

**NUDE
BATH
IN SOUP?** P.16

BEACHFRONT RESORTS
\$200 or less in the Caribbean P.61

Overwater
Collectors
Edition

Islands

We Rate Tahiti's Best Bungalows

{ Warning: you will be wowed }
P.22

PLUS
**OVERWATER
SURPRISES
CLOSE TO HOME**

P.34

DISPLAY UNTIL 7/30/13



JULY 2013

U.S. \$4.99



FIRST IMPRESSION

Bungalow life became real in this very spot. Not from the air or from a distance. No, reality hit when my butt landed in a chair on my bungalow's deck at Vahine Island. Fish swam under me. Silence engulfed me. Was I floating? — JW





... AND MY #1

By the time I reached this dot of an island off the larger dot of Tahaa, bungalows had become a blur of thatch and porch ladders. My stay on Vahine would make 11 bungalows in 12 days (a fact dug up from my notes a week later). As soon as the boat landed and I stepped onto Vahine, though, I knew this place, good or bad, would stand out. I didn't hear a conch shell. Didn't see a golf cart or a buffet. And over the lagoon were just three lonely bungalows. From the States, Tahiti seems 50 light years away (though the eight-hour flight from Los Angeles isn't as long as you might have thought). Vahine seems another 50 light years away from all of Tahiti. It's where the blur stopped, and everything stood still for me. — JW

