

Dining Around

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Luau at Kona Kai is an experience to remember

This summer, go all-out and add a Pacific Island feast to your memory book because the Authentic Hawaiian Luau Extravaganza they are offering at the beautiful Kona Kai Resort on Shelter Island is truly one to savor.

First of all, the luau is actually held on the small crescent beach that is part of the waterfront property at the resort. Secondly, it has everything you expect a luau to be including a welcome lei greeting when you first arrive, complete with a mai tai or a Hawaiian punch cocktail. Once you relax and take in the tropical ambiance, you'll hear the conch shell horn to announce the traditional Imu pig presentation. Take it all in as the sun starts to set on the Pacific, maybe get another mai tai. Then at 7 p.m. the buffet starts and what a feast you'll enjoy.

Resort Executive Chef Jose Martinez goes all-out with a spread that includes Maui green salad (with roasted grapes, Maui onions, toasted walnuts, and papaya served with champagne vinaigrette); and other salads such as the crispy Kona fried calamari salad with spicy sprouts, the "Lomi Lomi" salmon salad, a Hawaiian macaroni salad, a grilled vegetables platter, and a tropical fresh fruit display. Among hot entrees will be the "Kailua Imu Pig"; grilled chicken breast with wasabi beurre blanc; baked mahi mahi with pineapple Triple Sec sauce, and beef teriyaki with bamboo shoots, shitaki mushrooms, and onions. Side dishes include the jasmine rice, stir-fry vegetables, and Hawaiian bread and butter. For dessert, leave room for coconut crème brulee, pineapple upside down cake, or mango cheesecake and Kona coffee or tea for dessert.

Your palate will be treated well, but this is also a feast for the eyes and ears as the Polynesian show will get underway. This is a top-notch show featuring the Motu Nehenehe Polynesian Dancers – a large group that will dazzle you with their many exotic performances.

The remaining dates for the Friday luaus are tomorrow (July 16) and then weekly through August (7/23, 7/30, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27) and the final extravaganza is Friday, September 3.

You are advised to wear appropriate shoes for the sand. Pricing for this special event is \$42 for adults; children 5-12 \$19.95; under 5, free. Seating is limited, so reserve a date now. Call (800) 566-2524 or (619) 221-8000.