

# COLLECTORS' BUILLETIN

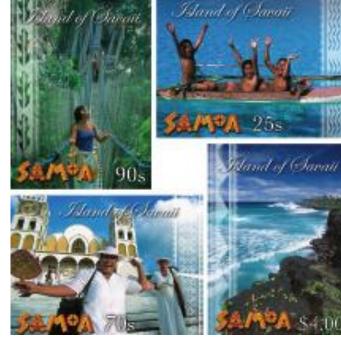
Savai'i is the largest island in Polynesia outside of Hawaii and New Zealand and lies 20km northwest of Upolu across the Apolima Strait. It has only 20% the population of Upolu despite being one and a half times the size. Much of the fertile land was buried in the eruptions of Mt Matavanu between 1905 and 1911, transforming the northern side of the island and causing many people to move to Upolu.

Although there is no main town, traditional Samoan villages line the coast of the island. From the summit of Mount Silisili to the traditional fales and large churches, Savaii boasts an island of friendly people and an amazing landscape of blowholes, gorges, waterfalls and mountainous interior of tropical rainforests. Much of this landscape was created between 1905 and 1911, when the eruptions of Mount Matavanu buried much fertile land, leaving many volcanic craters, lava tubes, crater forests and especially the vast lava fields.

Along Savaii's south-west coast are the magnificent Alofaaga blowholes where water shoots up to 30m

Alofaaga blowholes where water shoots up to 30m high, with thunderous force and noise. The Tafua Rainforest Reserve is ideal for bird watching and flying foxes (fruit bats). It is said to be home to the rare Samoan tooth-billed pigeon. Falealupo Reserve, a low-lying tropical forest, is another beautiful location with a forest canopy walkway high up in giant banyan trees. The famed waterfalls of Savaii are aptly titled with the Olemoe Falls, the Mu Pagoa Waterfall and the Afu Aau waterfall, all sites high on any tourist's list, as are the surfing and snorkelling beaches and the Pulemelei stone pyramid which stands 12m high and is the largest remaining monument in Polynesia.

Savaii is an island of sheer beauty, warmth and friendly smiles. It is well worthy of a visit.



### **Collectors Notes:**

Designer: Michael von Reiche, Wellington, New Zealand Printer: Wyatt & Wilson, Christchurch, New Zealand

Process: Offset Lithography

Perforation Gauge: 13.2 x 13.2

Stamp Size: 42.27 mm x 30.23 mm, 2 horizontal, 2 vertical Paper: 104gsm, Chancellor gummed stamp paper

Denominations: 25s, 70s, 90s, and T4.00

Period of Sale: 17 February 2005, for a period of one year.

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