

homegrown hideways

So now it's just the two of you—and it's time to get completely absorbed in honeymooning. Our suggestion? An intimate getaway built for privacy, pampering, and pleasing your new spouse. Bonus: No need to take a long-haul flight.

abacá boutique resort

WHATEVER YOU WANT, whenever you want, wherever you want. This is the kind of service that the five-month-old Abacá Boutique Resort promises guests. To keep the promise, the resort offers a personalized butler service. The pampering begins upon arrival at the airport where your butler offers you cold towels and drinking water to shake off the travel fuzz. Upon arrival at the resort, you are ushered directly to your oceanfront suite or private villa for your in-room check-in. And then the honeymoon begins. Just dial 163 for French-press coffee and cookies, an aromatic bamboo body polish later in the afternoon, car service into the city or a boat ride for snorkeling by one of the nearby islands, a DVD of *Out of Africa*, breakfast in bed, a jet-skiing or diving excursion, a sunset picnic and champagne in one of the poolside cabanas, and whatever else your newlywed hearts desire.

The infinity pool at Abacá resort spills over into a scenic view. Lining the area are private cabanas where afternoon tea or a sunset massage can be arranged.



The resort is named for abaca material—the plant fiber extracted from abaca leaves that morphs into specialty paper, handwoven fabric, fans, and more—so there’s an organic, natural vibe wherever you laze or lounge. You’ll want to walk barefoot in the rooms and run your hand over the furnishings. Wood in all shades and textures shows up everywhere—as twigs in a lamp stand, as handles in the bathroom doors, as low benches, and decorative sculptures. Design aficionados will delight in the Kenneth Cobonpue chairs, tables by local artisans, and antique showpieces that include a hanging banca sandwiched between the walls of two ground-floor suites. Another mark of design savvy: All three villas come with an iMac and an iPod docking station. And throughout the property, there is complimentary wireless access.

Abacá is also a place to indulge the foodie in you. Before the suites and villas welcomed relaxation-seeking souls, the Abacá compound was home to the Abacá Restaurant for two years. Running the show is chef and owner Jason Hyatt. Serving California Mediterranean style beachfront cuisine, the menu is all about gathering top-quality ingredients and allowing flavors—think tomatoes and arugula, Italian cold cuts, fresh pastas, artisan cheeses, prime steaks—to shine. The ingredients are organic whenever possible and imported to guarantee the best quality. A wood-fired brick oven churns out flatbread pizzas topped with wild mushrooms (with roasted onions, smoked bacon, and Brie cheese), prosciutto di parma (with arugula and Parmesan), goat cheese (with grilled vegetables and basil), and more. The menu changes daily, adjusting to the availability of ingredients. All dishes are served in huge portions—just perfect for two.



Clockwise from bottom left Two of the villas come with a little outdoor dipping pool. At night, Abacá Restaurant transforms into a romantic space with the glow of candles everywhere. A tub for two makes the villa bathroom honeymoon-perfect. Wake up to breakfast in bed.

HONEYMOON HOTEL FILE

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 Getting there: From Manila, fly to Cebu City. From the airport, it is about a 30-minute drive to the resort.