

TWICE AS NICE

The theme entries were indeed the longest across entries, plus the middle one - and they were all placed symmetrically, as is standard. These theme entries each contained a repeated 2-letter group. For example, THIS IS A TEST contains the letters IS twice in a row. Taking the repeated letters from these entries in grid order spells out IS LE NE AR TA HI TI or, ISLE NEAR TAHITI. This should've led you to **BORA BORA**, which is indeed a popular vacation destination, and fits the double-letter theme, so it's our answer!