

MORE THAN 50 years after Marlon Brando first set eyes on the Tahitian atoll of Tetiaroa, the actor's castaway retreat has been transformed into one of the world's most extraordinary private-island resorts. The Brando (thebrando.com) opened last July with 35 villas situated on a pristine beach on the 193-acre Onetahi, one of 11 coral islands that compose Tetiaroa. Each of the contemporary Polynesianstyle villas stands amid dense foliage that ensures privacy. Beyond the villas, amenities are purposefully minimal, including two French-Tahitian restaurants helmed by the Michelinstarred chef Guy Martin, a shack-style beach bar on the site of Brando's former watering hole, and a spa focusing on ancient Polynesian therapies. Guests can enjoy a snorkeling outing on the lagoon—and perhaps a story about the resort's founding father with Brando's granddaughter Tumi, who is among the naturalists leading excursions at the Brando. (\$2,595-\$7,785, all inclusive) —MARK SISSONS

