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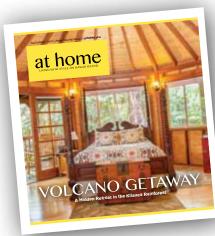
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©2018 At Home is distributed the first Sunday of each month in West Hawaii Today and Hawaii Tribune-Herald

Published on Sunday, October 7, 2018



On the Cover: The octagonal hale at Volcano Village Lodge is crafted of natural redwood and white cedar obtained from sustainable second-growth forests. The interiors are outfitted with fine furnishings and local antiques.







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orn and raised in Volcano Village, innkeeper Pua Norris loves sharing her knowledge and passion about her hometown with guests at Volcano Village Lodge.

"It was amazing to grow up in Volcano," says Pua.
"My siblings and I would always hike and explore.
You become creative and use your imagination
here. Volcano gives you endless possibilities. I feel
blessed to be here."

Tucked away in the fern-shrouded rainforest not far from Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, the secluded retreat features five cottages tastefully outfitted with fine furnishings, French doors and fireplaces. Pua notes that each of the boutique cottages has its own vibe, whether the Mauna Kea cottage, which has a writer's feel to it, or the Haleakala cottage, a romantic-style getaway for honeymooners.

"Every cottage has a fireplace," she says. "It's so

peaceful here. The energy is amazing. The rain at night is soothing."

The lodge's main lobby was originally a residence. The previous owner had converted the property into an artists' retreat, adding two more rooms and creating the initial template for an inn. A world traveler and entertainment industry professional, current owner Edward Staak purchased the property in 2011 after learning about it when he was traveling in South America.

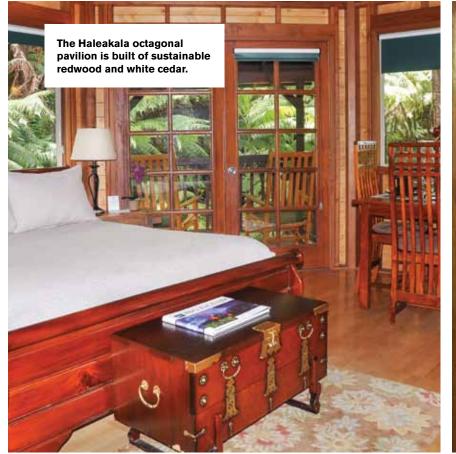
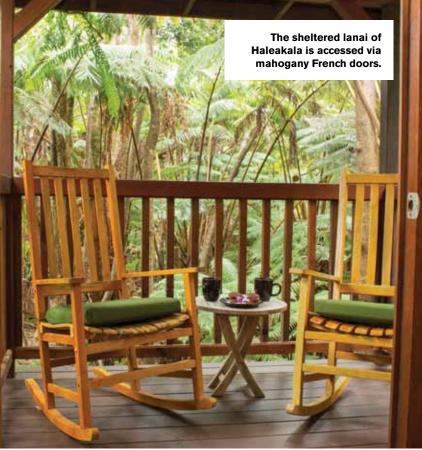
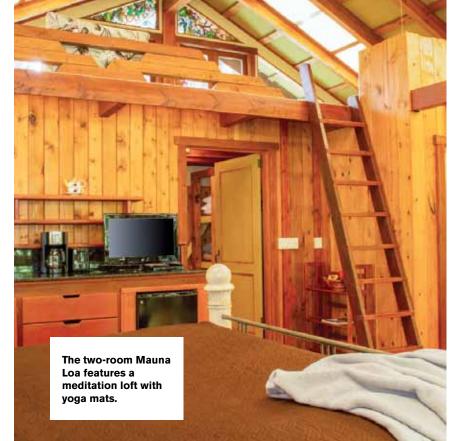
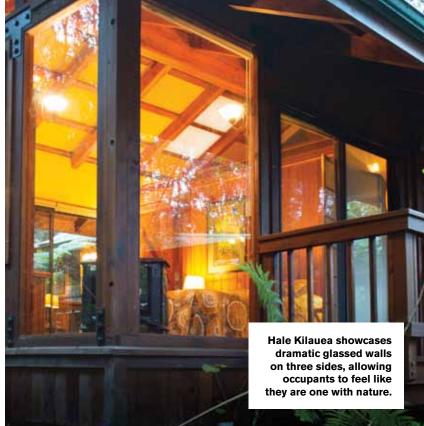


PHOTO: KAREN ANDERSON









"I was sitting in a café in Guatemala and struck up a conversation with a girl at the table next to us," recalls Ed. "She told us about this place for sale in Hawai'i that I should go check out. When she showed me the pictures, I knew that I had to see it. I flew over, stayed there, and fell in love with the place. I feel it's an honor to be the steward of such a wonderful property that can make a positive impact on people's lives. I think the most impressive part of the rooms are the little details that guests tell us they appreciate after their stays. All the credit goes to our wonderful staff. They are the ones who make the experience for our guests special."

After acquiring the property, Ed added two octagonal hales that blend seamlessly with the rustic surroundings. Accessed via a meandering path and perched above the rainforest canopy, the Mauna Kea hale is crafted of natural redwood and white cedar sourced from sustainable, second-growth forests. Likewise, the Haleakala suite, which also totals 400 square feet, features openbeam ceilings, mahogany French doors and plenty of natural light and inspiration.

Accommodating families of four, the two-bedroom Asian-inspired Mauna Loa suite showcases floor-to-ceiling glass doors and windows that unveil views of the lush, primordial foliage of the Kilauea rainforest. The doors and windows were handcrafted with "furniture quality" details by a local artisan. The meditation loft upstairs is outfitted with yoga mats and a prayer table. There's even a rain-fed koi pond next to the wraparound decks that brings a sense of serenity to the surroundings.

All of the amenities—including rocking chairs on the lanais, plush bedding, linens and robes, and locally sourced antiques with island history—add to the allure of the setting.

"Everything we do here is to enhance the romantic ambiance," says Ed. "We work very hard to provide an upscale, memorable experience in the rainforest. The whole idea is to escape reality and become part of the natural environment."

For Pua, the opportunity to become the head innkeeper of Volcano Village Lodge came about

after she returned home this year from living in San Diego, where she served in the U.S. Navy. She has many family members who live and works in Volcano Village, including her parents, Kathy and Ola Tripp, who own Lava Rock Café, Kilauea Kreations and Kilauea General Store. Her sister, Julene, works as restaurant manager at Lava Rock Café, while her Aunty Leann sews handmade creations for Kilauea Kreations, the quilt store next to Lava Rock Café.

"There's so much to see and do here in Volcano Village, even when the park was closed for so long," says Pua, who helped co-found the recently launched Experience Volcano visitor awareness campaign. "Volcano Village is a magical honeymoon destination. It's also a great getaway for residents, as well as a convenient home base for visitors who want to explore Hilo and other nearby attractions."





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ave Décor, Will Travel." That's the idea behind the Pineapple Pop-Up, a mobile art and décor service by Jennie Wilson of Hala Kahiki Island Design on the Kohala Coast.

Housed in a renovated vintage Argosy trailer, the impressive inventory is featured at private trunk shows or transported directly to the homeowner for viewing. With a background in Art History

as well as having worked for an auction house in Boston, Jennie came up with the concept for a mobile pop-up after determining that the Big Island is just that: Big!

"Sometimes we here on the Big Island drive an hour to shop," said Jennie, a resident of Kohala Ranch. "I wanted to bring the offerings closer to homeowners and also provide private shopping where one can see the actual artwork inside their homes." Jennie renovated her Argosy trailer specifically for the Pop-Up, maximizing the interior storage by adding nooks and hidden cabinets. Hardware for the canvas window coverings came from Big Island Marine. Cushiony cork flooring sets the stage for beautiful displays.

Jennie's vintage Wagoneer pulls the trailer to various locales. Lately, she has been hosting showings at Kohala Ranch.

The Pop-Up provides a hands-on, convenient way for people to personalize their island home with inspired art and furnishings. Jennie says she sources from artisans and brands that empower women, and buys only from those who promote the fair treatment of workers.

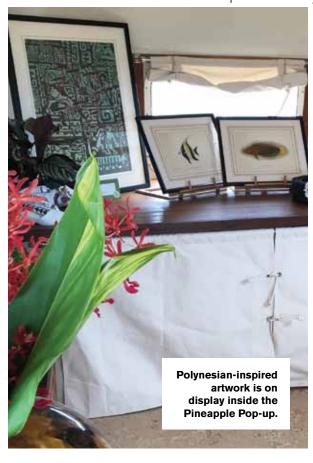
"My husband and I are avid travelers when we are not on the island," she says. "One of our favorite places is French Polynesia. It's where I find original artwork and handcrafted pieces. In my travels, I look for the highest quality of arts that have an island aesthetic and pair with the beautiful homes that are being built on-island."

Specializing in artwork, Jennie is currently curating both contemporary and vintage

pieces. She says the most frequent comment she hears from people about the Pop-Up is: "That's so cool!" or "What a great idea!"

"So many people have vacation homes, but when they are on island they want to spend time in their homes, not driving great distances to shop. Pop-ups create a surprise, plus the merchandise is constantly changing. There is an element of casualness too, and I love to tell stories about the pieces I find. Whether they were made by hand in Africa or Australia, I love to tell a little bit about the artist and their personal stories."

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Ghostwriting on Halloween



The hour is fast approaching when I get to dress up like a bag lady, frighten little children and walk around the block disturbing all my neighbors. In other words, it's just another day at my place.

I never know what to wear for Halloween. A clown offered to lend me his outfit. What a nice jester. My Salvador Dali costume is the surreal deal but my piñata costume is always a big hit. I was thinking about going as a dead person but the competition will be stiff. I tried making a cannibal costume, but it cost me an arm and a leg.

Question: Does anyone know what Mozart and Beethoven are doing right now? Answer: Decomposing.

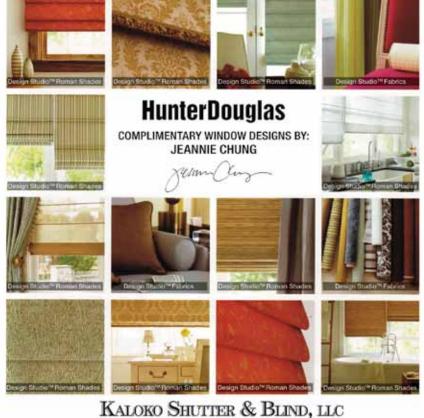
Every year I pretend to be the same thing for Halloween: Not home. One time I opened my door to three kids dressed as the

scariest things I could possibly imagine: IRS agents. I finally saw a shrink about my phobias and he told me I should just get over it. I was a Freud of that.

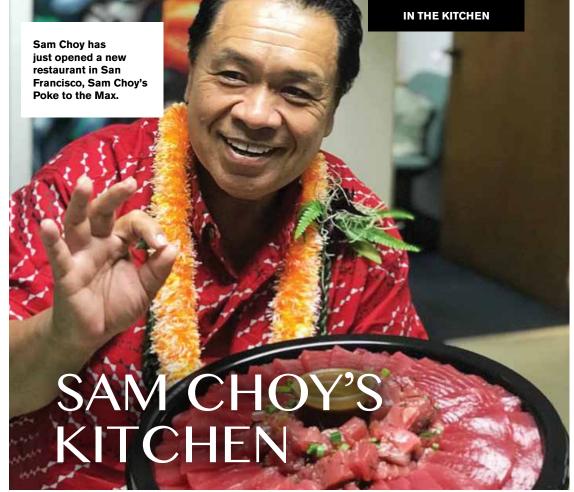
I'll admit I still have some baggage from childhood — my Winnie-the-Pooh duffle bag and Peanuts lunch box, for example. Not to brag, but I can still fit into my insecurities from high school. I think I might have bad posture, but that's just a hunch.

Karen Anderson is the managing editor of "At Home" magazine and the author of "The Hawaii Home Book, Practical Tips For Tropical Living." She can be reached at kanderson@westhawaiitoday.com





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hen celebrity chef Sam

Chov had his kitchen

Palisades home, the

decided he needed not one, but six ovens. It's

par for the course for Sam Choy, whose larger-

"Our house is a typical Hawaiian home where

than-life career, just like his kitchen, keeps

the kitchen is the main gathering place,"

says Sam. "The kitchen is custom designed

by Viking equipment with a lot of bells and

the wall. It's like three fridges in one. The

stove has eight burners plus a wok burner

got enough fire power to put out some

major food."

and a grill on the line for cooking steaks. It's

Even though Sam spends many months out of

whistles. I have a huge fridge the size of half

getting bigger as time goes by.

remodeled in his Kona

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the year traveling, the longtime Kona resident requests to represent a wire-bound, so away from Kona. Sam loves to cook for his family and his four dogs, too. When he's on the road, his wife Carol holds down the fort at the house, which was built in 1984.

The hottest cooking show in Hawai'i, *Sam Choy's In the Kitchen* features Sam visiting families in their homes to show them how to fix tasty meals with ingredients found in their kitchens. The show airs on Sundays on KHON2 TV and can be seen on YouTube. Additionally, Sam has just opened a new restaurant in San Francisco: Sam Choy's Poke to the Max. The recently unveiled Pure 9 by Sam Choy is attracting patrons to Aloha Tower Marketplace in Honolulu.

This summer, Sam re-released his iconic first cookbook, "With Sam Choy, Hawai'i's Easy Cooking From the Heart." Sam says he received so many

requests to reprint the 1995 book that he decided a wire-bound, softcover version would be great for the second edition.

Sam's secret ingredient to success is aloha: "Caring for people for real is what it's about. When you say aloha, you mean it."

RECIPE

Hibachi Miso Chicken with Peanut Butter

Sam Choy's Kona kitchen includes a giant fridge and six

5 lbs. Boneless skinless chicken thighs

Marinade:

cup Miso

up Smooth peanut butter

1/2 cup Soy sauce

½ cup Su

½ cup Beer

2 Tbsp. Minced fresh ginger

Tbsp. Minced garlic

Combine marinade ingredients and marinate chicken overnight in the fridge. Grill on the BBQ and serve.

STORY BY KAREN ANDERSON

