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Curtain Call

For many guests, Curtain Bluff Resort on Antigua is a home away from home.



The Curtain Bluff Resort on the island of Antigua in the West Indies is a showcase for the sandy beaches and pristine ocean that one would expect from a luxury destination in the Caribbean.

Go ahead and pack your swimsuit, but don't forget your tennis racquet either.

This all-inclusive resort hosts two annual tennis weeks, one in May and the second in November. In the past, tennis legends Fred Stolle, Kathy Rinaldi, Dick Stockton, Owen Davidson, and Ross Case have joined Curtain Bluff head tennis pro Rennie George and his staff in the weeklong festivities set on a private peninsula overlooking the Caribbean on Antigua's south shore.

Activities typically include a pro-am tournament, exhibitions and lessons; stroke and strategy clinics with the pros; free court time (with racquets and balls included) day or night on four lighted championship courts; a gala banquet, plus all meals and bar drinks; nightly entertainment; and sightseeing tours to the rainforest and historic sites such as English Harbour, Nelson's Dockyard, Shirley Heights, and restored forts dating back to the 1700s.

Off-court options include swimming, scuba diving, sailing, kayaking, deep sea fishing, reef snorkeling, windsurfing, water skiing, basketball, putting, squash, bocce, croquet, shuffleboard, yoga, Pilates, a glass-walled and air-conditioned fitness center, and complimentary internet access. For an added fee, guests can enjoy the 5,000-square-foot, two-story seaside spa offering massages, facials, manicures, and other treatments or simply relax in the Jacuzzi with views of Montserrat. Special golf rates are available at the nearby Jolly Harbour Resort.

Founded by the late Howard Hulford around 1960, Curtain Bluff rests on a rocky bluff between two stunning beaches with 72 rooms and suites overlooking the bluff or the Atlantic. Its intimacy and charm, famously friendly staff, and all-around value draw loyal visitors back year after year.

In fact, many guests consider Curtain Bluff as their home away from home, greeting staff members by their first names, sitting at their "usual" places, enjoying in-room refrigerators stocked with their favorite beverages, and picking up tennis lessons where they left off on their previous visit. The weekly manager's cocktail party is hosted in the Hulford's private villa, which



is still occupied by Howard's wife, Chelle.

The resort has become a popular destination for conventions, weddings and family gatherings. Children are welcome year-round, although they must be at least 8 years old to visit during the month of February. There is a shaded sandbox, full jungle gym, air-conditioned game rooms, and organized kids activities during special times of the year. For an added fee, babysitters are available so parents can enjoy dinner and dancing to a different band each night.

The staff has an exceptionally low turnover rate, providing consistent quality in the fine dining options as well as the impeccable service. French-born Christophe Blatz, who has been executive chef for seven years and sous chef for the previous seven years, trained under Alain Ducasse and cooked in the renowned Les Ambassadeurs restaurant in the Hotel de Crillon Paris. At Curtain Bluff, he fuses French continental cuisine with Caribbean flavors and ingredients. For guests who want to take his cooking home with them, Blatz teaches cooking classes that include lunch and specially selected wine from the resort's 25,000-wine bottle cellar.

Curtain Bluff has earned the reputation for being as good a neighbor as a host. The environmentally friendly resort is a longtime supporter of the Old Road village in which many of its employees live. Established in 1972, the nonprofit Old Road Fund has expanded from supplying basic necessities to distributing more than \$1 million in scholarships, school technology and sports equipment, travel expenses for children to attend summer camps in the U.S. or work as camp counselors, and medical and emergency relief.

It's a place you can't help feeling good about. ☺

For more information, call 1-888-289-9898; e-mail curtainbluff@curtainbluff.com; or visit www.curtainbluff.com.