

**Johnny Depp and Nicolas Cage
Star in My Own Private Exuma**

The latest trend in celebrity homes has travellers literally vacationing in the stars' backyards. It just goes to show that when you're "out island-hopping" in the Bahamas, you never know who you'll bump into. The most recent recruit to the fast-growing club of celeb island owners is Nicolas Cage, who bought a 40-acre undeveloped island in the Exuma archipelago for \$3 million this past May. As these tiny "out islands" offer the most beautiful beaches in the Atlantic, it's not surprising that Cage isn't the only one with island instinct. Johnny Depp is another convert, having shot *Pirates of the Caribbean* in the Bahamas. His private island, Little Hall's Pond Cay, features six white sandy beaches and a central lagoon surrounded by palm trees.

Great Exuma has become the Bahamas' most luxurious out island, now that the Four Seasons Resort Emerald Bay has settled perfectly into the landscape. The hushed Exumas stirred from a sleep of centuries with the Winter 2004 opening. The most impressive feature is a championship 18-hole golf course designed by Greg Norman. Guests stay in lemon yellow Colonial-style villas clustered on meticulously landscaped grounds; all accommodations open onto private terraces and balconies with scenic views of the bay or the lush gardens. For high rollers, the resort offers beachfront properties of one and two bedrooms.

The spa is the finest in the Bahamas. With signature treatments created from



Four Seasons Resort Emerald Bay in Exuma.

Photo courtesy of the Four Seasons Resort in Exuma.

natural ingredients found only on these tropical oases; this superb spa is bound to be a destination all on its own. The unhurried pace of the resort makes it one of the most relaxing places to indulge in a body holiday. Using exotic fruits such as mango, coconut, guava, and island products like honey, ginger, sugar cane, the Spa's full-service menu includes a fabulous piña colada milk bath, a refreshing volcanic-earth clay ritual and a soothing Javanese Lulur royal massage. www.fourseasons.com/greatexuma



The powder-soft sands of Abaco Beach.

Private Pleasures in Abaco

With a signature Scottish-style tropical links championship golf course, British entrepreneur Peter de Savary's The Abaco Club on Winding Bay is stunning at every turn. The remote location lends a castaway feeling, yet it is just 170 miles east of Palm Beach, Florida on the island of Abaco, Bahamas. The private members' club bears the standard of all de Savary's posh private estates: the St. James Clubs; the Carnegie Club at Skibo Castle; and Bovey Castle in Dartmoor National Park in England. Situated on a heart-shaped peninsula, surrounded by miles of powder-soft sand and accented by spectacular bluffs, the site is nothing short of glorious. Everyone is welcome for a first time visit. www.theabacoclub.com

Don't miss a day trip to the pristine beaches of Harbour Island, Eleuthera, capped off with dinner at Pink Sands. The 20-acre haven sits on the edge of the famous pink sand beach. Designed in an eclectic mixture of styles: Moroccan, Indian and Balinese, 25 pastel-coloured cottages are

Island-Hopping in the Bahamas

by Si Si Penalzo

scattered amidst lush tropical grounds. Barefoot champagne breakfasts are a speciality, even more romantic when followed by cantering on horseback along the beach. For such a little place (just three miles long and half a mile wide) Harbour Island has a remarkably high celeb count. Julia Roberts, Robert de Niro and Jack Nicholson are all regulars here. www.islandoutpost.com/pink_sands

The Best Reason to Stop in Nassau

An icon of Bahamian history, the Graycliff is an exquisite jewel of a hotel nestled in the heart of Old Nassau. The restaurant is as rich in tradition as the hotel itself, housing one of the largest private wine collections in the world, with over 250,000 bottles from over 400 vintners in 15 countries. Insured at \$20 million, the Graycliff wine list isn't merely a list, but rather a compendium of the world's finest wines. The cellar is a connoisseur's dream, with an inventory of showstoppers such as a 1858 Château Beychevelle, 1864 Château Lafite and a 1875 Romanée Conti. Ask for a guided tour of the cellar, a winding forest of dusty French Cabernet, towers of Italian Barolo, methuselahs of Champagne. In a studio upstairs, Graycliff cigars are rolled by Avelino Lara, who used to roll for Fidel Castro. True to its historic past, the Graycliff has hosted an array of notable guests: Princess Caroline of Monaco, King Constantine of Greece, Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Sir Winston Churchill and Aristotle Onassis. www.graycliff.com