





LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

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www.CaribbeanLivingMagazine.com

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Dear travelers,

As we are in the roaring 20s, I feel like I should address you as my fellow time-travelers. We are living in the future, my friends. Facing the Caribbean sun and looking forward to a magnificent decade. We have a lot of new experiences to share with you. This issue has great stories from the Dominican Republic and around the islands.

What I am even more excited to chat with you about is our social media ambassador program and our, invitation only, enhanced subscription membership. Our enhanced subscription program includes more than the magazine. The Caribbean Living subscription program offers VIP experience invites from around the Caribbean, exclusive travel discounts at some of the region's finest resorts, access to the hottest travel gear and more. Visit www.CaribbeanLivingMagazine.com/InvitationOnly after January 18th for further details. Follow us on Instagram @CLTravel on the same day for more information on being a part of our collaborative ambassador program.

2020 is the year to take things to the next level and we are excited to have you all be a big part of it.

Welcome to the future,



Peta

CONTENTS





4-8 12-18





20-23 24-30





32-36

9-10 NEW & NOTEWORTHY

39-42 **NEW COLLABORATIONS IN ANGUILLA**

45-50 BEACH BAR NONE

58-62 THE SPA UNCOMMON THAI HOUSE

65-71 **DOING IT FOR THE GRAM**

CONTRIBUTORS



AMY SEDEÑO

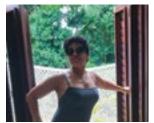
As a self-proclaimed @hotelista I do quite a bit of traveling, and from holding a tarantula in an ancient site in Guatemala to drinking high tea in Dubai, and petting grey whales in Baja, you bet I've got stories to tell.



ANDREW INNERARITY

Director of Photography

It's all about triggering emotion via imagery. When I convey the very essence of a situation with a single photograph, then I am complete, because the viewer understands more than the moment, they know the situation.



AVA ROSALES

I am the Caribbean.



BRIANA LOZANO

Contributor

My favorite place to travel to is one I have never been to before! New cities, new sights, new food, new music, new people, new memories, new ways of life. The only way to truly know, is to see it for yourself. I am forever wanderlust.

Thank you, Briana

DYLAN BENOIT

I'm a chef with Champagne taste and a beer budget, but always seem to find myself surrounded by the most amazing people in the most amazing places. From eating termites in the Honduran jungle to learning how to make dim sum in Hong Kong, for me treasure is in the story.



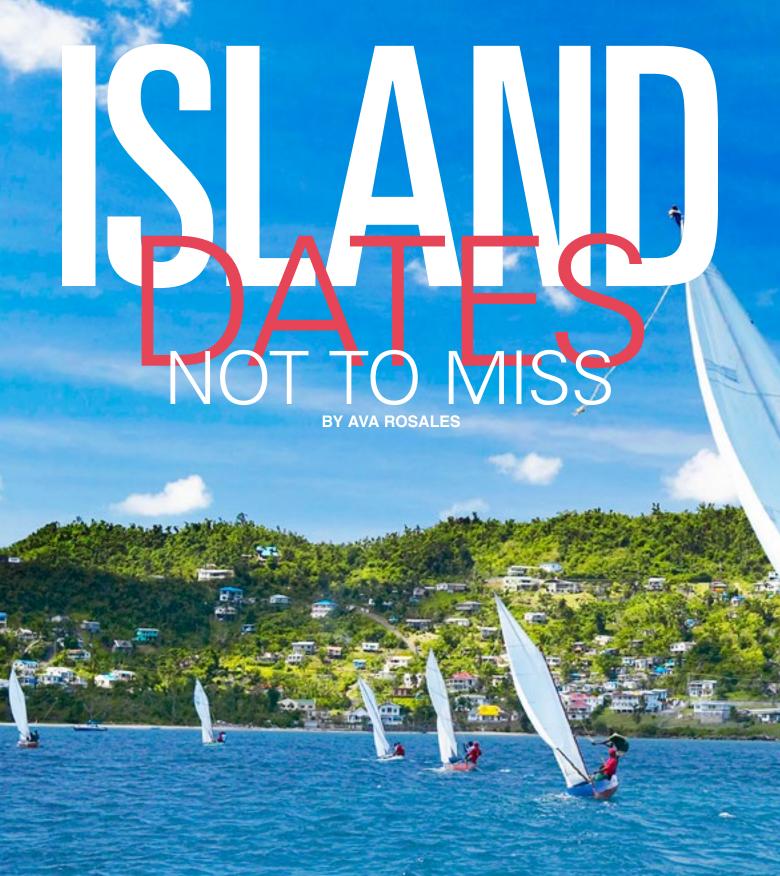
JEFFREY SOBEL Co-Editor-in-Chief

All I need is a book, a bourbon and a boat to a new destination - I'll be just fine.



SERGIO OLIVARES

I'm my best on this island. My flight left last night, but I know I'm not going back home.



Trade the frigid and icy roads this season for warm, crystal clear water. Winter escapades in the Caribbean abound at sea – 'tis the season to go sailing, and regattas and races are all the rage. Take the tropical plunge and dive into the Caribbean this winter, where the weather and smiles are always warm.





JANUARY

Start the month off in Jamaica with a visit to the verdant Saint Elizabeth for a cultural awakening and a taste of history through song, dance and traditional Maroon cooking. Listen to tales of the late hero, Cudjoe, and the battle of the First Maroon War, a freedom fight against the British over 200 years ago, as told by the descendants of these noble warriors at Accompong Maroon Festival, January 6.

By Antigua, crews ready the sails for an exhilarating 54 nautical miles of racing at the Antigua Yacht Club, Round Island' Race, January 18 /www.antiguayachtclub.com
Serious competitors will be equally drawn to Barbados where crews can "win their skipper's weight in rum" for breaking records — now, there's a challenge, run light or heavy, for this race, there's reason for indulgence in more ways than one during Barbados Sailing Week The opening regatta is now named Round Barbados Sailing Week, which replaces its former title, the Mount Gay Round Barbados Series January 17—23.

On Grand Cayman, culinary connoisseurs gather at the Ritz Carlton to create delectable, gastronomic delights. With Seven Mile Beach in the background and worldclass faire in the foreground, dining could not be more



delicious. Come savor the annual Cayman Cookout, January 16 – 19.

www.caymancookout.com

Close the month in Grenada with rods and regattas. Skippers head back to the azure water for leeward and windward courses that boast, "Two host venues, four days of racing, six nights of parties!" Island Water World Grenada Sailing Week 2020, kicks off the southern Caribbean sailing events January 26 – 31.

www.grenadasailingweek.com

For the expert fishermen, reels are cast at the premier, competitive sports fishing event 51st Annual Budget Marine Spice Island Billfish Tournament, January 26 – 30. www.sibt.gd

FEBRUARY

Put the reels away and switch vessels, or simply come observe the masterful sailors from some of the Caribbean's communities of sailing and boat building heritage hailing from the Sister Islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique at the Grenada Sailing Festival Work Boat Regatta, February 1–2.

www.grenadasailingfestival.com

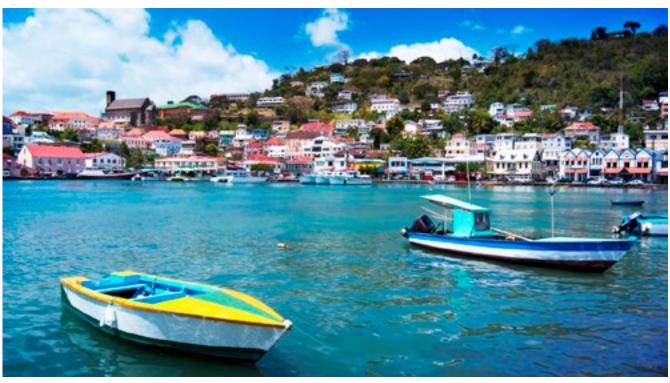
Meanwhile, on St. Kitts, professional and amateur golfers from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and the rest of the Caribbean vie to be the champs of the course. They'll be swinging in teams of Pro-Am and Am- Am. Catch these golf enthusiasts at the Royal St. Kitts Golf Club & Four Seasons Nevis for Admiral's Cup Pro-Am Golf Tournament, February 1 – 6.

www.golfstkittsandnevis.com/admirals-cup-proam

Up for a 52 mile anticlockwise circumnavigation of Antigua? Well, Superyacht enthusiasts are. Boaters entered in the RORC Caribbean 600 offshore classic have the opportunity to ready themselves for this exciting challenge at the Antigua 360° on February 21, just before navigating 600 nautical miles around 11 Caribbean islands during the Royal Oceanic Race Club (RORC) Caribbean 600 race, February 24.

If a good jump-up is more your style, then steel band celebrations, concerts, street faire, Night March, parades and so much more are in store. The whole town comes out for the annual celebration of the first English settlement in Holetown on February 17, 1627. The Holetown Festival is underway February 16 – 23.

www.holetownfestivalbarbados.org/festival-schedule









MARCH

Barbados rings the bell and opens the gates for a prestigious race of the four-legged kind. International jockeys and trainers bring their finest thoroughbreds to the track for the Sandy Lane Barbados Gold Cup, March 7.

www.visitbarbados.org/sandy-lane-gold-cup

Large boats are still maneuvering off shore for Antigua's friendly Super Yacht Challenge, March 11 – 15.

Meanwhile, bodies make a splash in clear, turquoise water between Oualie Beach, Nevis and St. Kitts. Whether you slip on a pair of flippers and goggles to admire the flora and fauna along the way or have that competitive spirit of "in it to win it," The race draws swimmers from United States, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Brazil. You may even be matching strokes with an Olympian, it's happened before at the Nevis to St. Kitts Cross Channel Swim, March 29.

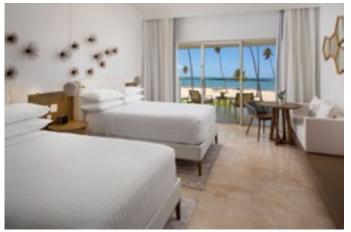
Off the coast of St. Maarten, it's another race that brings an eclectic group of sailing enthusiasts together on crystal clear waters below the hulls and the northeast trade winds at their sails. Four days at an event sponsored by Heineken can only mean that it's most likely a lot of work having a lot of world-class fun. The St. Maarten Heineken Regatta is "serious fun" March 5 – 8.

www.facebook.com/StMaartenHeinekenRegatta

NEW Noteworthy







PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico es en fuego. Following a multi-million-dollar transformation, this resort is ready to welcome guests, in style. Tucked away in the pristine tropical paradise of the northeast coast of the island, *Hyatt Regency Grand Reserve Puerto Rico* offers all-suite, bungalow-style accommodations featuring private balconies and terraces, five distinct food and beverage experiences – ranging from authentic Puerto Rican fare to Asian fusion cuisine. There are also four expansive swimming pools, including Puerto Rico's largest lagoon-style pool and swim-up bars serving innovative and refreshing cocktails. WOuld it really be a tropical escape without a fabulously revamped 12,000-square-foot Rainforest Spa and two world-class Tom Kit-designed 18-hole championship golf courses? We don't think so. This oceanfront oasis is the closest full-service luxury resort from the San Juan International Airport. They're ready for you!

www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/puerto-rico/hyatt-regency-grand-reserve-puerto-rico/sjurc







A lot has changed in Punta Cana over the years. The arrival experience at the airport has changed for the better and taking advantage of the VIP experience is an excellent way to kick off a vacation. We checked out the adultsonly Excellence El Carmen for the first time and it's pretty hip. The only way to go is The Excellence Club. This level comes with a private check-in/check-out area, where you can unwind and partake in a variety of snacks, meals, and cocktails. Besides the private lounge where these activities take place, there is an exclusive restaurant for Excellence Club guests, called Magna. Enjoy a private beach and pool areas, there's a private concierge service available throughout the stay, a preferred room service menu with exclusive dining offerings, designer Bylgari toiletries and, get this-- upgraded in-room premium liquor. You get four bottles in room, Johnny Walker, Bombay Sapphire, top local Barcelo rum, and Vodka. One bottle replenished daily, and feel free to take them all home. This is such a unique feature we had to let you know.





















The stylish and sophisticated Excellence El Carmen is home to 173 Excellence Club suites out of 492 suites in total. This sounds like a lot of accommodations yet there's so much space on the, well manicured, grounds of the resort that you feel a sense of space and tranquility at all times. Dining is diverse with 12 international dining offerings, you will want to leave room for a taste of them all. There's an extra feeling of privacy with your own swim-up pool suite. Our insider tip is that you opt for beach-front when making your booking, it makes life so much easier when dashing from sand to pool and having as many freshly cut coconuts as you desire. Also remember to take full advantage of the spa as each Excellence Club guest has Included, one Aqua Wellness treatment per stay. Destressing will be a breeze at this resort, situated on the lovely island of the Dominican Republic. Be sure to keep the VIP experience going by upgrading your departure to the VIP lounge at Punta Cana International airport. You will thank us later, while you are watching the planes taxi to the gate while you sip one more tropical cocktail poolside overlooking the runways.







We love the Dominican Republic's authenticity and natural beauty. The good news is that this resort sits on one of the island's fabulous beaches and even with its modern architecture, the soul is strictly Dominican and the vibe is unmistakable.

www.excellence resorts.com/resorts/excellence-el-carmen





vacation for a new generation. Introducing the All Suite, All Butler, All Gourmet
Generations Resorts in Riviera Maya, Mexico. For adults, the Karisma
Gourmet Inclusive® Experience means oversized 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom
swim-up suites, personal butlers and gourmet à la carte cuisine. For kids,
it's baby amenities, our Eko Kids Club™ and Little Eko Chefs™ program. And
for everyone from groups to grandparents, it's a level of pampering and
personalized service you won't soon forget. How's that for an appetizer?



GOURMET INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE











The Caribbean's most notorious property, coveted by the likes of celebrities from Beyoncé & Jay-Z to Leonardo DiCaprio & Madonna, Nikki Beach Saint Barth has returned to the beach for another incredible season full of exciting programming. Are you ready for their weekly Amazing Sunday's festivities? Needless to say, the legendary hotspot is coming back better (and hotter) than ever. How do you plan to share your 2020 story of celebration, sophistication and excitement? Maybe at one of the Caribbean's most lavish hotspots. This is your year. Treat yourself to the best of the Caribbean. The party starts right here.

saint-barth.nikkibeach.com







More tempting facts:

- The sun-kissed haven for the world's jet set, promises a day filled with crystal clear water views, table-dancing saxophonists, and larger-than-life sushi boats for the ultimate celebration of life and love. A magnet for beautiful people and the see-and-be-seen, Nikki Beach is the place to be for lovers and lusters alike.
- They do like to name-drop... Here are some celebrities that have visited Nikki Beach Saint Barth:
- · Mariah Carey
- John Legend & Chrissy Teigen
- Leonardo DiCaprio
- Bon Jovi
- Gwen Stefani
- Beyonce
- Ciara and Russell Wilson
- Nicole Kidman
- Cindy Crawford
- Blake Lively & Ryan Gosling



SIPPING - BACK IN TIME



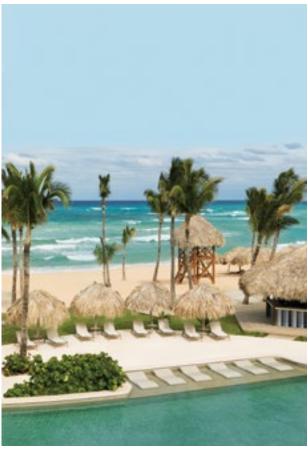
here's been one resort that I have wanted to check out in Punta Cana, in the Dominican Republic. It's the Excellence Resort Punta Cana. When choosing all inclusive resorts, some things can be quite tricky, so I had to come and experience for myself. Nineteen years of innovative curation have led The Excellence Collection to be a name synonymous with an upscale Caribbean experience, where bespoke service meets extraordinary moments at every single one of its resorts in the Dominican Republic. It was difficult for me to pass up such a glowing invitation.

I hopped on my flight from Miami to Punta Cana, prepared myself to enter an all inclusive world overflowing with vibrant gardens and ocean views, as they put it. This experience promised me seclusion but not isolation. The all-adult, all-suite resort sits on a golden beach amid a glorious palm tree grove. Let me be specific...these are coconut palms. Thankfully there was no shortage of coconuts as I had at least three fresh coconuts before lunch, one coco-loco with lunch, and then at least a dozen more all the way up until midnight. A coco-loco. I was well hydrated on a daily basis. There was a real sense of place at this resort. You know how some all inclusive transport you and you could be anywhere in the world? Well, here I knew I was being taken care of by Dominicans who remembered my name after the very first time seeing me. Here, traditional Caribbean architecture blended with modern interior design alongside luxurious choices like swim-up suites and private plunge pools, while four bright blue pools await you throughout the lush grounds. I was drawn to the sand and the sea. I spent days lounging and swimming (and sipping coconut water) while I watched lovers embrace and stroll hand-in-hand.













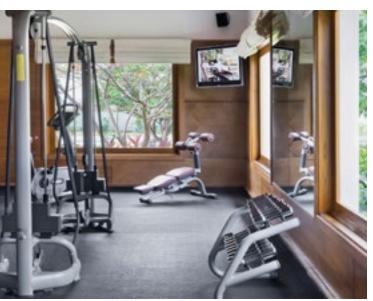






y appetite was primed well before getting to the island becasue I had heard of the eleven restaurants at the resort. Before leaving home, I sort of saved myself from indulging in calories so I could enjoy all the treats while traveling. The flavorful global cuisine in beautifully styled settings certainly hit the spot. While indulgence was sort of my theme for this trip, I still took care of myself. Here. I made time to escape into the serene Miilé Spa. I took archery lessons, and I set aside daily time to work out at the state-of-the-art fitness center. I had to look good to have some fun with daytime activities and evening entertainment. The foam party was so much fun, and jumping around under the bubbles to the bumpin' tunes was a workout in itself.









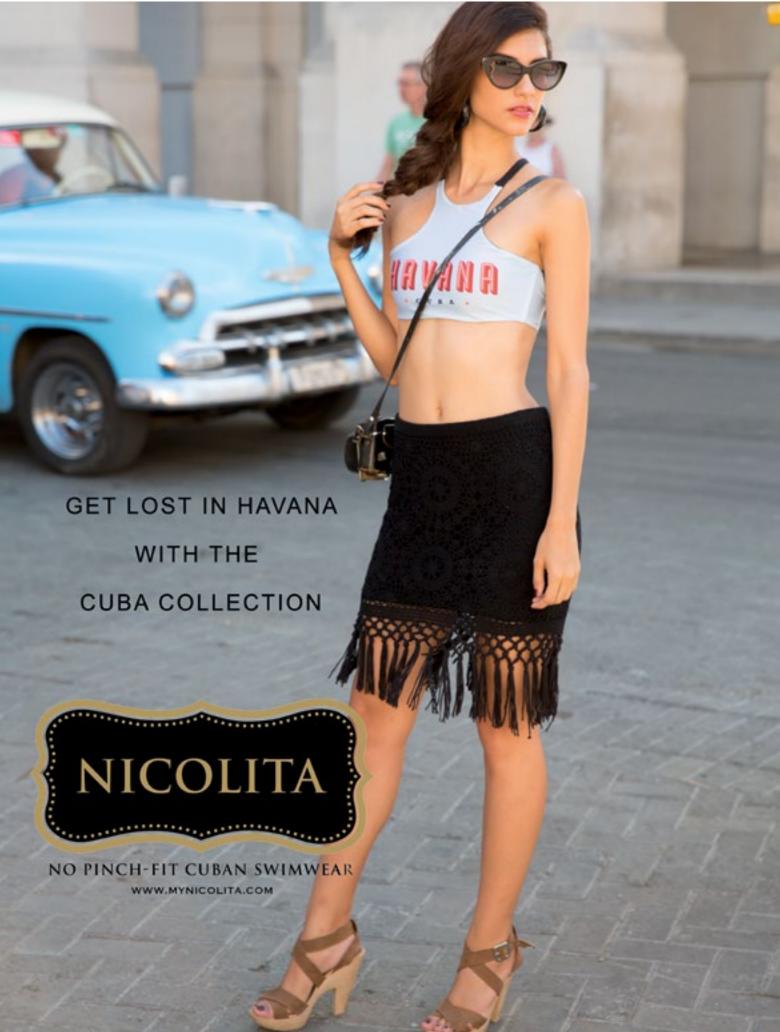




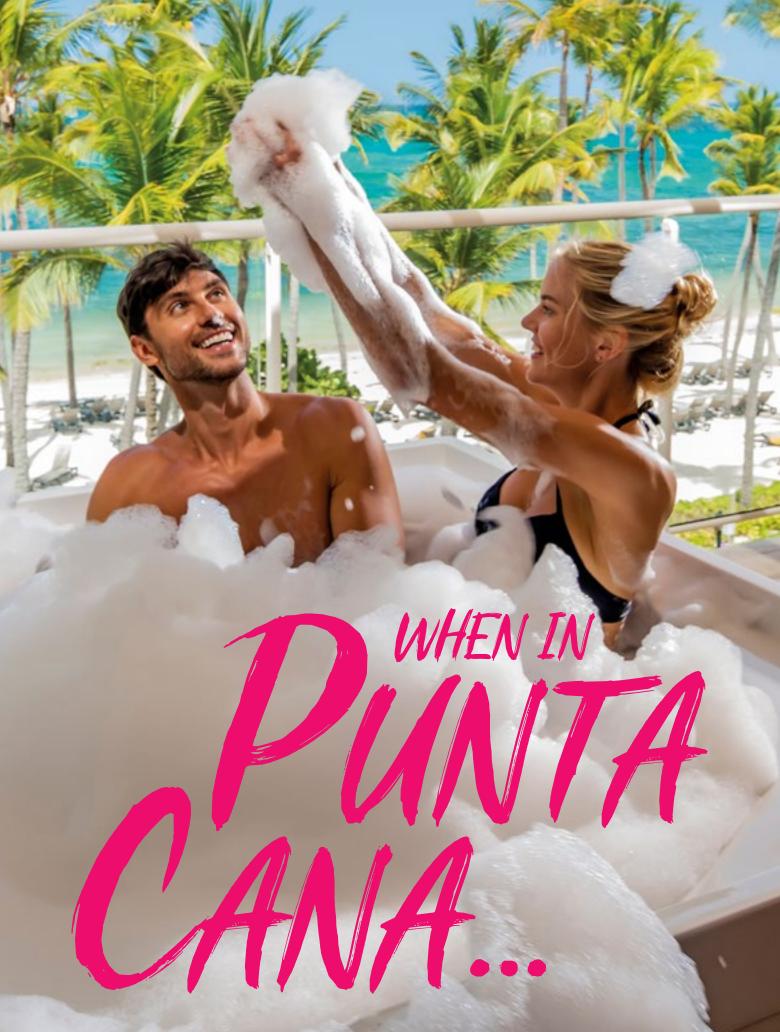
had such a great time. If your plans include the Dominican Republic, come check this place out. You'll be treated like family from day one! The floor show, or at least this is what they were called back in the 80s, where the fire-dancers are feet away and the limbo stick is impossibly low but the dancers make it look easy...this place has an even better show than one may recall from decades ago. The only similarities are that it takes place under the stars, abutting the sand and the heat from the flames can be felt if you get the best seat in the house. Front row or bust. Feeling a part of the show, the culture, and the island is what this resort brings to the table on a multitude of levels. The luxury of a resort with a genuine taste of the destination without ever leaving the grounds. If you do want to venture out, you're in the heart of all the activities this part of the island offers. Stay in or go out, you'll feel at home.

www.excellenceresorts.com/resorts/excellence-punta-cana











Foam parties on the beach or in the privacy of your suite... bowling, golfing, waterpark, Escape Room, and fresh crab in almost every form, this is what we call a family haven vacation. This place is massive. Stating that right up front because there is no escaping its size. There's even a continuously running tram, that looks like a train, to take guests from various parts of the resort to the other. It's actually pretty cool. Since we mentioned size, iits manicured lawns and beachfront location take your focus away from the size and puts you right into vacation mode.

Barceló Bávaro Grand Resort

is situated on over a mile of white sand on the renowned Bávaro Beach and protected by a coral reef that converts the Caribbean Sea into a natural pool. That makes swimming with the kids a breeze. I imagine vegas in the tropics when I hear the words massive and casino (Yes they have a casino too.) This 24-hour all-inclusive resort is comprised of the Barceló Bávaro Palace and the adults-only Barceló Bávaro Beach. There's also a set of accommodations that sit right on the golf course, making this place ideal for those seeking to come on a more active vacation than sitting on the sand. This resort includes over 1,900 rooms, up to 13 dining experiences, five swimming pools, 24hour casino, a theatre whos shows are meant to rival any vegas review, a water park for children and one for not so little ones, the state-of-the-art U-Spa, The Lakes Barceló Golf Course and so much more. Now you see why it needs as much space as it does. It's required to keep everyone entertained and they do that here in such grand style. For those seeking a more elevated experience, the Premium Level accommodations offer some of the very best views, unlimited access to specialty restaurants and 24-hour room service and an exclusive check in experience. Of course there's endless champagne upon check in at this side of the resort. Well worth the upgrade.















If you ever run out of things to do here, that would be a miracle. There's so much at your disposal but in the event you find wanderlust setting in, just ask concierge to book you on a boogie tour on Adventure Boogies. This is the most fun adventure in off-roading, we have had in a long time. Wear clothes you won't mind packing into a plastic bag and shipping back home in your checked luggage. Splurge for the trip that includes lunch and the cave. You'll be treated to a refreshingly cold swim in a crystal clear pool of water. The cave experience is unmatched in the island and your day will probably be unforgettable if you go for this part of the tour. You'll end u at a beach, eventually, but nothing beats heading back to the beach at Barceló Bávaro Grand Resort. Take our word for it and add this to your trip.

www.barcelo.com/en-us/barcelo-hotels/hotels/dominican-republic/punta-cana-beach-bavaro/barcelo-bavaro-palace www.adventureboogies.com







VISIT NOW TO SUPPORT THE BAHAMAS

14 ISLANDS WELCOME YOU

Grand Isle Resort is grateful that Exuma was spared from Hurricane Dorian's path and the resort remains fully open, however our hearts remain with those that felt its mark. To support our brothers and sisters in the northern islands, Grand Isle Resort is happy to offer the *Bahamas Strong Package* from now until December 2020. The resort will donate 10% of the package bookings to recovery efforts.



full page u see me half page







This winter we are all about sunshine and island time. Gathered my friends for a promising getaway to Anguilla. Stunning Beachfront Oasis in Anguilla Inspires Unparalleled Tranquility Amidst a Breathtaking Environment that Draws on the Natural Beauty of the Island

Set on a pristine beach, this discrete six-acre hideaway is nestled on the quiet and secluded Shoal Bay East on the northeast coast of Anguilla. Accessible from St. Maarten International Airport via a 20-minute sea shuttle or directly by private jets and small carriers into Anguilla's International Airport, the stunning enclave continues to be recognized as a top hotel in the Caribbean by us and many others. SLipping away to the islands is one of our favorite things to do, and Zemi has been a go-to for several years.

This trip there's an added bonus because Zemi Beach House has been named an LXR property and is the brand's first hotel to open in the Americas. LXR connects legendary properties into an exclusive network of hotels set apart by an unrivaled commitment to personalized attention and luxurious, yet locally immersive experiences for their guests.

This was all the impetus we needed to come check it out, yet again, for ourselves. Once we heard, "Zemi Beach House is the ideal property and Anguilla is the perfect destination to debut LXR within the Americas," comments Feisal Jaffer, global head, LXR Hotels & Resorts. "We are thrilled to collaborate with Zemi Beach House in creating truly extraordinary and authentic experiences for all of our guests." There was only one thing left to do and that was jet down to the island, pronto. Can we say that it did not disappoint.





















The rooms, the views, and the dining are all on point. Recently appointed executive chef, Bruno Carvalho, has curated new menus for the property's two main restaurants – Stone and 20 Knots. You're going to want to dress up for Stone and get your toes in the sand at 20 Knots. His menus are out of this world delicious.

- Stone, a fine dining restaurant serving seasonal, locally- sourced, sea-to-table cuisine along with a large international selection of carefully chosen fine wines served by Zemi Beach House's in-house sommelier.
- 20 Knots, a casual "toes-in-the-sand" restaurant and beach bar offering an international menu with a variety of cuisines infused with the flavors of Latin America.
- Rhum Room, a refined and elegant rum tasting room featuring more than 100 small-batch, single-estate rums that recall the Caribbean's 18th century sugarcane plantations.
- Shoal Bay Zemi Beach Club, the resort's casual "no-shoes, no problem" atmosphere serving inventive cocktails against the backdrop of crystal-clear turquoise waters and towering palm trees.
- The Bohio Bar & Lounge, Zemi Beach Houses bar that serves pre- and after-dinner cocktails, champagne and wines by the glass for guests to gather and enjoy live music and conversation.

Add this resort to your 2020 todo list, or you'll be missing out on one of the finest experiences in the islands and you can't say we didn't let you know where to go.

www.zemibeach.com





RETREATS

TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE OBVIOUS

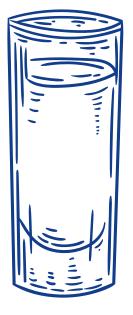


www.SwankyRetreats.com



BEACHBARNONE

NOT YOUR TYPICAL BEACH BAR



Trotting all around the islands this winter, and we are warmed by the spirit of rum. The rarely sipped, often mixed, sometimes under-represented fermented sugarcane juice that can leave you with a hankering for more. The good stuff will rarely, if consumed in moderation, leave you with a hangover. However, chances of feeling the down side of the drink increase with the popular mixed cocktails that range from the creamy deliciousness of the Pina Colada to the Daiquiri. These tasty beverages, along with the famed Mojito, the simply delicious Dark 'N Stormy, and the effervescent Cuba Libré, rum has been a staple on cocktail menus for well over a century...assuming cocktail menus weren't part of the parley of pirates. The stuff originates in the West Indies and is first mentioned in records that originated in Barbados, back in the 1600's.















to British sailors for centuries, all the way up to the late 20th century. Then the difference between rum and rhum delves even deeper into the rich history and distillation, aging, and casking of fermented cane juice and molasses. I'll be far briefer than this distinction deserves: Rhum is a very specific term. The word is an abbreviation of the term rhum agricole, which is a type of rum that can only come from Martinique. In short-- while most rums are distilled from fermented molasses, rhum is made from fresh pressed sugarcane juice. Think of this like the term champagne. Only sparkling wines from the Champagne region of France can actually be called Champagne. I really hope that made sense. Back to the allure of rum/rhum. Even the less romanticised notion of where the word rum comes from are quite intriguing. History has also said that it comes from the Latin word for sugarcane, saccharum officinarum. Wherever it came from, we have found the perfect spot to sample the best of the elixir. On the island of Anguilla there is a special place called the Rhum Room. This space of dark walls, flanked by velvet turquoise curtains and cozy couches to match is a siren song beckoning all those who dream of an elegant evening tucked away from the rest of the world, surrounded by the faint scent of cigar smoke and the service of a barman who knows his way around more than 100 small-batch, single-estate rums.



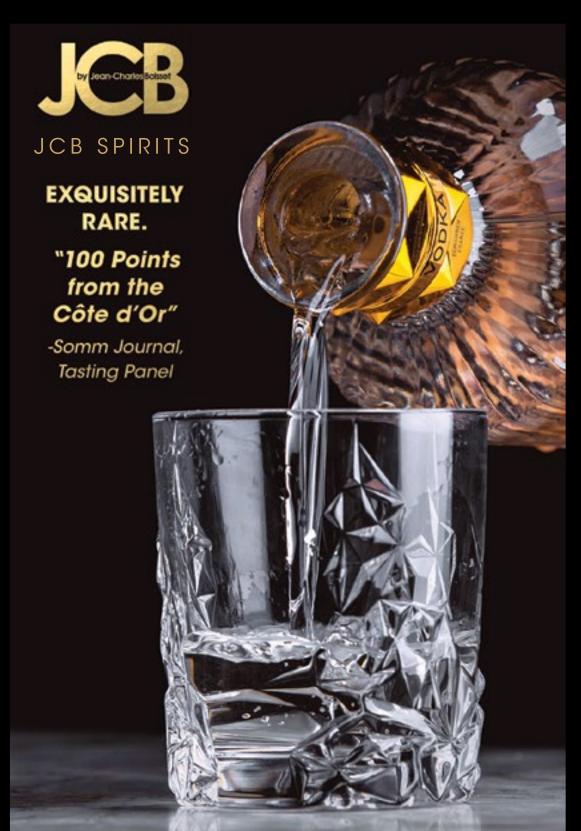
Sinking softly into place, you'll be asked what strikes your fancy that evening. What flavors are you drawn to? What sort of wine you typically drink. These questions may seem random or off-key to the setting of what can be easily likened to a very upscale speakeasy with a twist. Within minutes of answering, one can be assured that a fitting rum cocktail or simple sipping rhum will be in your grasp and on its way to your lips. There's no rushing to be done within these walls, only stories to be told, tales of the estate upon which your chosen rhum was casked. There's plenty of room for almost everything on the cocktail menu should your taste buds yearn for features found within its pages. There's an old pirate's chest atop the bar and if you enquire with the barman, he may just be inclined to treat you to what comes from within. Trust that it is a treasure that embodies the age of the chosen rum and adds even more depth once he embarks upon a mission to unleash the chest's smoky side.

With over 100 small-batch and single-estate rums, which can be sampled with an on-site rhummelier to guide you through the ultra-premium Caribbean selections and showcase the unique flavors and profiles. You'll spend hours here and luckily for you, it's located at Zemi Beach House, so there's plenty of room for a sleepover. Find some time to get to this spot and taste Caribbean rums like never before. Explore the history of the region without ever leaving the turquoise seats that adorn this room like the sought after gems of those who roamed the High Seas.

This spot captures the rich history and essence of this alcoholic treasure. Visit, sip and stay for a while.

www.zemibeach.com/experience/bars-lounges





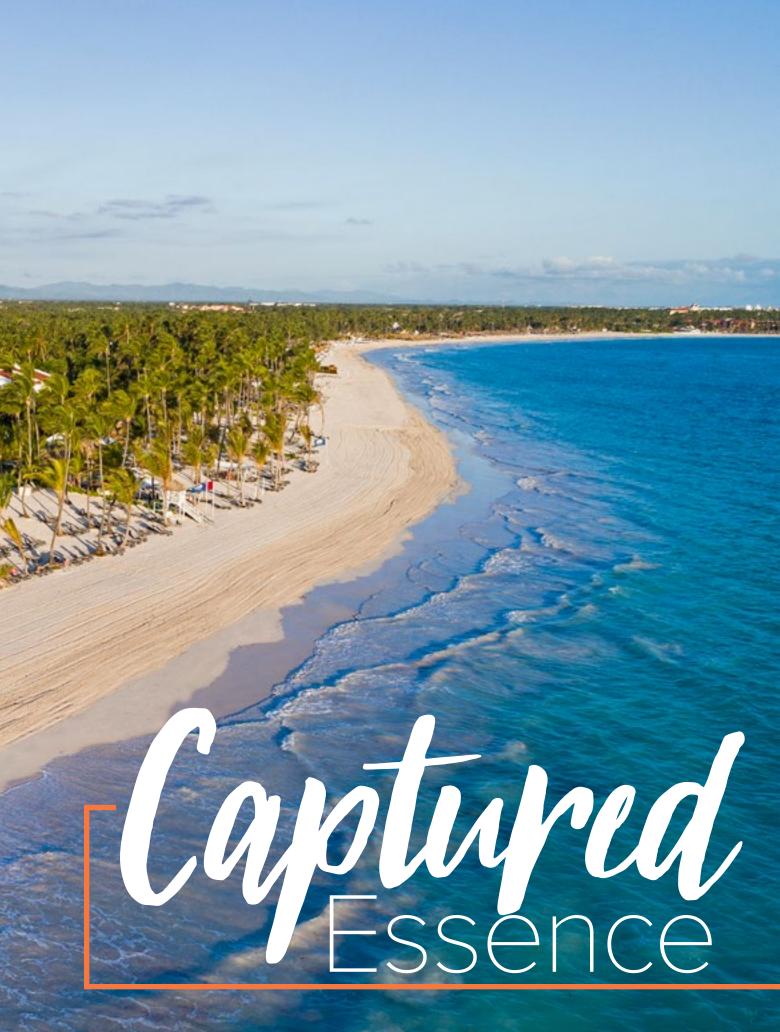






REFINED BURGUNDY WINE DISTILLED INTO RARE, NOBLE & PURE SPIRITS

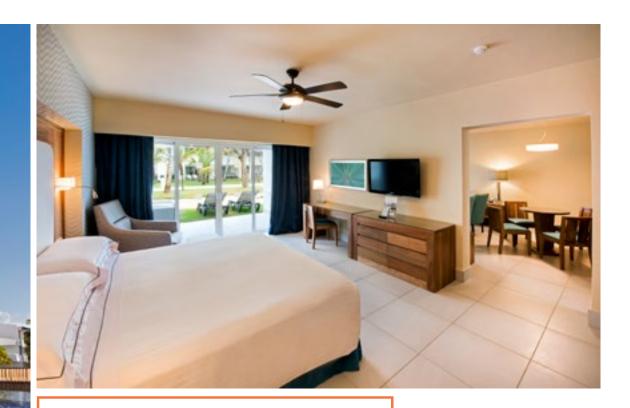






Surrounded by tropical gardens and breathtaking views, Occidental Punta Cana has a posh feel to it. The verdant greens punctuate the bright white two-story buildings. Soft rolling grass below, tall, swaying coconut palm trees above. The sense of place is unmistakable; you are in the Dominican Republic. Surrounded by the blue waters of the Caribbean Sea as well as the pools that abound, you will float your way through your holiday. With all the aquatic exposure, it can be easy to forget about being in the tropics and what being in the sun all day can do. With 11 culinary outlets, hydration is the very least concern. We recommend fresh everything. You may want to stay active and refreshed by taking in some watersports or swimming up to the pool bar. Either way counts towards burning calories. Here's a personal tip: get to the fresh crepe station, open for all meals, and have yourself your choice of custom crepes. You will be happy you did. I was always partial to a fresh lemonade (read as mojito) along with a Nutella crepe. The combo sounds a bit odd, I know, but trust me when I say it's pretty amazing.





Located on Punta Cana's famous Bávaro Beach along a seemingly endless path of stunning white sand and vivid waters, this the all-inclusive resort packs a punch when it comes to relaxed beach holidays. The tranquil atmosphere and Spanish-style architecture combined with modern comforts that are ideal for either families or couples offers more than you would expect. Its three swimming pools including one with a spectacular waterfall, and live music shows and Latin dance classes at the Mangú Club only begin to set the tone. There are tennis sessions and archery lessons for the not so faint of heart. Grab your travel partners and experience some good old fashioned fun in the sun. Here are some of our recommended water sports activities:windsurfing, water polo, scuba diving, snorkeling and SNUBA. That's where you sit on a cartlike contraption and your head is in a bubble full of air... no certification needed, just a bit of courage. We like this resort for its amenities throughout, but one upgrade we highly recommend is to the royal level. Your room experience is just the start of this elevated experience. You're going to have access to a dedicated check in, concierge and beach club. There's no reason to take a basic holiday when you have choices like this at hand. We recommend staying here and experiencing Punta Cana.







THE SPA UNCOMMON

THAI HOUSE





They have gone to great lengths to pamper you at this spa. Zemi Thai House Spa, is set in an authentic 300-year-old Thai House boasting 15,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor space, the serenity experiences as you enter the space rounds out the property's wellness experience. The spa offers a sun deck for mud and salt body treatments, outdoor showers and a vitality pool. Their spa facilities also include oversized private treatment rooms, a wellness boutique, outdoor relaxation areas with wave loungers, spaces for yoga and Pilates and a meditation garden where you can enjoy classes on mindfulness and relaxation. There is also a fresh juice bar at the ancient Thai Rice Barn. This part of the spa features teas and cold-pressed juices made from fruits, herbs and plants found within the spa garden.

The setting alone makes this spa an uncommon find in the Caribbean. The spa offerings, beginning with the hammam. The marble sanctuary for cleansing and relaxation will become one of your favorite places to escape. There is one window that lets in the view of swaying foliage the is just outside the spa but seems worlds away from your current experience.















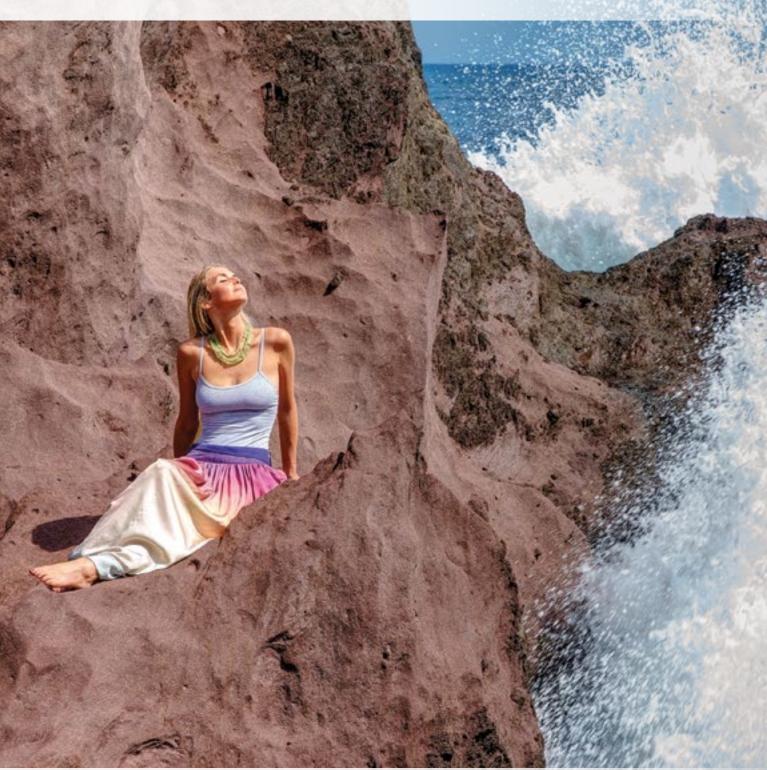


Pre-treatment rituals take place here and are an integral part of this spa's experience. Immediately be transported to that soft quiet place within and let the therapy begin. This is one of those luxury experiences where discerning guests want to return. Take your time here. Begin your spa journey with a choice of fragrant scrubs or therapeutic muds to cleanse the skin while soaking in the warmth of the hammam. There are no wrong choices here. Float from hammam experience over to the relaxation pool and escape under its waterfall as you look out toward the meditation deck. There are also no bad views at this spa. The Thai House accents the blue of the sky with its deep rich wood peaks. Then when your eyes are closed, the aromas of the Far East permeate the air as the skilled therapists get to the task at hand. The goal here is complete relaxation in an exquisite setting. The transformation is immediate and the highlight of a stay at Zemi Beach House. Plan to spend a good portion of your time at this spa.

www.zemibeach.com/experience/spa-wellness



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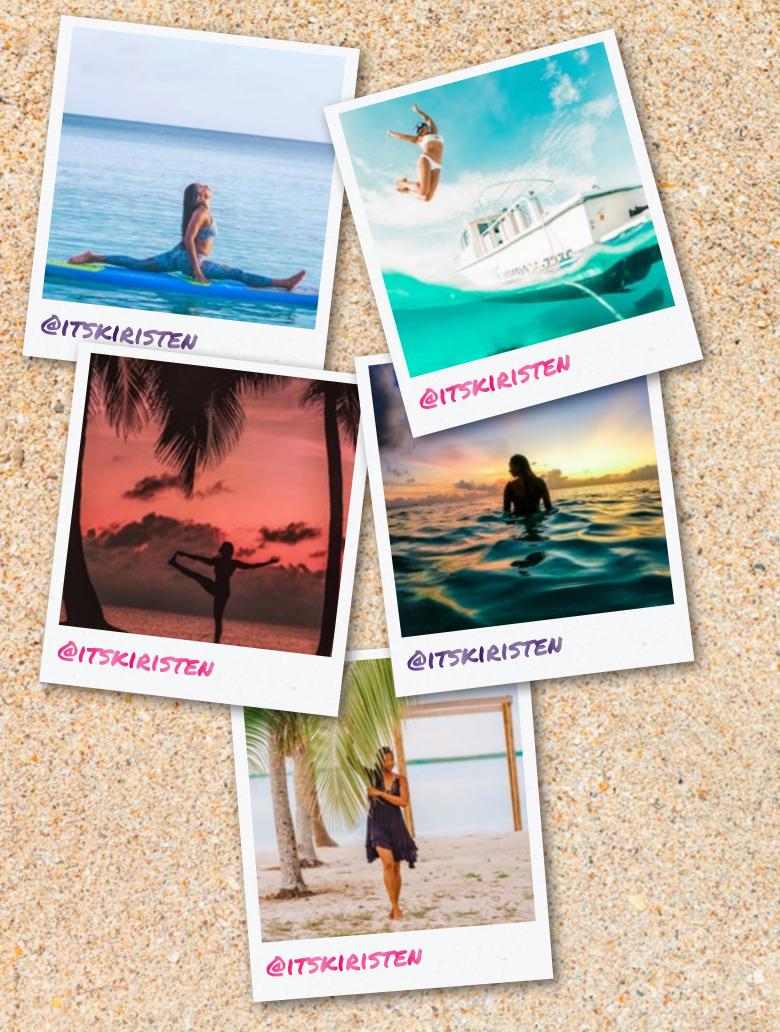


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CREDITS

ISLAND DATES NOT TO MISS

Grenada Tourism Authority Pages: 4,5,7

Antigua Sailing Week Page: 6

Nevis Tourism Authority Page: 8

Ape Hills Golf Club Page: 8

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Hyatt Regency Grand Reserve Puerto Rico Page: 10

PUTTING THE SEXY BACK IN PC

Excellence El Carmen Pages: 12-18

NIKKI BEACH TURNS 20

Nikki Beach Saint Barth Pages: 20-23

SLIPPING BACK IN TIME

Excellence Resort Punta Cana Pages: 24-30

WHEN IN PUNTA CANA

Barceló Hotel Group Pages: 32-36

A NEW COLLABORATION IN ANGUILLA

Zemi Beach Pages: 39-42

BEACH BAR NONE NOT YOUR TYPICAL BEACH BAR

Zemi Beach House Pages: 45-50

CAPTURED ESSENCE

Barceló Hotel Group Pages: 52-55

THE SPA UNCOMMON THAI HOUSE

Zemi Beach House Pages: 58-62

DOING IT FOR THE GRAM

@antiguaandbarbuda @charter_boat_vi @cltravel Page: 66

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