


CARIBBEAN CALM

Destinations for your serenity-seeking clients





BASKING IN A BAHAMIAN HIDEAWAY

The French Leave
Resort's pool area.

Eleuthera's French Leave Resort offers discerning travelers serene getaways in a stunning, relaxed environment

BY DIANA KELLY

FRENCH LEAVE RESORT, SITUATED ON THE BAHAMIAN ISLAND OF ELEUTHERA, REFLECTS THE TRUE ESSENCE OF A SERENE, PEACEFUL ESCAPE. ITS 12 VILLAS, SET ON 270 ACRES, FEATURE A SOPHISTICATED, UPSCALE FEEL BUT STILL CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF THE ISLAND WITH A COLONIAL LOOK. ELEUTHERA ITSELF ALSO EPITOMIZES TRANQUILITY, WITH ITS VERDANT, TROPICAL VEGETATION FLANKED BY STUNNING PINK-SAND BEACHES.

THE PROPERTY, LOCATED ON GOVERNOR'S HARBOUR, WAS A CLUB MED IN ITS EARLIER INCEPTION BEFORE UNDERGOING A MAJOR RENOVATION AND REOPENING AS A MARRIOTT AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION. IT'S A GREAT DESTINATION FOR CLIENTS WHO WANT TO ESCAPE THE CROWDS IN NASSAU AND ON PARADISE ISLAND.

Accommodations: Each of the villas features spacious living areas and covered porches, unobstructed views of Cupid's Cay marina, Wi-Fi, daily housekeeping, local in-room snacks and beverages, a golf cart, LCD TV screens, and an in-room iPad to request everything from room service to pre-ordered lunches.

Accommodations include two oceanfront two-bedroom villas and two oceanfront one-bedroom villas, each measuring 736 square feet. There are eight ocean-view one-bedroom villas that measure 720 square feet. The villas also include fully equipped kitchens, in-room washers and dryers and Bose stereo systems.

What's Included: The property charges a \$50 resort fee per night, which includes golf cart use (each villa has its own personal golf cart to help guests get around the resort and make the half-mile trek to the private beach), kayaks, paddleboards and beach chairs.

Entertainment: Coinciding with the Autograph Collection conversion, French Leave Resort is offering several new amenities and programs, including local artist exhibits, cooking classes and morning yoga.

What's for Dinner? 1648 An Island Restaurant features – as its name implies – island cuisine, including freshly caught Bahamian seafood and locally grown produce. The dishes provide a modern take on traditional Caribbean flavors. The restaurant's hours and room service are from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

continued on page 18

JUST THE FACTS

- ❖ **Resort Name:** French Leave Resort
- ❖ **Size:** 12 villas on 270 acres
- ❖ **Year Opened:** 2015. By the end of this year, the resort will have 22 villas and a spa.
- ❖ **Facilities:** The property has a freshwater pool, hot tub, gym with new cardio machines and weights, watersports amenities like kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, and snorkel gear, a special-events lawn and pavilion, and a beach across the road from the property.
- ❖ **Prices:** Nightly high-season rates from January through April range from \$479 to \$699 for a one-bedroom ocean-view villa, \$529 to \$749 for a one-bedroom oceanfront villa, and \$729 to \$999 for a two-bedroom oceanfront villa. Nightly low-season rates from May through December range from \$379 to \$479 for a one-bedroom ocean-view villa, \$429 to \$529 for a one-bedroom oceanfront villa, and \$629 to \$999 for a two-bedroom oceanfront villa.
- ❖ **Contact:** frenchleaveresort.com

continued from page 16

Who Books This Resort? The property's clientele are discerning travelers who have likely visited the Bahamas and the Caribbean before but want something off the beaten path and exclusive. They have disposable income to travel and they crave escapes, experiences and luxury in a relaxed environment.

One couple from Miami said they liked the fact that the resort was a 45-minute flight from home. Another couple from New Jersey who had previously visited Nassau said they loved the wild beauty of Eleuthera and felt it was quieter and less touristy than other Bahamian destinations.

Insider Booking Tip: The oceanfront villas are slightly more spacious than the ocean-view one-bedrooms. Depending on availability, the resort's general manager, Jahmed Mills, said he sometimes upgrades guests in ocean-view villas to ones fronting the water. With enough advance notice, the staff can accommodate most food-and-beverage requests before guests' arrival. Staff can also recommend excursions and arrange for a local masseuse to come to their rooms for massages.

In addition to couples seeking romantic vacations, you should consider booking the resort for quiet girls' getaways or any gatherings with friends.

Key Selling Points: The resort enables travelers to truly unwind. Guests can sit on their porches in their fluffy robes and watch majestic sunsets while sipping on drinks available for purchase in their villas. They can use the in-room iPad to order food and beverages that they can pick up at the restaurant, stash in their golf cart's coolers, and then drive to the beach, where a staff member will help them get comfortable.

Simple touches in villas like board games, books about island life, straw hats to borrow, washers/dryers in some rooms and the iPads will make your clients feel like they're staying in upscale homes.

The resort's staff is top-notch – and some have recently undergone intensive training at the Marriott Autograph Playa Largo Resort & Spa in Key Largo, Fla.



The living room in a two-bedroom villa.

The property's one- and two-bedroom oceanfront villas.

