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FALL 2011 • \$5.95

**Creating a  
design story**

**On tour:**

The pleasures of Provence  
Off the grid in Big Sur  
Turks and Caicos' best beach



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# Best beach

Photos: Gansevoort Turks & Caicos

During perhaps one of the nastiest times for developers we've seen in years, Kitchener native Rob Ayer has successfully turned a coveted waterfront parcel on the secluded island of Providenciales in the Turks & Caicos into a vibrant, up-market condo hotel. With just 52 spacious residential units that turn into 85 if they are split up and rented out as hotel suites, the boutique resort, managed by the Gansevoort Group, has a prime spot on Grace Bay Beach—one of the best in the world.

Starting in the U.S. \$450,000 range, studios and one-, two- and three-bedroom beachfront condos feature ocean views from every room. Gaggenau and Bosch appliances, Italian cabinetry, stunning bathrooms with Kohler fixtures and spacious walk-in showers complete the picture (our suite had a rain shower and stand-alone tub). Designed to be a solid investment, owners can use their units to vacation when they want and, if they choose, participate in Ayer's flexible resort rental program. So far, he tells

us, in just a few short months, owners participating in his fractional ownership program have enjoyed respectable returns despite the economy.

A mother-daughter getaway to tour the property this spring gave us a close-up view of the development and a chance to find out why Turks & Caicos is a magnet for Torontonians. Crystal-clear turquoise waters, flawless weather year-round, gentle ocean breezes and soft, sugary beaches that run for miles were our first hints. But, after a few days, we realized it's also about the easy island charm, unassuming good service and safe, friendly atmosphere.

Throughout the property, the Gansevoort vibe sizzles. From the lobby to the pool and beachfront, the ambiance is casual cool by day. At night, as expected, it's down with the lights and up with the tempo. Dining is fresh and friendly at Bagatelle, the on-site eatery, where a great breakfast buffet and casual lunches are served poolside or at the beach. When evening

comes, it's time for simple yet sophisticated Mediterranean-French cuisine in a candlelit, outdoor setting. On weekends, Bagatelle is the place for tony locals and party-happy guests to head for the dance floor.

Direct flights to Turks and Caicos are under four hours and the Gansevoort is but 10 minutes from Provo's airport. It's also close to a marina for boat charters and a short hop to shopping, local restaurants and an award-winning 18-hole golf course. Better hurry if you want to get invested—Ayer has just one penthouse and few condos left for sale before he moves on to his next project. ■

[www.gansevoortturksandcaicos.com](http://www.gansevoortturksandcaicos.com)

## Just exhale

Take a Core Fusion Yoga class in the outdoor pavilion (not for the out of shape or faint-hearted!) and then wander over to Exhale, the boutique spa, for a signature "Provo Flow Massage." The body-mellowing Provo uses smooth yet firm flowing techniques to open locked muscles and free energy blockages. Just as spa director Laura Mensen promises, the results are tension-relieving like no massage I've had in a long while! I can't wait to return for one of Mensen's Wellness Retreats.



The Gansevoort is right on Grace Bay Beach.