



Information Pack

VILLA
Champagne
EXECUTIVE RETREAT

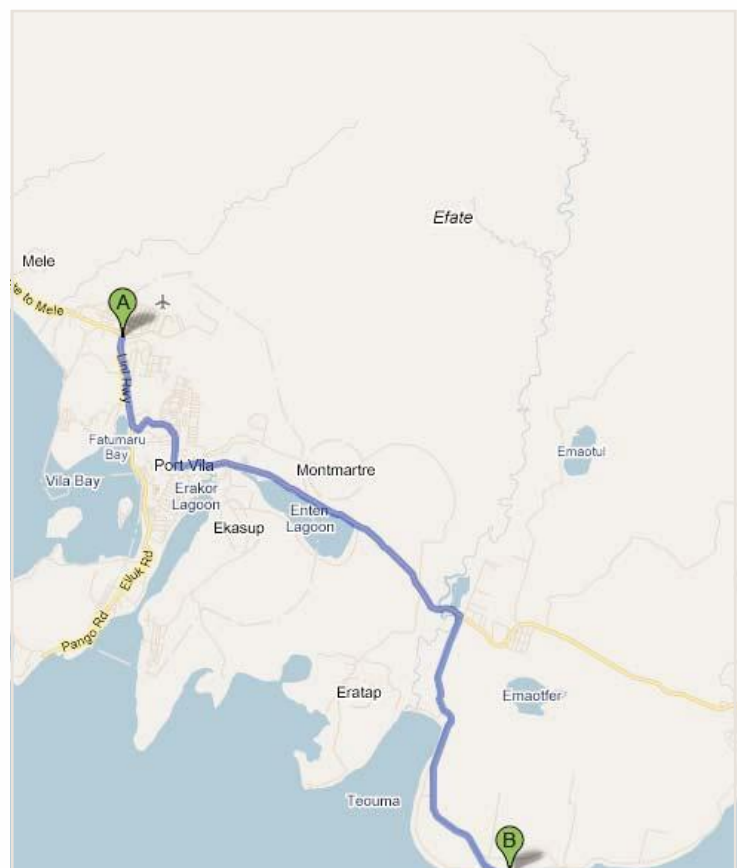
WELCOME

When you land in Vanuatu or after you have settled in to the house, the first thing you will need to do before you drive to Vila Champagne, is to drive into Port Vila township and pick up groceries and supplies at Au Bon Marche supermarket and the Organic fruit and veg market (closed from 1pm Saturday afternoon through till 7am Monday morning, otherwise open 24 hours per day). From experience it really pays to be well set up with supplies on your first day, as once you arrive at Vila Champagne you probably won't want to leave. We have included a sample grocery shopping further on.

DIRECTIONS

Drive right away from the airport, after about 1 km you will reach a round about, left will take you to Port Vila (about 10 min), right heads out to Devils point. Take the left road into town. After 5-7 minutes, you will come to a fork in the road, the road will go up a small hill to your left and on the right will be Moorings Restaurant and Resort, go up the road to the left. Keep following this road until you come to a roundabout by the University of the South Pacific. Don't go up the hill instead follow the road left past the University grounds. Drive straight through the next roundabout by the stadium and this is the road you will follow for the next 10 minutes or so. Go over the steel bridge and soon you will see a sign on your right advertising Tamanu on the Beach Resort, turn here and follow the dirt road

7km. You will need to slow your speed on this road as the pot holes are not always friendly! As you drive along the dirt road you will go over another bridge (small) and past a few houses etc. You will come to Tamanu on the Beach Resort, 100m past on the right there will be a driveway with large iron gates, this is the entrance to Vila Champagne.



WE SUPPLY

- Large screen TV and DVD player situated in the lounge
- A selection of DVDs
- Bath towels
- Beach towels
- All bed linen
- Toilet paper
- Soap and all cleaning products
- All kitchenware
- Large fridge/freezer
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- Toaster and kettle
- 2nd Refrigerator for drinks etc
- Porta-cot (on request)
- Speakers for ipod
- Water on the property is from a bore (and is fine to drink) although we have a water cooler as well.
- We also have tennis rackets,

WHAT TO BRING

Don't forget to bring...

- Snorkeling gear
- Reef shoes
- ipod
- DVD's (you can buy them for about \$5.00 AUS each in Port Vila, many haven't even reached the theaters)
- Crocs (forget fashion, crocs are by far the most suitable footwear for the tropical terrain)
- Head lamps and torches (it's pretty dark at night on the beach and the torches are great for crab hunting and so you don't stub your toes)
- A light dressing gown
- Sunblock
- Insect repellent
- Hydrogen peroxide antiseptic cream such as Crystaside (for coral cuts)
- Antibiotic ointment (for infected cuts)
- Good waterproof sticking plasters
- Toys for kids
- Light clothes (see climate section on the info page)
- Toiletries
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You can bring many food items into the country as long as they are in their original packaging. Don't bring fresh fruit or veg, and you need a permit for meat and cheese. We usually bring heaps of sliced Vogels bread to stash in the freezer (as you can really only buy French bread here), olive oil, nuts, favorite muesli bars, favorite kids food etc. You will find everything else you need at the French influenced Au Bon Marche supermarket, and the 24 hour organic fruit and veg markets in Port Vila.



SAMPLE SHOPPING LIST

Here are some suggestions of the types of foods you can buy in Port Vila that will see you through a stay at Villa Champagne. Remember there are two fridges, and it is a god send as there is no supermarket close by (20mins drive to town) Au Bon Marche supermarket - (The largest one - in suburb Number Two).

For the freezer - Heaps of stuff for the BBQ such as sausages (they are the best sausages in the world), cordon bleus, poulet (a local fish not unlike snapper), lots of french bread to freeze (sliced packaged bread doesn't really exist in Port Vila), croissants and pastries enough to freeze, frozen beans and peas (fresh greens go limp within a day, so it's good to have some frozen greens), eggs, butter, cereal, gorgeous French cheeses such as soft goats cheese, blue cheese and emmentaler, pate and salami, olive oil, canned goods, pasta and rice, snack foods, yoghurt, UHT milk (you can't get fresh milk in Port Vila), freshly ground Tanna coffee, tea bags, sugar, tomatoes, onions, and garlic (seem to be better at Bon Marche than at the market), condiments, water and juice, Tusker beer, French wines and champagne.

The 24 hr organic fruit and veg market - Take lots of loose change (rather than notes) as the vendors don't usually have any, and note that the fresh food market is closed on Saturday lunchtime until Monday Morning. At Au Bon Marche the main supermarket which is open 7-7 daily you can buy fresh vegetables as well as the regular supermarket supplies You can buy an amazing array of seasonal tropical fruit and veg, like bananas, passion fruit, mango, pawpaw, coconuts (the ones that have the brown husk on are best for eating, the coconuts that have the husk removed and are a light brown are full of milk for drinking) pineapple, limes, potatoes, long beans, lettuce, cucumber, avocado, chillies, wild raspberries and fresh flowers.

CAR RENTALS

There are plenty of car rentals in Vila, all will have the car waiting for you at the airport on arrival. A 4WD is recommended.

Hertz - +678 22468 - They will provide a VLHH preferred rate

Avis Rentals - +(678) 22570

Budget - +(678) 23170

INTERNET

Villa Champagne has free wireless internet. Password is **champs@villa**

There are quite a few places around town where you can get free wireless internet, including Chantillys Hotel/restaurant, and Numbawan café.

The cellphone coverage is marginal but if you stand on the front lawn you can usually get a signal. The house has a phone for people to contact you on and also for you to make any local Vanuatu calls. The house number is (+678) 25077.

CURRENCY

The currency is Vatu, but you can also use Australia dollars. Any other currency can be exchanged on arrival at the airport but we do recommend Goodies Money Exchange which is opposite the BRED Bank in Vila town.



FOOD

Here is where you will find the best experiences in Efate...

■ Tamanu on the Beach - Phone +(678) 27279

This is our favourite restaurant, it's definitely the best restaurant in Vanuatu. The food is world class, the setting right on the beach is gorgeous, the décor is subtle, modern, and tasteful (which is hard to find in Vanuatu). The atmosphere is always perfect. It's the sort of place that you go for lunch and stay all afternoon, the kids will probably play happily on the beach while you sit and drink champagne all afternoon. Don't leave Vanuatu without treating yourself to this experience. Iamanu Resort is also our next door neighbor so is in easy walking distance from Villa Champagne!

■ Kan Pai Japanese restaurant - Phone + (678) 26687

This restaurant is excellent. The restaurant décor is pretty ordinary but the food more than makes up for it. It's an extra special treat if they've got a fresh tuna in that day, You will find the whole menu revolves around tuna - tuna sushi, tuna sashimi, tuna carpaccio, tuna salad, the list goes on and it just melts in your mouth. Unbelievably great! Beware, they don't accept credit cards.

Harbourview Chinese Restaurant - Phone + (678) 23 668

If you are into Chinese you'll like this place. It is typical of the sort of large bustling Chinese restaurant that you'd find anywhere around the world, nothing unique, but delicious, with loads of atmosphere. Every time the kitchen door opens you hear a noise like a dragon roaring, it's the steamers.

Anchor Inn Café/Bar – Phone (+678 5551339)

A great spot with superb harbour views and sunsets. Excellent burgers and café food served from 11.00am daily till 9.00pm. Whether it's a cold beer or a wine or a cup of coffee you will find it at The Anchor where the friendly staff will be happy to assist your every need. The Anchor also has an information Centre for Visitors needing assistance with tours and activity options during their stay

L'Houstelet - Phone +(678) 22 303

This restaurant is an institution in Vanuatu. It serves an odd combination hearty old fashioned French food and Pizza. It's not the sort of place a sophisticated foodie would like, but it's a great fun night out because you can pretty much re live the seventies here, Lobster Mornay, lots of creamy sauces, wine in a carafe. If you can handle it please don't sit in the non smoking area as the lights are on and the atmosphere is dead, you need to be amongst the action to really enjoy this place.

Numbawan café

Great place for breakfast or lunch. It is very casual, seating outdoors on the waterfront right in front of the Art and Crafts market, next to the dive shop and Vanuatu Helicopters. Here you can get wireless internet, fresh juices, substantial bacon and egg breakfasts, croissants, and salads. They also have moonlit cinema in the evenings....more on that later.

Bakeries

With it's French influence there are excellent pastries and bread products to be found in Vanuatu. La Parisienne and Ah Pow Bakeries are the two largest bakeries. La Parisienne has wonderful meat pies and is open all night, which is handy for a snack on the way home after a big night. Au Pêché Mignon is brilliant, have delicious quiches, pastries, cakes and handmade chocolates. Loaf Shack is the newer bakery in town. Here you can find filled rolls, pies, an array of breads (including the best mixed grain on the island) and a few sweet treats. They also do takeaway coffee.

Beef

If you eat beef you're in for a treat. The cattle industry in Vanuatu is famous, and is mainly organic. The steaks are succulent, coming from superior grass fed beef and it is excellent value in the butchers and supermarkets. The only thing to remember in French restaurants is that



WHAT TO DO IN VANUATU

Activities

■ Hideaway Island - Ph. +(678) 22963

This is a great place to go for kids of swimming age. If it's a busy time of year they will make loads of friends here. The snorkeling is really great as it's a marine reserve, and there is an underwater Post Office where you can dive down and send waterproof post cards to your friends. There is a restaurant/bar and lots of shade so you can lounge away the afternoon. It's not flash (even a little skuzzy if you look too hard), but it's loads of fun for a day out.

■ Coongoola Cruise - Phone+(678) 25020

The Coongoola is Vila's most famous day cruise. The 23m wooden sailing ketch sails the calm waters of Havannah Harbour and takes you to Happy Lok Beach at Sun 8 Moon Bay (the prettiest beach we've ever seen), Moso Island (turtle conservation area and caves). Snorkel, sunbathe, swim, and to top it off you usually get to sail with dolphins on the way home. Pick up time from Vila is 8:15am, return around 5:30pm. You can also sponsor and name a tagged turtle and release it back to the ocean from the turtle sanctuary. The atmosphere and food is good (barbecue beach picnic - vegetarians should pack their own - also take your own wine if you don't like beer or soft drinks). The only complaint we have about this tour is that at certain times of year there can be lots of really annoying flies at the beach, so enquire whether this is the case before you book.

■ Moonlit Cinema - Phone +(678) 7744826

Every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday evenings the Nambawan Café (in the heart of Port Vila on the water in front of the Art and Crafts market), has a free 'Moonlight Cinema' where recent release or movie classics are shown on a big screen with the harbour as a backdrop. Grab a beer and a snack and relax with the locals.

■ Picnic at Eton beach

This is probably the nicest white sand beach on Efate (there aren't very many). It really is beautiful, with a gorgeous turquoise lagoon, and there are lots of little whares that you can set yourself up in for the day for a picnic. The locals own and look after this beach and as such will charge you a small entry charge.

■ Cascade Waterfalls

Mele Cascades is famous in Vanuatu. The climb to the waterfall is not a difficult one and, once there, it's a rewarding experience. You can hop into the pool at the base of the waterfall and swim under the cascade itself. It's the outpouring of an underground spring so the water is cool, clear and refreshing. There are five pools at the top to jump into and it's your choice to return via the track or the stream.

■ Horseriding

At Sea Horse Ranch at the end of Devils Point Road. Have a lesson with Eloise, the owner, an amazing French instructor. The horses are beautifully trained, definitely not typical kick along riding school ponies.

■ Dive Course

Ph: Mike - Office +678 27518 or cell +(678) 5544054

If you want to get your PADI ticket you can do a course at Big Blue. Here you can learn to dive in the Port Vila Harbour



■ Game Fishing

Vanuatu offers some of the best fishing in the South Pacific. marlin, wahoo, dorado, yellowfin tuna, swordfish and a host of other fighting fish. The offshore reefs and ocean offer one of the best blue water and coral fishing playgrounds in the world. There are some excellent boats that leave from the Waterfront Bar and Grill. The catch belongs to the boat but anglers are invited to dine at the Waterfront that evening to join in eating the catch.



■ Helicopter ride - Phone +(678) 77 44106

Explore Vanuatu from the air with our good friend Simon, who owns Vanuatu Helicopters. The view is breath taking, and it will really help you get your bearings. If you're feeling really rock star you can organize for the helicopter to pick you up from your own back yard at Villa Champagne.



Nakamals

Try this for fun - Kava. It is completely safe, and is actually used as a natural anti anxiety medication in western cultures as it helps you to relax, with no bad side effects and no hangover. Nakamals are kava bars. Kava is sold in 50vatu or 100 vatu shells the term shell coming from half a coconut shell that it's served in. To drink kava, take your shell and drink it down in one go (try not to breathe). It has a relaxing effect. As for the taste it's like bitter peppered muddy water only worse. Ronnie's Nakamal is popular with a lot of locals and expatriates. Wherever you see a light hanging from a tree, it means the adjacent house is selling kava. Unlike in Fiji, there is no ceremony like 'hand clapping'. You can take along a plastic bottle for take away if you'd like to savour the wonders of kava back at Villa Champagne, where no one can see you grimace.



SURFING

There are good waves to be found around Port Vila but they are off reefs and should only be taken on by competent riders - novices could end up with some nasty coral cuts. There is a new surf shop open out Pango way (ask around for directions or a phone number if you are interested) for lessons in surfing, kite boarding and 'oldcomers' should bring their own boards.

You will find surf at the following locations:

BREAKA'S RESORT

Drive on the Pango Point Road until you come to Breaka's Beach Resort.

Type of wave: hollow barreling wave

Direction: left and right

Break: reef break

Bottom: coral

Length of ride: 40-50m

Best tide: high tide

Wave size: good 6-8 ft in autumn and ok 4-6 ft rest of year

Best month: April to June

Best winds: south-east

Level of surfing: beginner

Ideal board: 6'2-6'4 thruster

ERAKOR POINT

Drive to the Erakor free ferry, followed by a short walk. Ferry runs on the half hour and the hour.

Type of wave: occasionally barreling wave

Direction: left

Break: reef break

Bottom: coral

Length of ride: 50-100m

Best tide: high tide

Wave size: good 6-8 ft in summer 8 autumn and ok 4-6 ft rest of year

Best months: January to March

Best winds: all directions

Level of surfing: intermediate

Ideal board: 6'4-6'8 thruster

PANGO POINT

Drive out to Pango Village on the Pango Road. The Point is not far past the Village and Breaka's Resort is on the same road.

Type of wave: hollow barreling wave

Direction: left and right

Break: reef break

Bottom: coral

Length of ride: 50-100 meters

Best tide: high tide

Wave size: good 4-6 ft in summer and ok 2-4 ft rest of year

Best months: January to June

Best winds: north ,north-west ,east ,north-east

Level of surfing: intermediate

Ideal board: 6'4-6'8 thruster

ERATAP ISLAND

Head out to Eratap village and ask for a canoe ride out to the island.

Type of wave: right-hander, hollow

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Coral cuts - Coral cuts can be irritating and occasionally nasty. They can turn into tropical ulcers, although this is more likely to happen to someone who lives in the tropics because of the constant heat and humidity. If you get a scratch or graze (and it can happen without you knowing while snorkeling - it's only when the air hits do you realize), nature's cure is to squeeze lemon or lime onto the wound. The best stuff to cleanse the wound is Hydrogen Peroxide (if it doesn't fizz, it's not infected), followed by an anti-bacterial cream and cover with a dressing. In Australia or New Zealand you would leave it uncovered and let the air heal - in the tropics it's the reverse. Having said that, cuts are rare if you wear reef shoes when walking on coral and if you watch where you snorkel.

Ciguatera - In the Pacific islands it is possible to get an illness called ciguatera from eating infected reef fish. It is impossible to tell if a fish is infected as to the eye the look perfectly healthy. The risk is very small, but the illness is awful, so it is best not to eat reef fish anywhere in the Pacific, although the Ni Vans eat the reef fish all the time, with apparently no ill effect. Tuna and Poulet are both great to eat and completely safe.

Malaria - Malaria tablets aren't necessary for a Port Vila/Efate type holiday (even though there have been occasional outbreaks in some villages). Mossies are not travellers and, from birth to death, don't migrate much further than the area of a small room. Tablets can make you nauseous, especially if you combine them with diving. If traveling to the outer islands, however, they should be taken as a precaution.

Flies - At certain times of the year flies can be annoying. Please dispose of all rubbish and compost materials regularly, and in a sanitary manner.

We urge guests when accessing the beach or the sea to wear reef shoes as coral cuts can be nasty and must be treated immediately to avoid an infection

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

The Port Vila Hospital isn't a place you would visit by choice, but in the case of an emergency, skilled doctors will treat you. There are anesthetists, pediatricians and general surgeons. Insurance is still highly recommended, especially if a Medivac is necessary. There are limited outbound flights, so if the emergency didn't coincide with one and a plane had come to get you, the meter would tick

over to in excess of AUD\$40,000. There is a good Medical Centre in Vila. There is also an excellent mobile paramedic (ProMedical).

Mobile Paramedic - 25566 - This is your first number to call in an emergency

Fire - 22 333

Police - 22 222

Ambulance - 22 100

However, the above may be operating on 'island time'.

In the event of a medical emergency and the need for non-island time assistance **ring Pro Medical on 25566.**

Any problems or queries while you are at Vila Champagne please do not hesitate to call:

Bryan Death - House Manager on +678 5577034

