

REVIEW: The Ritz Carlton Kapalau – Maui



A panorama of the grounds



The stock photo

The island of Maui is not necessarily my favorite because of a variety of reasons. Most of those revolve around my theory that it's the neglected "child" of an island. It doesn't share as much greenery as Kauai, certain portions of the Big Island, or even the windward side of Oahu. It also doesn't have the culinary faire or the cultural sights of Oahu or the

Big Island, but mostly, it's just large and barren.

My personal disjoint on the subject aside, there IS a Ritz, and a glorious one at that. The Ritz Kapalua is a massive resort, and has cascading pools, a beautiful golf course, and its very own private beach access (pic below)



The resort is fairly priced and is the perfect place to relax and hang out with family or a loved one, the rooms are beautifully appointed (albeit in the standard modern Hawaiian style of wicker, koa wood, lots of tan and whites, and Tommy Bahama inspired theme colors.

There is also a nature reserve on the resort property where you can hang out with two very affable hogs



The staff went out of their way to accommodate me when I had a late flight and offered a late 6PM checkout so that I could enjoy the pool and shower prior to my 6 hours back to LAX.

PROS:

- The resort has a lot to offer, with ancient Hawaiian burial grounds for those who like cultural artifact
- There's lots of activities such as a very well maintained volleyball, tennis, and basketball court, and whale and dolphin watching from the private beach
- The pool has multiple areas and terraces, so you aren't stuck like sardines staring at each other trying to hog some sunlight
- Looks pretty newly renovated. Some Ritz properties could use some more TLC but this one looks like it's had some recent lovin'

CONS:

- In Maui you need a rental car, and there's a ton of traffic around the Kapalua area. That aside, once you drive northwards you get to see a ton of outdoor activities to partake in, including brewery tours, wine tours, snorkeling trips, etc.
- The hotel doesn't have many dining options, but there are a few secret ones you should definitely check out

SECRETS:

- Check out the Terrace restaurant, it is downstairs below the lobby and offers an incredible brunch complete with fresh local fruit and to-die-for salmon lox
- If you go to the Alaloa lounge bar in the lobby, they'll hook you up with a bottle of your favorite champagne or wine and a cooler with which you can bring to anywhere in the hotel grounds to enjoy. Cheers to that!
- You MUST TRY THE MAHI MAHI. They grill it to perfection here. I must've turned into one at the end of the trip because I couldn't stop eating it (Yea they're kinda ugly but they grill well)



- They'll also put any drink you want into a pineapple (to be fair, many tropical resorts do this), but heck, nothing beats the original Hawaiian pineapple – mostly

because it's grown in that nutrient rich volcanic soil



OTHER STUFF IN MAUI:

- I highly recommend renting a car and just going off the beaten path to explore. Maui is known for little hiking spots and waterfalls (Take a look at Nemo Falls below) and Blowhole.
- Check out this website Maui Guidebook for more detailed info on the island.



