

NEW ZEALAND

FAST FORWARD

QUARTERLY

86+

BUY-NOW,
LOVE FOREVER
LOOKS

RENT,
REPAIR,
RECYCLE

The changing face
of shopping

FIRST LOOK
UPLIFTING
NEW-SEASON
IDEAS

GREEN GUIDE
THE BEST OF
SUSTAINABLE
STYLE

NEW CLASSICS

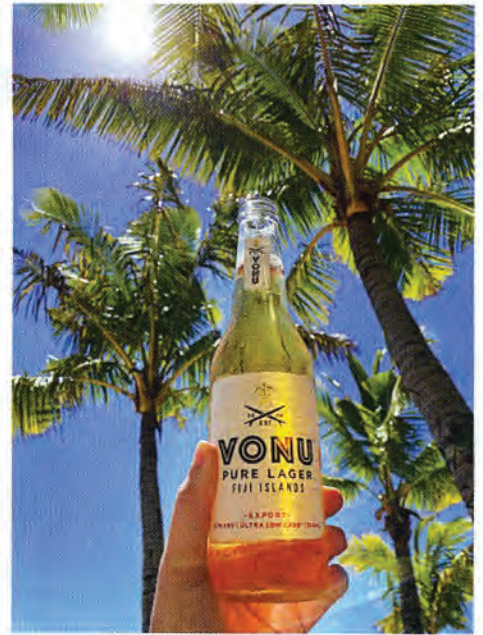
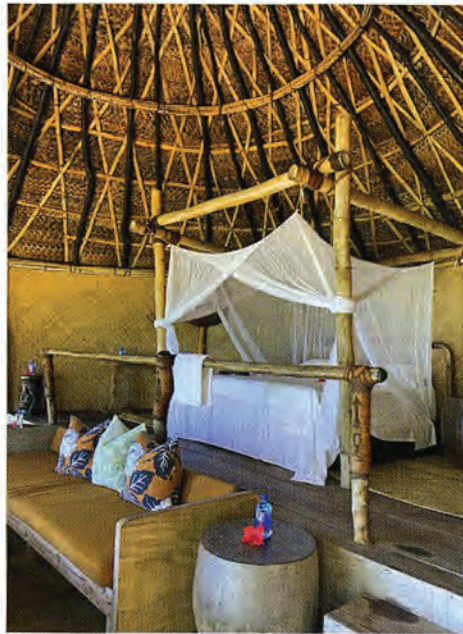
COOL SUITING, DREAMY COLOUR + MORE FANTASTIC FASHION

DOLPHIN ISLAND

As soon as you step onto the jetty into the welcoming arms of charming host and manager Dawn Simpson, it's as if time stops. On this small exclusive hire island – only 14 acres, and able to host a maximum of eight guests – your natural body clock and desires take over. You're the only guest, and the timetable is up to you – whether you want to head into the surrounding clear blue waters for some snorkelling, explore beyond on the island's Catamaran or do nothing and relax on the sand.

If you want even more privacy, there's a charming open-air hilltop hut where you can stay the night and wake up to the sunrise, looking out onto the reef and crystal-clear water (mosquito nets provided). We enjoyed a blissful afternoon here, reading and napping in the cool ocean breeze.

We spent most of our time at the island's main bure, with its laidback luxury interiors by New Zealand-born interior designer Virginia Fisher: think oversized conch shells, plush couches and traditional Fijian



artwork. This is the heart of Dolphin Island, where you're encouraged to while away hours beside the nearby infinity pool, and where Dawn and her team cook meals for their guests.

The food here is truly special – Dawn is famous for her cooking, and absolutely spoilt us with lobster, crab, *kokoda* (raw fish) and a traditional Fijian *lovo* (underground oven). She likes to host a farewell feast on guests' final night, with a beach bonfire and cultural performance from locals under the stars.

Though there are other islands nearby (one uninhabited; the other with a few small holiday homes), this feels like a genuine private island hideaway; the ideal spot to unplug, unwind and indulge.

HOW TO GET THERE

An easy 15-20 minute private boat ride from the mainland, following a roughly two-hour car ride from Nadi International Airport. In a rush to relax? You can also transfer via a 40-minute helicopter or seaplane. Visit dolphinislandfiji.com.



Clockwise from top left: Kokomo Private Island's seaplane at the jetty; Dolphin Island's open-air hut; locally brewed Vonu beer and other drinks are available in chilly bins kept beach and poolside; Dolphin Island's main bure; sunset walks on white sandy beaches.

The writer was a guest of Tourism Fiji.