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Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort Celebrates the Women Who Power Its Legacy on International Women’s Day 2026

EAGLE BEACH, Aruba – March 07, 2026 — At [Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort](#), every day is Women's Day, but on March 8, the celebration takes center stage. Aruba's premier adults-only resort proudly honors the remarkable women on its team whose dedication, strength, and compassion shape the heart of Bucuti & Tara every day, while also going above and beyond in their communities and home lives. This International Women's Day, the resort shines a spotlight on several inspiring team members whose leadership and community impact truly embody the spirit of the occasion.

International Women’s Day 2026 Themes Focus on Equality and Action

International Women’s Day 2026 is guided by two global themes that highlight both action and advocacy for women worldwide. The campaign theme, “Give To Gain,” encourages individuals and organizations to contribute time, knowledge and resources toward advancing gender equality, recognizing that investing in women creates broader opportunities for communities and future generations.

Complementing this message, the United Nations theme “Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls,” aligned with the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, calls for strengthening legal protections, addressing barriers to justice, and advancing equality for women everywhere, including migrants and displaced persons.

At Bucuti & Tara, these ideals have been the reality since the very beginning. the resort has championed equal opportunity, equal pay and an inclusive workplace where women are empowered to grow and lead. Women have long held key leadership roles across departments, and in many areas, they represent the majority of management positions. This commitment reflects the resort’s broader dedication to responsible leadership and to the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#), ensuring equality is supported and actively practiced every day.

Celebrating Women Across Every Level of the Resort

This longstanding commitment is reflected in the women who shape the culture and

success across every level of the organization. From leadership roles to frontline guest service, women are integral to the personalized hospitality and heartfelt care that define the Bucuti & Tara experience.

While the team celebrates women every day, International Women's Day offers a meaningful moment to spotlight extraordinary individuals whose impact reaches far beyond the workplace. Each year, departments nominate women whose dedication, resilience, and compassion extend to their families and communities.

This year, Bucuti & Tara proudly recognizes several outstanding team members whose stories embody the strength, leadership, and dedication that define the resort's entire team.

"At Bucuti & Tara, we are fortunate to be surrounded by women whose dedication reaches far beyond their roles at the resort," shares Crescenzia Biemans, Managing Director of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba. "When you learn about their lives, you see the many ways they care for others and support their communities while continuing to give their best at work each day. Their example is what makes our culture so special."

Honoring the Women Behind the Experience

Bucuti & Tara's nominees who exemplify International Women's Day 2026 are:

- ***Josette Olibert, Housekeeper***

Long before the first light touches Eagle Beach, Josette's day has already begun. Each morning at 4:30 a.m., she rises to first provide as a caregiver. She then arrives at Bucuti & Tara, ready to deliver the meticulous care and attention to detail that help define the resort's Forbes-level standards.

What sets Josette apart is the spirit she brings to her work. Her reliability, humility, and genuine pride in her role uplift the team around her and contribute to the warm, welcoming environment guests experience every day. Through her resilience and steady commitment, Josette reminds those around her that true strength often speaks softly, showing itself through dedication and grace with an impact that is felt everywhere.

"Josette inspires those around her every day through her dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to excellence," shares Amanda Gordon - d'Aguiar, Housekeeping Manager.

- ***Nakarid Ochoa, Food & Beverage Captain***

Since first joining Bucuti & Tara in 1998, Nakarid Ochoa has been known for her calm leadership and warm hospitality.

A proud mother of three, Nakarid brings the same dedication to her family as

she does to her team. Her leadership has earned recognition across Aruba's hospitality sector, including a nomination for the AHATA Awards. Nakarid is also the proud "Mama" of Paco, the resort's rescued yellow-headed Amazon parrot, who is a beloved family member of the Bucuti & Tara family.

Outside the resort, Nakarid is a certified local artisan and serves on the board of the Arts & Crafts Foundation, where she advocates for sustainability and the preservation of Aruba's creative culture. She also supports local animal shelters, helping relocate stray dogs and encouraging community involvement in animal welfare.

"Nakarid actively promotes healthy living within her team and her community, demonstrating that leadership is not only about performance, but also about wellbeing," shares Nicolas Nermalceff, Director of Food & Beverage.

- ***Ettel Boyce, Senior Hostess***

Each evening at Elements restaurant, Ettel Boyce stands at the heart of the guest experience. With precision and calm leadership, she orchestrates reservations, supports her team, and ensures every guest's arrival unfolds seamlessly, knowing that each guest is experiencing making a memory for a lifetime.

Outside Elements, Ettel is a national champion weightlifter representing Aruba internationally, earning multiple medals for the island. She also maintains an active lifestyle through running and community fitness events.

She meets every aspect of her life, both professionally and personally, with determination and discipline, inspiring those around her to pursue their goals with strength and confidence.

"Ettel's example is especially meaningful for young women in the community, showing that women can be powerful, resilient, and ambitious in every arena," says Nicolas Nermalceff, Director of Food & Beverage.

- ***Jennifer Teixeira, Food & Beverage Supervisor***

Jennifer Teixeira's journey to Bucuti & Tara spans continents and cultures. Originally from Canada with Brazilian roots, Jennifer Teixeira quickly became known for her warmth and supportive leadership within the Bucuti & Tara dining team.

Outside of work, Jennifer expresses her love for Aruba through photography, capturing the island's landscapes, wildlife, and natural beauty. Her compassion also extends to animals in need. Jennifer regularly volunteers with local shelters, encouraging pet adoption and spending her free time taking rescue dogs on beach outings with her daughter.

Through creativity, compassion, and a positive spirit, Jennifer uplifts both her colleagues and the community around her.

“Through her lens, she gives back by inspiring others to appreciate and protect what makes the island so special,” shares Nicolas Nermalceff, Director of Food & Beverage.

- ***Madeline Gower-Fernandez, Senior Concierge***

For many returning guests, Madeline “Madi” Gower-Fernandez is a familiar and welcoming presence who helps transform a stay at Bucuti & Tara into a lasting connection. She is a trusted friend who remembers their stories, their favorite spots on the island and sometimes even the snack they cannot live without. This thoughtful attention to detail and genuine care make each guest feel truly at home.

Within the resort family, Madi supports the resort’s internal community through her involvement in the Bucuti Associates Association (BAV) and the Savings & Loans program, helping strengthen professional development and financial well-being for colleagues.

At home, she is a devoted mother with a busy family schedule filled with sports, activities, her own gym workouts, and the Bucuti team hikes she loves.

Madi’s generosity and quiet courage remind everyone around her that true strength meeting life’s challenges while continuing to lift others.

“Madi embodies the spirit of Bucuti & Tara. She balances caring for guests, supporting her colleagues, and being a devoted mother, with resiliency and kindness inspiring everyone around her,” shares Natalie Brandts, the resort’s Wellness Specialist, who nominated Madi.

- ***Natalie Brandts, Wellness Specialist***

In addition to customizing wellness care for Bucuti & Tara’s guests, Natalie plays an important role in supporting the well-being of Bucuti Associates. For many team members, the first step into the gym can feel intimidating, yet Natalie transforms that moment into one of encouragement and possibility.

Natalie helps foster a culture of wellbeing across Bucuti & Tara by encouraging associates to build confidence, develop healthy routines and prioritize balance in their lives.

Understanding that wellness is holistic, Natalie is also an active member of the BAV, connecting colleagues with opportunities for professional development, team engagement and shared success.

“Natalie’s impact is both professional and personal, as she continuously supports the health and well-being of those around her,” shares Björn Brandts, Wellness Specialist.

A Culture Built on Recognition

With women represented across every level of the organization, Bucuti & Tara continues to foster a culture that values empowerment, equality and opportunity. By celebrating International Women’s Day each year, the resort recognizes both each woman’s professional achievements and their personal strength and community impact, which makes these women true role models.

“All year, these women embody the spirit of hospitality and humanity that defines Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort,” shares Crescenzia Biemans, Managing Director of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba. “Their stories remind us that what truly defines Bucuti & Tara is the remarkable people who lift others up.”

Learn more at [Bucuti.com](https://www.bucuti.com).

IMAGES & VIDEOS

Nominee images are located in [this Google folder](#).

Resort images are in [this private media gallery](#).

About Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

Recognized as the Caribbean’s first and only certified CarbonNeutral® hotel since 2018, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort is celebrated globally as the No. 5 Hotel in the World and No. 1 Hotel in the Caribbean, according to Tripadvisor. Aruba’s premier adults-only, laidback luxury resort, Bucuti & Tara is the vision of award-winning hotelier and environmentalist Ewald Biemans, honored with multiple Hotelier of the Year accolades for his hospitality excellence and pioneering sustainability leadership.

Nestled along the pristine white sands of Eagle Beach, protected nesting ground for sea turtles and named one of the “Dream Beaches of the World,” Bucuti & Tara offers 104 elegant rooms, suites and penthouses. Guests enjoy guaranteed sunbeds, a freshwater infinity pool, indulgent spa treatments, and “no surprise rates” including accommodations, all taxes and fees, full daily breakfast, WiFi and in-room tablet, EV chargers, parking and local calls.

At the heart of the resort’s culinary experience is [Elements](#), an award-winning oceanfront restaurant serving healthy, locally inspired cuisine. Guests can also enjoy Tara Lounge, private romantic beach dining, and as of Oct. 2025, the highly anticipated [Terra by Jeremy Ford](#). Helmed by the visionary chef leading Miami’s Michelin Star and Michelin Green Star Stubborn Seed, Ford brings his signature artistry and sustainability ethos to Aruba, crafting a menu that honors Aruban

ingredients, fishermen, and farmers while blending bold, innovative flavors with refined presentation.

Proudly LGBTQ+ friendly, Bucuti & Tara proudly holds IGLTA and TAG Approved® status. The resort's deep commitment to sustainable luxury has earned prestigious certifications including CarbonNeutral®, LEED Gold, Green Globe Platinum and Travelife Gold. Named the World's Most Sustainable Hotel/Resort by Green Globe in 2016, Bucuti & Tara's comprehensive sustainability program was praised by the United Nations as "highly replicable and scalable" for hotels worldwide, all aligning seamlessly with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

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