



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

### **Biography**

Ewald Biemans developed the Bucuti Beach Resort, which opened in October of 1987. The resort has enjoyed year-round average occupancies of 90%+. In March of 2004, Biemans added a luxury wing to the resort called the Tara Beach Suites, which has averaged 96% occupancy since opening.

Born in Austria, Ewald Biemans started his hospitality career with Hilton and Intercontinental in South America prior to earning his BS in International Business at Florida State University. After moving to Aruba in the early 70's, Ewald managed the famous Talk of the Town Restaurant and eventually the Talk of the Town Resort. Subsequently he managed and co-owned the Manchebo Beach Resort before developing and owning Bucuti & Tara.

Mr. Biemans is committed to being involved in the community and taking a leadership role whenever possible, encouraging other resorts on-island to take the initiative to protect Aruba's natural resources. Biemans is currently on the board of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA), previously served as Chairman of the Board of AHATA and served on the board of the Aruba Tourism Authority. His contributions have included serving as president of Aruba's SKAL club chapter, creator and longtime Chairman of the Environmental Committee for AHATA, and Director of the Board of the island's Arikok National Park.

The resort operates with a long list of best practices in environmental sustainability. Initiatives embody support and stewardship of local environmental causes, a pet adoption program to find homes for stray animals and Pack for a Purpose, where Bucuti and its guests provide school supplies to support a local orphanage. Food safety, water safety and general health and wellness are a priority at the resort and managed with HACCP program, UV filters and air purifiers and dehumidifiers in every room. The smoking policy limits smoking to designated areas to enhance the clean air experience. Bucuti proactively takes steps to protect the environment and save energy, while offering its guests the opportunity to participate in unusual ways, which many do. Guests join forces with staff to clean Aruba's Eagle Beach once a month and make use of a sophisticated temperature control system in the rooms. Guests receive water canteens as a gift from the hotel to use instead of purchasing bottled water to eliminate the use of plastic because plastic is not recyclable on the island. Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, this practice eliminates an estimated 290,000 plastic water bottles annually kept out of Aruba's landfill. As a devoted member of its community, since



2016, Bucuti created and continues to lead the “Love me. Sterilize me.” program where it teams up with island veterinarians to reduce the number of Aruba’s homeless dogs and cats and make responsible pet ownership a reality. This community outreach provides island dogs and cats with much needed spay and neutering surgeries and microchipping. Today, more than 12,000 dogs and cats from pet owners and homeless shelters are subsidized for in the program.

As an industry leader in eco-friendly practices, Bucuti holds the most eco-certifications in the Caribbean. In August 2020, Green Globe awarded Bucuti & Tara with the first perfect score – 100% -- in the organization’s history. In February 2020, Bucuti became LEED Gold certified. It’s the first Caribbean hotel to achieve LEED Gold under the new, most stringent requirements in LEED history, v4.1. In March 2020, Travel + Leisure magazine named Bucuti & Tara a 2020 Global Vision Award winner. In August 2018, it became the first to achieve carbon neutrality among Caribbean properties. Bucuti has achieved 9 consecutive years of Green Globe Certification and in 2016, Green Globe declared Bucuti as the “Most Sustainable Hotel & Resort in the World,” naming it to the new elite level of Green Globe Platinum. The resort also holds the distinction of being the first hotel in the Americas to earn the highly coveted ISO 14001 environmental certification every year since 2003. Bucuti is Travelife Gold certified and in 2015 earned the Caribbean’s only LEED Silver certification for lodging, a remarkable achievement for retrofitting a property, which is much more difficult than incorporating LEED standards in new construction. Bucuti is also a TripAdvisor GreenLeaders Platinum Level member.

Mr. Biemans, a sought-after guest speaker on eco-tourism, has been honored on numerous occasions both locally and internationally for his environmental preservation work, starting with CHA’s award for Environmental Stewardship in 1997, the Green Globe Commendation award for environmental stewardship in 1998 and the CHA Environmental award in the small hotel category in 2003. Recognitions also included the International Hotel & Restaurant Association 2004 Environmental Award (worldwide) for "Innovation in Environmental Best Practice" and the Green Globe High Achievement Award in 2011. Biemans earned the title of “Green Hotelier of the Year” by Caribbean Journal’s 2014 Caribbean Travel Awards. In 2015, Aruba’s government honored Biemans’ great contributions by naming an island street after him, Caya Ewald Biemans, including recognition on the sign for being the “Hospitality and Sustainable Tourism Pioneer of Aruba.”

Under his leadership, Bucuti & Tara received the 2017 CHIEF Award for Environmental Sustainability from the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association. Biemans was the first individual to ever receive the 2016 Gold Adrian Award – Leader in Sustainable Tourism presented by the Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International and *National Geographic Traveler*. In April 2019, Bucuti was the first-ever recipient of the World Travel & Tourism’s (WTTC) Tourism for Tomorrow 2019 Climate Action Award. Biemans was a featured presenter at the WTTC’s prestigious 2019 Global Summit, which was headlined by former U.S. President Barack Obama in Seville, Spain. In June 2019, Ewald Biemans/Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort was the first-ever inductee into the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association’s CHIEF Hall of Fame for Best Practices for Environmental Sustainability. In 2018 and 2019, Bucuti was also the recipient of the National Energy Globe Award. In October 2019, Ewald Biemans received the coveted 2019 Phoenix Award, the pinnacle accolade for sustainable leaders from the prestigious Society of American Travel Writers.

Additional recognitions are Aruba’s Hotelier of the Year for 1994 and 1999, the “Influence Award of high distinction” by Western International, and Hotelier of the Year in 2002 by The Caribbean Hotel Association, and many other distinctions.

The resort is the recipient of a multitude of quality awards. For 2019, TripAdvisor honored it with Travelers’ Choice Awards for being the No. 8 Hotel for Romance – World, No. 1 Hotel – Caribbean, No. 1 Hotel for



Romance – Caribbean and No. 1 Hotel for Best Service – Caribbean. Bucuti & Tara was named Travel + Leisure’s 2018 Top 25 Resorts in the Caribbean, Bermuda and the Bahamas. Additional accolades include: *Condé Nast Traveler* Gold List of top resorts in the Caribbean, Best Hotel in Aruba – *US News & World Report*, the International Five Star Diamond Award, *ISLANDS* top 100 worldwide sustainable organizations, *Brides* magazine “Best Resorts for Honeymoons” list, *National Geographic* award of the 100 top hotels worldwide and USA TODAY No. 1 Caribbean Resort and No. 1 Caribbean Restaurant for Fine Dining.

Ewald lives on Aruba, where he appreciates the natural beauty and enjoys caring for his rescue dogs. He actively manages his properties and is the leader of Bucuti’s Green Team.

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