



## **When the Sun Goes Down in Paradise**

Maui is known for the tanned, radiant faces that make the restaurant and club scene when the sun goes down. As proven by the glowing tans, an evening out on Maui is the perfect finale to a day at the beach, spa, tennis court or golf course. When the sun goes down the beat picks up, and the island's rhythms turn to dining, dance and music.

Going out to dinner demands tough choices. Restaurants on Maui consume more than 40 pages in the phone book, and Maui's chefs are world-renowned for their culinary creativity. What type of restaurant, which location? Seafood or sushi? Pasta or poi? Hawai'i Regional or Japanese? Caribbean or Thai? Mexican or Vietnamese? South shore or west? Central Maui or Upcountry?

West and South Maui have restaurants that range from informal seaside fish houses to swank, candle-lit dining rooms with swans gliding by in a lagoon. Oceanfront dining is a Maui signature. In Wailea, innovative cuisine showcasing freshly caught seafood is graciously served by attentive staff in an open-air dining room perfumed by sea air and flowering trees, while somewhere nearby, live violin music accompanies excellent Italian fare in a romantic al fresco oceanfront setting. In Pā'ia, on a cove where an outrigger canoe at sunset evokes thoughts of Gauguin, excellent seafood from the hooks of local fishermen comes in exotic and savory preparations.

In central Maui and Kīhei, time-honored mom-and-pop restaurants and some of the best ethnic eateries in Hawai'i offer top values for family-style dining. If upscale aloha shirt is the dress norm in Wailea, in Central Maui, it's Formica-style casual. Noodle shops, Vietnamese pho, Mexican, Chinese, and American diner fare are among the Central Maui offerings. One Maui hotspot in Kahului draws diners from all over the island for its Latin fare and live entertainment and the best li hing mui margaritas in the world, while another serves up wiener schnitzels and super-sized salads in a cozy beer garden.

Much of the movement called Hawai'i Regional Cuisine, Hawai'i's culinary sensation, originated on Maui. While some of the founding members of HRC are Maui chefs, today the leaders include a broader group of Maui's finest practitioners in the culinary arts. Hawai'i Regional Cuisine is a marriage of the culinary techniques of East and West, wok and whisk. The use of fresh island vegetables, fruit and seafood in multicultural techniques results in award-winning dishes that have attracted nationwide attention. Fish pried off the hook that day can appear on a plate with a mango beurre blanc. Freshly picked passion fruit morphs into a zesty liliko'i chiffon pie. Maui basil and tender baby sprouts elevate the simplest dishes to gourmet fare.



The lū'au, the famous traditional Hawaiian feast, reaches its pinnacle on Maui. In the old days the food, music and revelry of a lū'au lasted for weeks, until the partygoers fell in heaps. These days, the fun is crammed into one fabulous evening of hip-swinging hula, fire dances, and the exotic, sensuous rhythms of drums and gourds. Usually the setting is beachside, timed for the sunset. The food at the modern lū'au will be kālúa (roasted in an underground stone oven) pig, poi made from the pounded root of the taro plant, haupia (coconut pudding) and other traditional dishes along with familiar favorites as teriyaki chicken, potato salad, and pineapple cake. Today's lū'au reflects a multiethnic Hawai'i.

Some of Hawai'i's top musicians are from Maui. They play a medley of Hawaiian, contemporary, classical, rock, jazz, and the reggae blend called "Jawaiian," and their slack-key instrumentals are revered among the musicians of the world. In their public places and lounges, many hotels have daily music events, ranging from mellow piano to a big band or a soothing Hawaiian trio.

There are bars and night clubs in the resort areas of Lāhaina, Kā'anapali, Kahului, Wailea, Kīhei and Makawao. They range from the latest L.A. style rage to hip-hop, R&B, jazz, blues and classics. Check the local Maui News and free visitor publications, or ask the hotel concierge to see who's playing where.

The Maui Symphony Orchestra season runs through fall and spring, and the Maui Academy of Arts stages productions July through May. The Maui Community Theater knows no season; to the delight of the local community, it just keeps going. The island draws a constant parade of imported talent doing short but big gigs.

Maui's premier entertainment venue is the Maui Arts & Cultural Center (MACC) with its world-class theater facilities, galleries and studio space. Combined with its high standards and international and local performers, the MACC supports a diverse and vigorous arts and culture community.

Popular evening shows include 'Ulalena at the Maui Theatre; Warren and Annabelle's Magic Show in Lāhaina; and the "Kupanaha: Magic for All Ages" show at the Kā'anapali Beach Hotel.

Many resort hotels have evening activities that could include moonlight horseback rides, theme parties, star gazing with an astronomer, wine tasting, films or Hawaiian story telling. With Maui's ideal weather and surroundings, all things good are possible.