

Holiday Travel & Gifts

Luxury oceanfront bungalows at Mauna Lani come with a private pool and spa.



Mauna Lani, Auberge Resorts Collection; Alamy (inset)

LEI OF THE LAND

Hawaii's newest eco-resort serves up spiritual energy and luxury

By CHRISTOPHER CAMERON

LIVING like Hawaiian royalty doesn't just mean pristine beaches, awe-inspiring sunsets and the best ho'okipa (hospitality) the islands have to offer. At **Auberge Resorts' Mauna Lani**, on the Big Island, it means tapping into the spiritual power of the land.

The island's newest luxury eco-resort, Mauna Lani re-opened last month following a \$200 million renovation of the 3,200-acre property, which boasts over three miles of accessible oceanfront.

Located on the sacred land of Kalahuipua'a, which was once frequented by Hawaiian kings, the area is at the center of five mountains, including Mauna Kea — the tallest mountain on Earth when measured from its underwater base — and Mauna Loa, the mountain with the largest mass on Earth, weighing more than the entire Sierra Nevada range.

"These five mountains radiate mauna, or spiritual energy," said Pi'i Leaha, the resort's resident marine biologist. "Being at the

center of these mountains means you can absorb their power."

Beyond the normal nods to conservation made at luxury resorts (such as eschewing disposable plastics), Mauna Lani goes the extra mile by maintaining ancient fish ponds that once fed islanders, as well as operating the Malama Honu turtle program in conjunction with Sea Life Park, a marine and wild-life center on Oahu.

"We raise baby turtles until they are big enough to leave," said Leaha, who oversees the turtle program. "It's about awareness, conservation, community and education. It's a great opportunity to teach the public about sea turtles."

After absorbing all that energy, nosh at the resort's signature restaurant CanoeHouse, or any of the other four open-air restaurants on the property. All of

them boast ingredients provided by local farmers, fishermen, ranchers and food artisans.

Or, do a little shopping. The resort reopened with Hawaii's first outpost of Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop lifestyle brand.

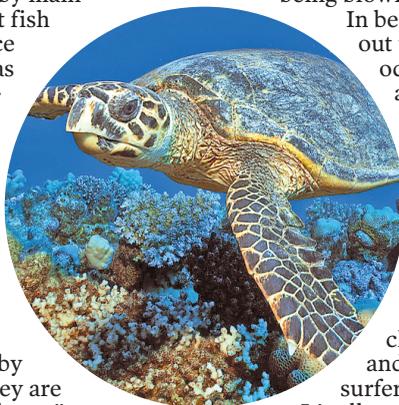
If the spa is more your speed, get some lokahi (harmony and balance) with treatments that feature ingredients sourced directly from local farms, helping reforestation efforts and sustainable agriculture on the island.

After waking up in one of the property's beach bungalows or hotel suites (rates range between \$700 and \$3,200, while private bungalows start at \$12,000), head over to Surf Shack for sunrise yoga through midday and freshly speared Kona kampachi tacos in the evening — you'll know it's time when you hear the conch shell being blown at sunset.

In between, check out their Kainalu ocean adventures and activities, which offer outdoor recreation such as paddling, diving and ocean expeditions guided by a team of world-class athletes and professional surfer Bullet Obra.

It's all meant to foster a connection between the guests and the natural environment.

"Islanders believe that we exist in two different worlds: a spiritual world and a physical world," Leaha said. "Nature is the connection between those worlds. Today, we have lost that connection, but here at Mauna Lani, we found that energy and we share it."



Earth angels

Give the green light to these sustainable and eco-friendly gifts

By April Hardwick

Over the rainbow:

Brighten up the kitchen with colorful nesting bowls made from biodegradable bamboo fiber.

\$70, BamboozleHome.com

Be of good cheer:

Send happy, healthy vibes in these groovy mini 6-packs of red, rosé or brut wine, which are sustainably produced, so no holiday headaches.

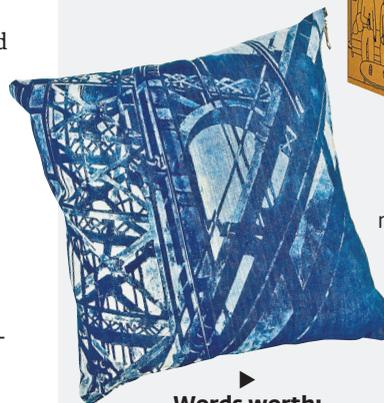
\$48, UsualWines.com



Jean genie:

Brooklyn artist Holly Brown turns repurposed denim into washable pillows that depict her iconic images.

\$85, ClockworksPressCo.com



Words worth:

Pages from classic books take on new life as roses, such as this bloom plucked from "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland."

\$21, LiteraryBlooms.com



Snag this bag:

Feel good and fashionable in this Essential tote made from recycled materials like ocean-bound marine plastic.

\$275, Rothys.com



Plant Your Pencil

The original sustainable pencil that you can plant after use and grow into herbs, vegetables or flowers.

PLANT A TREE EDITION

Plant a tree, plant a tree, do it today to tomorrow.

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