

## FEATURED ARTICLE

### The Abaco Club on Winding Bay

*Where ladies and gentlemen anticipate and serve the needs of ladies and gentlemen.*

BY MARK PAZDUR, PUBLISHER



ABACO ISLAND, BAHAMAS: The Abaco Club on Winding Bay—a private, luxury-members’ club in Abaco, Bahamas—is only 170 miles from West Palm Beach, Florida. Or, to put it in more practical terms, about an hour’s flight from West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and Miami.

An affiliate of The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company recently purchased the club from developer Peter de Savary. “Our Club,” said Vice President David Short, “is a 534-acre retreat offering estate home lots, cottages, fractional interests, and golf memberships, all of which provide Members and Guests with a calming respite to escape from the modern world.”

Diversions are plentiful, including the world’s first Scottish-style links golf course in the tropics (designed by Donald Steel and Tom Mackenzie), clubhouse, dining, spa, tennis courts, and fitness and equestrian centers. Snorkeling, diving, deep-sea fishing and flats fly-fishing are also part of the Club’s available activities.



DAVID SHORT

“We provide almost unlimited opportunities for parents and their children to relax together and play together,” said Short. “A favorite activity is bone fishing in the Abaco Marles. You catch the fish, let your children take a photo, and release the fish back into the crystal clear water.

“If the kids are a little older, they’ll love riding horseback on the beach, scuba diving and snorkeling around one of the largest barrier reefs in the world.”

I suggested to Dave Short and Golf Director Justin Norvell that most of our readers would be enticed by the golf course, the beach, and real estate—in that order. “What,” I asked Norvell, “do you mean by claiming the Abaco course to be an authentic links course?”

“You make a good point,” said Norvell. “In my mind, an authentic links course is built on land beside the sea, shaped by the wind, and designed to be firm and fast running. Our course fits those requirements perfectly.

“The 3rd, 5th, 7th, 8th, and 9th holes are dominated by sand dunes. The 15th tee is our highest point and provides a spectacular view from three sides,” said Norvell. “To your left are the Marles for superb bone fishing; to your right is an awesome lime quarry; and behind you is Winding Bay with two miles of unobstructed sandy beach.”



Abaco is one of the best beaches you will ever experience. At low tide, you can walk out almost a quarter mile and not be more than waist high in clear aqua-blue water. And, for a great workout, kayak to Sugar Key Cay (about a half mile offshore).



**AMENITIES, RITZ-CARLTON STYLE**  
With The Ritz-Carlton's entry into this secluded residential development as both operator and a financial partner, the property's growth and service evolution have been carefully planned to raise The Club experience to the next level of island luxury, and yet protect its unique character. With this transition, both signature Ritz-Carlton touches and expanded real estate development will be realized.

My personally favorite amenity is the Fitness Center. It's fully equipped with free weights, machines and flat screens—everything you want and need for a complete workout. An added bonus, while you're huffing and puffing on the treadmill, is a captivating view of the white beach and the blue ocean.

Justin Norvell suggested I try one of the Club's most popular drinks after a good workout in the Fitness Center or after a challenging round of golf. "Its recipe is simple," said Norvell. "We chop coconuts in half with a machete and pour in some gin and milk. It's become one of our signature drinks called gully wash."

I tried it and loved it.

### AN INSTANT LOVE AFFAIR

"You'll have an instant love affair with our private enclave," promised Managing Director Scott Bragg. "Our ocean-front villas are brand new with outdoor showers, full kitchens, daily maid service, a beachfront restaurant, and wireless high-speed Wi-Fi. Our West Indian-styled clubhouse, perched high atop a ridge, overlooks the beach and the 18th green. The Club's spa and Fitness Center adjoin the clubhouse," said Bragg.

"If you have been to Atlantis Resort or Nassau, you may have been turned off by the crowds and touristy culture. We are different. Abaco is an 'out island' where you can 'turn off the key' and relax. I've often thought our club would be a perfect location to shoot one of those Corona beer commercials."



## A FLEXIBLE FRACTIONAL PROGRAM

“The Ritz-Carlton Club, Abaco now offers its members deeded fractional ownership of elegantly furnished Club residences,” explained Senior Director of Sales Larry Coats. “We offer three levels of membership; Select, Preferred, and Premium. Each membership level awards you to so many points per year as you wish to use. You then exchange your points for nights in the size of a villa you want. For example, our Preferred Membership gives you 1,000 points per year. That’s enough for a 10-day summer vacation with your family in a two-bedroom villa; or a five-day trip with three other couples in a four-bedroom villa; or a four-day long weekend, in season, with just you and your spouse in a cottage. After you exercise all of those options, you would still have enough points to reward two of your employees or partners with a week-long vacation. In my opinion,” said Coats, “our ultimate flexibility provides you with unprecedented value.”

“And,” added Short, “you may wish to exchange your points for a trip to one of our other Ritz-Carlton Clubs in Aspen, Maui, Lake Tahoe, or Jupiter, Florida, to name a few. You can tailor your points to fit the size and season that fits your lifestyle.”

*For more information, please phone (800) 221-5780 or visit [theabacoclub.com](http://theabacoclub.com).*

