

## **TAWALI RESORT**

A new PNG resort has just opened. Perched on a cliff overlooking the reefs on the north side of the north peninsula of Milne Bay and located less than a mile from famous sites like "Dinah's Beach," this exquisite facility is a collaboration between PNG veteran live-aboard operator Rob van der Loos and Bob Hollis, founder of Oceanic Products.

Reachable only by boat, it's a special preserve in the midst of the jungle that boasts ten air-conditioned private rooms with two queen beds, large bathrooms, and private balconies with superb views. A great house serves as both a hotel office, lounge, bar, and restaurant. All the buildings blend with the natural setting. When I visited in November 2004, Tawali had just opened, and construction was wrapping up.

The location allows access to virtually the same diving the Paradise Sport visits. A twin diesel 42-foot vessel takes divers to distant locations, while two 22-foot outboard skiffs can carry four divers each to nearby walls and macro sites. Head divemaster Sebastian knows the sites well and is a superb "critter finder." Rob's wife Peo is a charming hostess. Visitors can travel by boat to several villages or hike to two fascinating "skull caves" burial grounds dating back hundreds of years. Rob's live-aboard the 65 foot Chertan is based at the resort and offers three and four night excursions to outlying islands.

Tawali is special and should be in full operation by the time this issue is published. It will no doubt make a name for itself, but you heard it here first.