

INDULGE

TRAVEL

FLORIDA'S MOST

Luxurious

STAY-CATIONS!

Plus

The Coral Gables beachwear boutique that caters to stars

&

In the kitchen with Katsuya Chef Dustin Atoigue

The Miami Herald 

the / **zimmerman** / agency

(continued)

*If you're a foodie
with a thing for
private islands...*



Little Palm Island, Little Torch Key

Those seeking an escape amid a bit of flip-flop elegance have long chosen Little Palm Island as the ultimate place to unwind in the Florida Keys. But what most veteran travelers may not know is that the exclusive property—accessible only by boat or sea plane—boasts not only romantic vistas with its 15 thatched-roof bungalows, but a true foodie experience up-close and personal. Guests are invited to dine inside the restaurant's kitchen, where a personalized chef's table is set with linen and crystal. There, in the intimate and friendly setting, the resort's culinary stars whirl glistening sauces, filet

colorful, local seafood and showcase not only yummy ingredients but world-class culinary technique right before their eyes. You have questions about the marinade, those chocolates, that wine? Ask away, says star chef Alex Rosado, a Puerto Rico native, who notes that while all meals are different, everyone leaves the same way—as a friend.

"We dim the lights in the kitchen and the atmosphere is relaxed and nice," Rosado offers with a Caribbean cool familiarity. "Our guests engage with me, with the other cooks. We talk about food, we talk about life." Your

wish—through as many as seven courses, no less—is Rosado's challenge and pleasure, he says, encouraging the curious to step inside and learn. "I give them all my secrets, all my techniques. I explain to them everything and anything. I have taught endless numbers of chef's table guests how to make anything from a sauce to a whole roasted pig."

If learning from the culinary all-stars right in the kitchen isn't enough, those who want the food experience but seek unabashed romance are offered a loving treat—dinner a deux at the ocean's edge as sea breezes waft, palm trees sway and candles define an easy mood. If you've ever dreamed of a meal seaside, under the sweet gaze of the moon, Little Palm Island can make this intimate fantasy happen. "Dinner on the beach is absolutely incredible," delights Rosado. "You enjoy dinner and less than a foot away is the water. It's beautiful." ♦

Little Palm Island, 28500 Overseas Highway, Little Torch Key, FL; 305-515-4004; littlepalmisland.com.



With private seaside dining at dusk, rooms drenched in island romance and private beaches, Little Palm Island is an escape like few others.



