

Margaritaville cruises to Grand Turk

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ARCHITECT KIVEN Bryan wanted to achieve a structure that was harmonious with the existing vernacular of the Turks & Caicos Islands which is significantly derived from historical connections with Bermuda.

As such, on Grand Turk, the capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands, many of the older buildings feature heavy masonry work with gabled ends, somewhat reminiscent of Dutch colonial architecture.

With this in mind, Bryan made sure that the newest Jimmy Buffet Margaritaville Grand Turk not only drew on this heritage, but was also infused with other significant design elements typical of what has become associated with Margaritaville. These include the use of timber and thatch work in the public areas, as well as the use of a vibrant typically Caribbean colour palette.

Last Friday, a plane filled with Jamaican journalists departed the Sangster International Airport for the flourishing Turks and Caicos Islands to witness the historic opening ceremony of the Caribbean's premier entertainment complex seated in the middle of the US\$55 million Carnival Cruise Centre, which has totally transformed the arid island into a cruise ship passenger's delight.

THE CONCEPT

The concept reflected by Margaritaville Grand Turk is similar to the kind of lyrics that Jimmy Buffet sings.

"By far Grand Turk is the most beautiful property in the Jimmy Buffet family," said Kathryn May, of ArtSmith Interiors.

May and her partner Tamara McConnell used the colours mango, avocado green, buttery yellow and slate blue as the signature attraction at the new cruise destination.

On entering the property, an 80

feet tall parrot standing on a cooler box signals that you have arrived at a place filled with fun.

CARIBBEAN FEEL

Custom concrete tiles line the walkway into the main dining and entertainment area. A hardwood deck walkway leads to a massive thatched bar, the heartbeat of the property, while a gable adds a Caribbean feel to thatched roof.

Each window view from the dining room is a perfect postcard, said Mrs. May.

Within the main bar is a collection of signature Margaritaville pastries, each with his own personality.

The cruise ship centre also houses duty free shops and boutiques.

The magnificent change that Margaritaville has made to the tiny Grand Turk was welcomed. As soon as the complex opened the locals (Belongers) arrived in their hundreds. "It was like the biggest day of the year for the island," said Mrs. May.



A section of the Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville in Grand Turk, the capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The property was officially opened last Friday.



PHOTOS BY JANET SILVERS