



Royal Estate

ROYAL ESTATE at the St. Regis Bora Bora Resort

THE RESORT * Designed to resemble an opulent Polynesian village, the St. Regis Bora Bora Resort consists of 100 over-water and beachfront villas surrounded by a turquoise-blue lagoon. Bora Bora's main island is just 15 minutes away by boat, but most guests are happy staying put at this multi-island resort, where staff members use the local greeting *iaorana*, arrange activities such as snorkeling in the lagoon, and schedule treatments at the 13,000-square-foot spa, which sits on its own island.

THE VILLA * The palatial 13,000-square-foot Royal Estate occupies yet another island, located five minutes by foot via a wooden walkway and bridge from the St. Regis' main restaurants and attractions. Polynesian artwork adorns the estate's three pavilions, which encircle a swimming pool and include three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a full kitchen, and a private spa area (complete with a hot tub and hammam). Dedicated butlers and housekeepers are on call

around the clock, and personal chefs and additional staff are available on request.

THE HIGHLIGHT * Dinner by candlelight on Royal Estate's private beach, followed by a Polynesian Tamure dance and fire show.

THE PRICE * \$15,000 per night for as many as 10 guests. +689.607.898, www.stregis.com

—TERENA THYNE EISNER



The Homestead

THE HOMESTEAD at &Beyond Phinda Private Game Reserve

THE RESORT * The six guest lodges at the &Beyond Phinda Private Game Reserve in South Africa range from a glass-walled house built on stilts to suites perched on the side of a rocky cliff to thatched-roofed bush cottages. Regardless of their chosen quarters, Phinda guests enjoy exclusive access to the 56,800-acre reserve, which sits near the Indian Ocean in northern KwaZulu-Natal and features seven distinct habitats. All of the Big Five game—as well as cheetahs, white rhinos, crocodiles, monitor lizards, and nyalas—are regularly sighted at Phinda during the camp's twice-daily game drives and canoe trips down the Mzinene River.

THE VILLA * The Homestead is an 8,600-square-foot, four-bedroom estate serviced by a private butler and chef. Spacious, light-filled bedrooms surround a central indoor/outdoor living space with dining and relaxation areas, an open kitchen, an infinity-edge swimming pool, and a small gym. Interiors forgo colonial references in favor of contemporary furnishings and driftwood sculptures. Windows and doors slide away to reveal mosquito-proof screen panels, and beds face the bush so you need not rise before the game-viewing begins.

THE HIGHLIGHT * A private ranger and safari vehicle are available around the clock, allowing you to eschew the pack-it-all-in mentality of some safaris and instead pursue a more personal—and productive—game-viewing experience.

THE PRICE * From about \$4,600 per night, all-inclusive, for as many as eight guests. +27.11.809.4300, www.andbeyond.com

—JANE BROUGHTON