep-soaking tub. A soak in such a tub may inspire a spa visit...

Geared specifically for couples is SpaHalekulani’s Romance Remembered Treatment (\$1,300 USD, not included in package). A foot pounding signals the pampering is about to begin. Next up, a couples massage and facial of choice. Further relaxation comes by way of the spa’s traditional Japanese furo. From here, champagne and treats from Halekulani chefs are served on SpaHalekulani’s terrace. The day’s not done, though. Manicures and pedicures buff and gloss couples to perfection before sending them on their way.

A romantic follow-up – an elegant, candlelit dinner at La Mer, a AAA Five Diamond Restaurant and one of Halekulani’s five dining venues. On the menu is Neoclassic French cuisine such as Roast Goose Breast Accented with Sea Salt and Lavender Honey on Butternut Squash.

During a stay on O’ahu, there are many sights to behold. Sunspots Holidays can assist through their specialty tour program. One on O’ahu that brings the island’s culture and history front and centre is the Memorial Tour with stops to explore Pearl Harbor’s U.S.S. Arizona Memorial, Battleship Missouri and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl Crater.

After days of sightseeing, snorkel-

ling, surfing and shopping on O’ahu, an addiction to Hawai’i is bound to occur. This is the time to take advantage of Sunspots Holidays’ intra-island program and check out another Hawai’i hot spot, such as Maui. A resort that will speak to lovers – the Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua. Available through Sunspots, a one-week stay in a Terrace View Room for \$2,447 CAD or two weeks for \$3,996 CAD.

It is said Kapalua is the spot where heaven meets the earth. It’s hard to dispute while staying in accommodations at the Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua that come with stunning views of the sea and surrounding mountains. The former pineapple plantation’s lush landscape also makes it ideal for golfing. Two 18-hole championship courses featured annually during the PGA TOUR beckon with tee times.

Adventurers will be happy, too, with the resort’s Ambassador’s of the Environment Program with outings like underwater photography. Nearby is Kapalua Adventures, where ziplining outings can be undertaken. Specialized tours through Sunspots are available for itineraries as well. One with thrills of its own – the Hana Adventure that traverses the famous Road to Hana with stops at locales such as Keanae Lookout and Wailua Falls. To learn more about Sunspots Holidays visit [www.sunspotsholidays.com](http://www.sunspotsholidays.com) or phone (416) 484-8144 or 1-800-657-8721.