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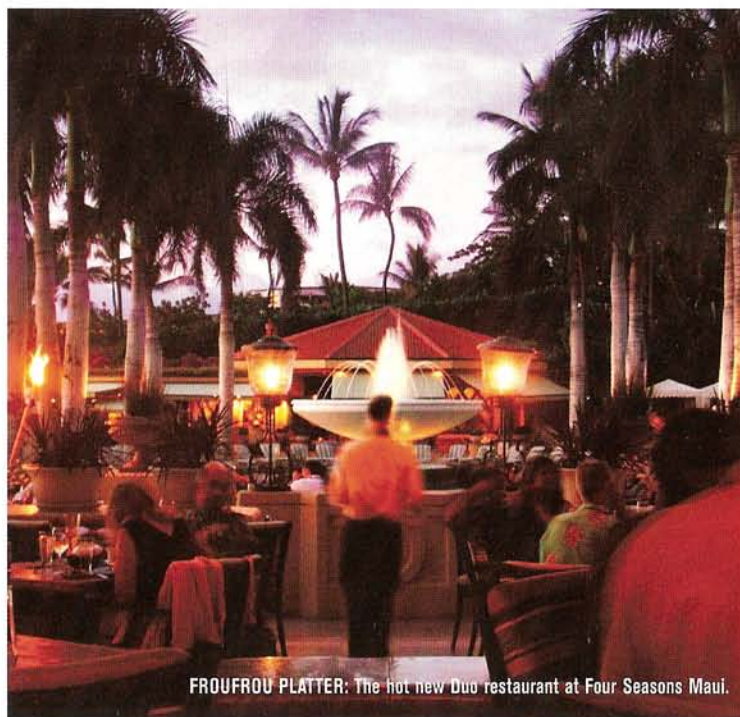


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THE RADAR WEEK ENDER

EDITED BY BRAD A. JOHNSON



FROUFROU PLATTER: The hot new Duo restaurant at Four Seasons Maui.

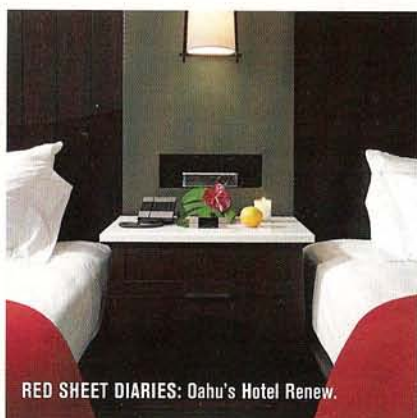
HAWAII FAB-O

A Maui beachfront restaurant debuts, a Waikiki hotel goes mod and a computer billionaire gets Big Island fever

TWIN PEAKS Surf 'n' turf, that most American of culinary creations, has gone assuredly high-end at the aptly named Duo, a two-month-old, steak-meets-seafood dining room just a few ocean-viewing steps from Wailea beach at the Four Seasons Resort in Maui. Ensnared directly below Wolfgang Puck's Spago, the indoor/outdoor space is airily rendered via travertine floors, high ceilings and warm, unknotted teak wood. Traditional takes a nouvelle-rococo turn on chef Noel Badillo's menu, from the goat cheese fritters with baby beet emulsion to the Dungeness crab cakes dressed with Kula corn. So where's the beef? Choose from New York primes, T-bones, filet mignons, and dry-aged bone-in rib-eyes. But the chief salivation is undoubtedly the Japanese Kobe beef tenderloin—the real stuff, not the pretender American Wagyu—which, at the 6-ounce minimum cut, will set you back \$182. As for the aquatic options, expect opakapaka and mahi mahi, as well as a similarly vowel-happy nightly special or two, all dressed in distinctly exotic sauces like pineapple-papaya salsa or Thai red coconut curry. Whether by land or sea, the extensive wine list (innovatively grouped by flavor profile, not varietal or region) goes deep, with notable rarities like a Sémillon from Barossa, Australia, and a Sauvignon Blanc from the Russian River in Northern California. Oh, and you won't have room for it, but for dessert, pastry chef Rhonda Asthon caramelizes an absolutely killer banana crème brûlée. Which makes sense, because at Duo, something as simple and throwback-minded as, say, flambé would seem unconscionably outré. —Gary Baum



Duo's French macarons.



RED SHEET DIARIES: Oahu's Hotel Renew.

BEDS OF PARADISE

It doesn't open until the end of summer or early fall, but the Hotel Renew (129 Paoakalani Ave.) is already the most talked-about new hotel in Honolulu since the 50-room W debuted in Diamond Head in 1999. San Francisco-based furniture designer Jiun Ho has completely and beautifully transformed what was formerly a less-than-desirable tourist hotel, located within easy walking distance of Waikiki beach in the heart of Honolulu's shopping district. Valuing tranquility and restfulness, Ho incorporates elements of the island's natural environment. Water features and driftwood encapsulate the area's coastal beauty, fire elements are inspired by the volcano, and light-colored fabrics and patterns remind guests of the rolling waves outside. Decorated with local artwork and accented with dark woods, the hotel creates a sheltered intimacy in the midst of a vibrant social scene. Each of the 70 rooms is outfitted with a plasma TV (some rooms even feature projection TVs with 4-foot-by-6-foot displays!), Wi-Fi and iPod docks, not to mention extra-large beach towels. 808.687.7715 or www.hotelrenew.com. —JC MacMillan



UNPLUGGED: The Big Island's secluded Kona Village.

ISLAND HOPPING

KONA UNPLUGGED Computer mogul Michael Dell just snapped up the Big Island's 82-acre, 125-bungalow Kona Village. No word yet what's in store in the way of upgrades for the "unplugged," rustically charming resort, but if the rumors are correct, expect a completely revitalized, far more luxurious hideaway to emerge. 808.325.5555 or www.konavillage.com.

GREEN PEACE Ahu Pohaku Ho'omaluhia Retreat opens this month on the Big Island. The luxurious, eco-friendly spa generates its own solar electricity and grows its own produce, flowers and herbs on the surrounding 60 acres. The name means "gathering place of sacred peace-giving stones," and the retreat also offers yoga, meditation, dance and food-prep classes. 808.889.5064 or www.hawaii-island-retreat.com.

BOAT TRIPPING Starting this summer, Hawaii Superferry will offer daily boat service for passengers and their vehicles between Maui and Oahu, along with service six days a week between Oahu and Kauai. Trips between Oahu and the Big Island are slated to commence in 2009. Rates from \$44, www.hawaiisuperferry.com.

RITZY REDD The Ritz-Carlton Kapalua will close this month for a \$95 million renovation. In early 2008, 446 renovated guestrooms are scheduled to re-emerge, along with 107 residential suites, an 11,000-square-foot spa and a new sushi restaurant. 808.669.6200 or www.ritz-carlton.com. —Stevie Stacionis