



Ewald Biemans
Owner/CEO
Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba

Biography

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Ewald Biemans developed the Bucuti Beach Resort, which opened in October of 1987. He added a luxury wing to the resort called the Tara Beach Suites in March 2004. The resort enjoys year-round average occupancies of 97%+. The adults-only enclave is a setting of tranquility and laidback luxury with its three cornerstones being romance, wellness and sustainability. Through Biemans leadership, Bucuti & Tara is Tripadvisor's No. 3 Hotel in the Caribbean and No. 21 Hotel in the World while also being the Caribbean's first and only carbon-neutral resort – a testament that memorable vacations and sustainability can be *mutually inclusive*.

Born in Austria, Biemans began his hospitality career with Hilton and Intercontinental in South America prior to earning his Bachelor of Science in International Business at Florida State University. Biemans moved to Aruba in the early 1970s, as one of the original nationalities of the more than 100 that make up the rich, diverse tapestry that is Aruba today. Biemans managed The Coral Strand Hotel, later to become the renowned Talk of the Town Restaurant and Resort. He subsequently co-owned and managed the Manchebo Beach Resort before developing Bucuti & Tara as the sole owner.

For more than 50 years, Biemans continues to be highly involved in the tourism industry both locally and globally where his proven leadership and trailblazing sustainability solutions have both garnered the highest awards while prompting others to study his successes and implement his initiatives. He has taken on leadership roles to better the community whenever possible. He is a 40-year board member of the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association. He actively encourages other hotels on-island to also take the initiative to protect Aruba's natural resources. Biemans is a long-serving board member of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA). A forward thinker, he is constantly researching, embracing and welcoming new technologies to aid in implementing solutions. His contributions include serving as



president of AHATA, founder of Aruba's SKAL Club chapter, creator and long-serving chair of the environmental committee for AHATA, and he is a co-founder and long-serving director of the board of the island's Arikok National Park. He also founded the resort's contribution to Aruba's pet overpopulation issue, the nonprofit Stimami Sterilisami (native Papiamentu: "Love me, Sterilize me"), which has majorly funded spay/neuter procedures for more than 37,000 local dogs and cats and created an island-wide mindset for responsible pet ownership. He co-founded Ban Lanta y Planta, the nonprofit organization that reforests Aruba including The Bucuti Tara - GMC Nature Preserve that the resort, Biemans and island friend Greta Marie Case donated and protected land for in 2022 for future generations. The preserve is reawakening fragile ecosystems, serves as a sanctuary for residents and visitors, and doubles as a carbon sink drawing down CO2 emissions for the atmosphere to help thwart climate change.

To help other island hotels and businesses have better access in a sustainable manner to eco-friendly supplies, Biemans founded and operates Tara Eco Supplies. This service helps streamline procurement and transportation to the island, lessening the carbon footprint, while providing planet-forward supplies.

Stewardship is deeply inherent to the company culture at Bucuti & Tara and it flows throughout the entire operation and staff both in their professional lives and in how they lead their personal lives. Under Biemans' direction and leadership, the staff prioritizes and invests in an extensive list of best practices in environmental sustainability, encompassing a wide range of local stewardship and environmental causes.

As an industry leader in eco-friendly practices, Bucuti & Tara holds the most eco-certifications in the Caribbean. Each provide the resort's sustainability framework and require rigorous annual renewal recertification processes:

- **Certified CarbonNeutral®** - Caribbean's First Certified CarbonNeutral® Resort; longest running since 2018
- **LEED Gold** - Highest ranking Caribbean resort for extensive retrofitting (v4.1)
- **Green Globe Platinum** - "World's Most Sustainable Hotel," holds highest scores including 100%
- **Travelife Gold** - for successfully managing environmental and social impacts

Biemans, a sought-after guest speaker on eco-tourism, has been honored on numerous occasions both locally and internationally for his environmental preservation work. At the United Nations' COP26 in 2021 where he was an honoree and presenter, he was also named the sole hotelier to be a launch signatory for the Glasgow Declaration for Climate Action in Tourism. He was honored for leading the only hotel in UN history to ever win a coveted Global UN Climate Action Award. In 2022 at the WTTC 2022 Global Summit in Manila, Biemans was an originator and served as a launch signatory for the new WTTC Hotel Sustainability Basics, or The Basics. In 2023, he received a personal invitation from the UNWTO to COP28 where as a launch signatory of the Glasgow Declaration for Climate Action in Tourism, he helped drive worldwide signatories by 90%. Under his leadership, accolades include:



Sustainability Awards:

- 2023 CHTA Hall of Fame Award for Sustainable Excellence - first inductee
- Aruba's AHATA Impact Award - 2023 (inaugural winner)
- National Energy Globe Winner - 2018-2020, 2022-2023
- World Travel Market – 2021 World Responsible Tourism Award
- Global Forum for Human Settlements – 2021 Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards for Global Low-carbon Ecological Scenic Spot
- United Nations - Global UN 2020 Climate Action Award for Climate Neutral Now
- Travel + Leisure - 2020 Global Vision Award Winner; 2021 Selection Panel Member
- World Travel & Tourism Council – 2019 Tourism for Tomorrow Climate Action Award
- Certified CarbonNeutral® – Caribbean's first certified CarbonNeutral® Resort – annually since 2018
- Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association - 2019 and 2023 CHIEF Hall of Fame Award for Best Practice for Environmental Sustainability
- Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association – 2018 CHIEF Award for Social Responsibility for Spay and Neuter Program
- Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association - 2017 CHIEF Award for Environmental Sustainability
- HSMAI/National Geographic Traveler – 2016 Gold Adrian Leader in Sustainability
- Green Globe Platinum – 2016 Most Sustainable Hotel in the World
- Green Hotelier – 2015 Award - Highly Commended in Americas
- Travel Weekly – 2015 Magellan Award Eco-Friendly Hotel
- Tripadvisor – GreenLeader Platinum 2015-2023
- Caribbean Travel Awards – 2014 Green Hotelier of the Year
- Green Globe – 2011 High Achievement Award
- Green Globe – 2009 Award for Superior Environmental Protection
- American Express - 2009 Green Award
- Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association – 2009 Green Hotel of the Year
- International Hotel & Restaurant Association – 2009 Environmental Aware
- ISLANDS – 2009 Blue List - Environmentally Friendly and Sustainable Practices
- National Geographic Traveler – 2009 Stay List

Biemans' resort is the recipient of a multitude of quality awards including:

- Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association - 2023 CHIEF Hall of Fame (first inductee)
- Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association – 2022 CHIEF Award for Sales & Marketing
- Caribbean Media Exchange - 2023 CMEx Leadership Media Award
- Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Awards – No. 3 Hotel in the Caribbean (2024)
- Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Awards - Top 25 Hotels in the World (2024)



- Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Awards – No. 1 Hotel for Romance – Caribbean (2015-2022)
- Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Awards - Top 5 Hotels for Romance in the World (2016-2022)
- Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Awards – No. 1 Hotel in the Caribbean (2020)
- Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Awards – Top 10 Hotels for Best Service (2016-2022)
- Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Awards – Top 25 for Date Night in the World (2021-2022)
- Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Awards – No. 8 Hotel in the World (2016)
- Forbes Travel Guide Recommended (2024)
- USA Today - 10Best in the Caribbean – No. 1 Caribbean Resort, No. 1 Caribbean Restaurant for Fine Dining (2020), Top 10 Best Caribbean Resort and Top 10 Best Caribbean Restaurant for Fine Dining (2017-2019, 2022-2024), Top 10 Best Adults-only Resorts in the World (2023)
- U.S. News and World Report – Gold Badge: No. 1 Best Hotel on Aruba, Top 25 Best in the Caribbean (2015-2024)
- Travel + Leisure - World's Best List: Top 25 Resorts in the Caribbean, T+L 500, Global Vision Award and Judges' Panel
- Condé Nast Traveler – Readers' Choice Award (2016-2023)
- TripSavvy – Best for Romance (2022)
- EcoWorlde - Top 9 Best Vegan Resorts in the Caribbean (2023)
- Wine Spectator – Award of Excellence (2019-2023)
- Caribbean Journal Invest – 2022 Sustainable Executive of the Year: Ewald Biemans
- Caribbean Journal – 2017 Hotelier of the Year: Ewald Biemans
- Forbes – No. 1 Adults Only Getaway: Finding Paradise
- World Travel Awards – 2015 Leading Hotel in Aruba
- Booking.com - Excellence Award Score 9.6 out of 10 (2015-2022)
- Orbitz Elite - 2015 "Best Stay" Award
- Hotels.com - 2015 Excellence Award (score 4.9/5)
- Condé Nast – 2013 Gold List "Best Places to Stay"
- Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association – 2009 Hotelier of the Year
- Caribbean Travel and Life - 2009 Reader's Award
- Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association – 2002 CHTA Hotelier of the Year

Ewald lives in Aruba, where he appreciates the natural beauty and kindness of the local population. He cares for his rescue dogs and a miniature farm at his home. He actively manages his businesses and is the leader of Bucuti's Green Team, which in 2024, is closing in on going from the Caribbean's first certified carbon neutral hotel to becoming its first certified Net Zero hotel in Scopes 1 and 2.