



OVERVIEW

The new Anacaona Boutique Hotel on the island of Anguilla is a small, intimate, privately-owned and privately-run oasis set in tropical gardens, overlooking (and just a few paces from) one of the island's most beautiful beaches, the mile-long, white-sand expanse of Meads Bay. It has 27 stylish guest rooms and suites and two swimming pools but the goal is affordable chic: for most of the year, room rates begin at US \$150 double. For many years, the hotel has been a popular hideaway known as La Sirena but on October 2010 it re-emerged from upgrading and titivating with a new name, new owners and an ambitious new agenda.

PHILOSOPHY

Anacaona is owned and operated by the hospitality consulting firm Ricketts & Associates, Ltd., which is run by hoteliers Robin and Sue Ricketts. They have helped create many celebrated Caribbean resorts over the past 30 years (two of them are near-neighbors right on Anguilla, Malliouhana Hotel and Cap Juluca) but this is the first property they have truly owned themselves. With Anacaona we want to go beyond the usual attractions of island resorts by making it a fun place where visitors can enjoy the relaxing pleasures of a beachy hotel but also come face-to-face with authentic local culture. In short, we plan to transform Anacaona into nothing less than the cultural entertainment center of Anguilla. We will offer special weeks for artists, photographers and birdwatchers, for visitors interested in wellness, culinary, crafts, adventure and, of course, golf. Our location in the West End of Anguilla also puts us in a prime spot for destination weddings, for brides and grooms themselves or for their wedding guests who do not want to pay 5-star premiums.

LOCATION

You'll find us at Meads Bay, one of the most beautiful beaches on an island of magnificent beaches, about 20 minutes from the airport or 10 minutes from the ferryboat terminal at Blowing Point. This is West End,

the trendy corner of the island, a low-profile neighborhood of high-end resorts, luxury villas, fine restaurants, beach bars, art galleries and the island's Greg Norman golf course. (See "Getting There," below, for suggestions on getting to Anguilla in the first place.).

ACCOMMODATIONS

We offer four Standard Rooms and 16 Superior Rooms in Allamanda House, with both garden and ocean views, and four Junior Suites in both the Main House and in the gardens. These are designed in a colorful, slightly funky Mediterranean/Caribbean style of architecture – you know, white stucco walls topped with red tile roofs, lots of arches, open spaces and West Indian balconies to make the most of the trade winds. There are also Three Villa suites in the garden. Two or Three bedrooms, perfect for families. With a full house, guests will be sharing the two pools, bar, restaurant and other facilities with no more than 60 house guests.

All the rooms and suites have bathrooms with large shower, Ceiling fans, Air conditioning, Balconies overlooking the gardens (many have ocean views of Meads Bay), Frette Linens, Ipod docking stations, Complimentary wireless Wi-Fi, Direct-dial telephones, Laptop size in room safes, Mini-refrigerator, Melita-Javapod coffee/tea makers, Cable TV with 71 channel, Hairdryers and Locally Crafted Bathroom Amenities. The suites (with spacious living and sleeping areas) also have kitchens/Kitchenettes and the Junior Suites also have Whirlpool Tubs. The rooms' décor is tasteful, cool and chic, enhanced with many island flourishes.

DINING

Firefly is the poolside restaurant. In the evening, Firefly is quite magical: candlelit tables look out on the nodding palm trees and myriad lights sparkle on the main pool as tropical tree frogs serenade the guests. The menu features a fusion of traditional Caribbean cuisine with a Eurasian slant. In our quest to create a truly island experience the menus in both the bar and restaurant will feature many Anguillian dishes, with Conch and Pumpkin Soup, Curried Goat and Seafood Stockpot sharing top billing with the de rigueur Grilled Mahi-Mahi and Black Angus Steaks -- all served with old-style piping hot Johnny Cakes.

The dining room is open for breakfast 7.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., lunch 12 noon to 3.00 pm and dinner 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm; the menu of bar snacks is available throughout the day. Dinner entrees range in price from \$18 to \$39 but we won't be offended if you settle for the bar snacks (mostly \$10 a serving), including, amongst other offerings, seven types of wings, conch fritters and calamari.

Thursday evenings we also offer live entertainment by the "Mayoumba Folkloric Theatre": A beautiful show with traditional costumes featuring the old time days of Anguilla, with our show is a very tasty Anguillian Buffett. Dinner begins at 7:00 show at 8:30. Cost per person US\$45.00+.

We're proud of our food but when guests decide to take advantage of one of our meal plans, we suggest that they leave two or three days free so that they can sample some of the other delightful restaurants on Anguilla – you see, we really do want guests to experience our island. People come to Anguilla to relax so the dress code in Firefly is casually chic.

The Firefly bar is open from 11.00 a.m. to 11 p.m. but may well stay open longer since our bartender has created an inviting collection of 'for those who are' specialty tropical drinks ("For Those Who Are Romantic" and so on – you'll have to read the list to match your mood) that keeps the conversation bubbling long after bedtime. By day, you can order any 'for those who are' drinks from your lounge on the beach.

FACILITIES

In addition to the two pools, our guests can relax on the beach (sun loungers, umbrellas, towels and snorkeling masks are available free of charge to guests) A small massage center offers a range of delicious treatments as well as pedicures, manicures and facials, these treatments are also offered on the beach or under our Garden Palapa. There is also an eclectic boutique called Petite ZaZAA which is a sister to the other popular ZaZAA Boutiques found on other parts of the island (we just happen to own those as well!).

Since we want our guests to see as much of the island as possible we will also be encouraging them to discover local sights, other shops and nightlife. In cooperation with a local guide who specializes in tailored tours, we will also arrange informal outings especially for solo travelers or small groups of bird watchers, walkers, small boat sailors, divers, history buffs, and night owls, whatever our guests require.

FUN

By developing Anacaona into an informal cultural center we plan to entertain our guests with a touch of the island's culture, helping them learn what the island's past is really about. One night it might be Mayoumba, an island folkloric group that has been entertaining islanders and visitors for more than 25 years; another night it could be dinner theater with local musicians and dancers, or a visual talk on the history of Anguillian boat with an engaging island historian. We might

bring in local artists to encourage those guests inspired by the ravishing seascapes to get out their watercolors (no need to bring easels – we keep a supply at the hotel).

The aim is to create a sense of being part of an island community. We see Anacaona as the fun place to be -- but while we promise a general air of jollity and conviviality guests will never be kept awake by blaring, over-amped speakers pumping out generic pop.

VALUE

We want to make our hotel affordable for people who probably thought they could never manage to vacation on this celebrity-studded island without winning the lottery. Summer season (that is, eight full months of the year) our rates range from US\$150 double for a Standard Room to US\$220 for a Junior Suite; in winter, the rates are still strikingly restrained compared to neighboring resorts – just US\$250 to US\$475 for two.

A 10% gratuity and 10% government accommodation tax are added to the above rates unless otherwise specified. In addition there is a US\$1.00 per person per night Government Levy/Tourism tax required. Here's an extra perk for families: Up to 2 children under the age of 12 can stay free in a Junior Suite if accompanied by 1 adult (or 2 adults!) in the same room; two children under the age of 12 can stay free in a Superior Room if accompanied by one paying adult (maximum of three people in a Superior room at any one time).

Special promotions are available at various periods of the year, designed for niche experiences which are offered for solo travelers, honeymooners, couples and families; for details, call 877/647-4736 or 264/497-6827 and ask for our Reservations Manager or look on our web site www.anacaonahotel.com

THE NAME

“Anacaona” means flower or feather of gold in the language of the Taino/Arawak Indians. Our particular Anacaona was a young lady who was a Queen of Hispaniola, very beautiful, we read, and apparently quite famous in her own right. The pronunciation, by the way, is just as it looks: an-nah-ky-yo-nah – no stresses, just like a vacation on Anguilla.

KEY FACTS

Owners: Robin and Sue Ricketts

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GETTING THERE

Anguilla is surprisingly easy to get to, with several options: via San Juan on a host of airlines, then connecting with American Eagle schedule flights four days a week, or with Anguilla Air Express/Rainbow Airways daily; via St.Maarten/St.Martin on another host of airlines, then connecting with ferry boat services, either in the French capital Marigot or, better still, a sea shuttle or private sea charter direct from the airport to Anguilla's Blowing Point:

Convenient Ferry Service from St Martin (Marigot), ferries depart approx every 45 minutes from 8.15am to 7.00pm (last ferry). The ferry from St Martin takes approximately 20 minutes and costs \$15US each way. It is only a 20 minute taxi ride (approx \$18 pp) from Princess Juliana Airport (SXM) to Marigot, ferries leave Anguilla (Blowing Point) for St Martin (Marigot on the French side) approximately every 45 minutes from 7.30am to 6.15pm.

We also offer a Sea Shuttle Service with FUNTIME Charters, which we highly recommend, they will greet you at the Airport on St Maarten and transport you to Anguilla by boat for a cost of US\$80.00 per person round trip, US\$65.00 per person one way. If you would like for us to arrange this for you we will need your full flight information upon booking. When you arrive on Anguilla you will take a taxi to Anacaona, which is fairly easy. As you exit customs in Anguilla there is a taxi stand, approach the Agent and let them know you would like to go to Anacaona Hotel and they will assign you a driver at US\$20.00 for 2 persons.

There are also two -- Airlines Anguilla Air Service and Trans Anguilla -- that fly the 7-minute flight between St. Maarten and Anguilla several times a day. When guests let us know their arrival information in advance, we can arrange to have one of our favorite taxi drivers waiting for them at the airport or the dock.

We look forward to Welcoming you at "Anacaona Boutique Hotel' and to Anguilla!