

Fall/Winter 2009



**The Connecticut Bride**  
theconnecticutbride.com

your  
**dream**  
come true

Gorgeous **Gowns**  
Planning your **Menu**  
Real Connecticut **Weddings**  
5 Island **Honeymoons**  
Color your **World**

FALL/WINTER 2009 \$4.95  
DISPLAY UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2009

0 74470 04504 5 0 2 >



At the center of the Gansevoort is this 7,000-square-foot infinity-edge pool, with floating islands perfect for sunning by day, basking in the glow of tiny twinkling lights by night.

## something new ... Turks & Caicos

HONEYMOONERS ARE DRAWN to the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean for a thousand good reasons, among them breathtaking beaches, excellent weather, first-rate resorts—and relative proximity, as tropical paradises go.

Now there are a thousand and one reasons to go: There's a new hotel in town.

Fresh and hip, the Gansevoort Turks & Caicos is luxury personified—albeit in an unstuffy, no-need-to-dress-for-dinner kinda way. Located in Providenciales or “Provo,” on the peaceful west end of Grace Bay, the hotel is a mere three-and-a-half hours from JFK (American Airlines flies a daily nonstop from there).

Once you arrive, the transition from a head filled with wedding details to pure, unadulterated bliss begins in the open-air lobby, with your first sip of a cool, complimentary rum punch. Take a deep breath, look out over the hotel's signature pool (more on that later) and white stucco buildings, through rows of palm trees to the

sea, just steps away. Sign in. Check out.

Where are we, exactly? The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) is some 600 miles from Miami, southeast of the Bahamas. Made up of more than 40 islands and cays (pronounced keys), TCI has something of a storied past. It was on Grand Turk's pristine beaches in 1492 that Columbus made landfall on his very first voyage in search of the Far East—and where astronaut John Glenn set foot on land after splashing down after his first space flight. Through the centuries, the islands have served as a hideout for marauding pirates, the site of a thriving salt industry and home to profitable cotton plantations. Today, TCI is a hot honeymoon destination; its smaller, private islands are frequented by the rich and famous, including Bruce Willis, Christie Brinkley and Donna Karan.

But enough with the name-dropping (and history lesson) . . .

Why honeymoon at the Gansevoort, just opened this past April? Go there for all



Rooms at the Gansevoort are furnished in sleek, ultra-modern—even urban—style, so the stunning view surprises and delights.

the things it is not: It is *not* a sprawling resort with dozens of pools, hundreds of rooms and a tiki bar. It is small (91 rooms) and sophisticated (all are furnished in high-end, contemporary style). It's pretty, and everything is brand-new—just like your marriage.

Small is a good thing here. There is a calm and quiet sensibility to the place. Rooms are private, and common areas are pleasingly populated, not jarringly loud. Note: If you and your beloved do choose to come out of your room (which we recommend), you *will* run into the same people again and again, as there is only one restaurant, one pool, one spa. It's worth it, as we loved all three.

Offering a mix of Mediterranean-style entrées, with a focus on fresh fruits and vegetables, the hotel's restaurant and dining lounge are overseen by the same folks who run New York City's dynamic Bagatelle eatery. We dined there more than a few times, and were never bored by the menu. The seafood was superb, the staff attentive and pleasant. (To be honest, there was room for improvement in the kitchen; at times it wasn't entirely clear who was our server; water glasses were inconsistently offered and replenished; and dishes were sometimes brought to the wrong table. In fairness, keep in mind that our visit took place only a few short weeks after the hotel's opening, so we're assuming they've worked out the glitches by now.)

The pool . . . well, there is nothing to fix there. Lined with intricate blue mosaic tile,

the 7,000-square-foot infinity-edge pool is at the center of the resort. Stunning from above, lounging islands seem to float on the surface of the water; they're used for sunning by day. And after sunset, they're the perfect place for basking in the glow of tiny twinkling lights—and being newly wed, of course.

Need some "me" time? Visit the "Exhale" spa. We'll attest to the intrinsic worth of lying still for the 60-minute "fusion massage," a combination deep-tissue/Swedish/aromatherapy experience. Need even more pampering? Schedule a pedicure or a facial, and/or stroll out to the open-air yoga pavilion and stretch.

Away from the hotel, there is much to do on Providenciales. Choose from a couple's private picnic lunch on a nearby island, go fishing, sailing, parasailing . . . visit the nearby casino. But know that whenever you return to your room, your water view (through floor-to-ceiling windows and doors) will provide a never-ending backdrop for relaxation.

Oh, and then there's the beach. The *beach*. Cozy up on a couple's wicker chaise, order the best mojito you'll ever drink, and enjoy the velvety sand and deep turquoise waters of Grace Bay, named one of *Condé Nast Traveler's* "best beaches" . . . by the way.

—Maria LaPiana

*For more information on the Turks and Caicos Islands, visit [turksandcaicostourism.com](http://turksandcaicostourism.com). For the Gansevoort Turks & Caicos, visit [gansevoortturksandcaicos.com](http://gansevoortturksandcaicos.com).* ☞