

Veuve Cliquot Grande Dame Rose champagne, they fill your tub with scented oil, orchids and frangipani blossoms, and light a few dozen candles) or just want pretty good Indian Ocean diving with every luxury you can think of, this is the place.

MOZAMBIQUE

Ponta Mamoli, July 2006, Joe Puglia (jpuglia@aol.com), Orlando, FL.

Experience: 550 dives. Water: 68 F. The weather was sunny and a little windy. The seas were choppy. A few dives had moderate current. The reefs of Mamoli were magnificent. There are miles of uninterrupted coral heads that are in fantastic shape. The fish life was fantastic. We were diving off season and the water turned greener and greener as the week moved on. Bev and Kevin, the managers of Ponta Mamoli, said that the green was rare. The reefs were fantastic. We saw turtles, a variety of eels, rays (including electric rays), scorpion fish including a Mauritius scorpion fish. The schools of anthias were huge and beautiful to watch. On one dive there were over 50 lionfish. During most dives we were serenaded by whale songs. The resort was magnificent, with great service. The resort sits on a beautiful sand beach and is the only structure for miles. My wife and I walked the beach for an hour one afternoon and did not see another person. The food was excellent. The rooms are chalets built behind the dunes. They are a little small, with nice front porches and a spacious bathroom. You spend little time in the chalets so they are just fine. The resort has a variety of activities including horseback riding and hippo watching. The staff was friendly and attentive. The ride

from the South African border is one hour on dirt roads. It can be a little nerve-racking, but it adds to the adventure. Electricity is supplied by on-site generators, and to conserve fuel they are turned off at different times of the day. It was never a problem. We visited Mamoli as part of a larger trip that included a safari camp, Phinda, in South Africa. Ponta Mamoli is a gem!

SEYCHELLES

Billed as 3000 miles from anywhere, this group of islands has decent reef diving. From time-to-time live-aboards make the long trip to Aldabra, which has excellent diving. Island prices are high.

Coral Strand Hotel, December 2005, Alex Stuart (aastuart@pacbell.net), San Rafael, CA. Experience: 1400+ dives. There's a 12-hour time difference between California and the Seychelles. The Inner Islands of the Seychelles are granitic islands that are the remnants of the supercontinent that existed when Africa and the Indian subcontinent were still connected. Mahe has a high granite backbone running the length of the island. The left side traffic, roundabouts and the architecture of the houses and stores created a big similarity between Mahe and the Island of Grenada in the Caribbean. My hotel was in the Beau Vallon on the other side of the island from the capital Victoria. To get to the Beau Vallon area from Victoria, the road turns into switchbacks that take you to a pass over the heights that run through the center of the island. The Coral Strand Hotel is an older facility that is reasonably well maintained but is on the expensive side for what it offers. Dinner was overpriced and ordinary. Breakfast and