

Best of the Best

SPECIAL ISSUE

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MONTAGE KAPALUA BAY (*montagehotels.com*) was never meant to be a hotel, which is partly why it is such a welcome newcomer on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Set on a prime beachfront site—the

former location of the Kapalua Bay Hotel—the property was built in the late 2000s as a Ritz-Carlton-branded collection of private residences. The development's poorly timed debut, in 2009,

led to its eventual demise, but after a change of ownership and a multimillion-dollar upgrade it reopened last June as a Montage resort (joining, among others, Montage Laguna Beach in Southern California and Montage Deer Valley in Utah). The property today features 50 one- to four-bedroom suites, each with a full kitchen, a living room, and multiple ocean-view balconies. This residential-style configuration combines with the hotel's location—just above the 22,000-acre Kapalua Resort's best beach—to make Montage one of the premier family destinations in all of Hawaii. Children and adults alike will find a swimming hole to their liking at the hotel's network of pools, which cascades down to a sloping lawn that leads to the sandy cove. Montage is also home to a 5-acre spa and two restaurants, and guests enjoy access to all of the greater Kapalua development's amenities, which include a tennis center, the Kapalua Golf Academy, and the one-of-a-kind Plantation Course. (\$695–\$10,000)

—BRUCE WALLIN

