# SEAWAVES

**ADVENTURES** 



ROYAL INSIDER WELCOME to the WORLD of ROYAL CARIBBEAN

AN
INSIDER'S
GUIDE
to the HOTTEST
ISLANDS
in the CARIBBEAN

GLITTERING GEMS for EVERY OCCASION

CARIBBEAN 2023



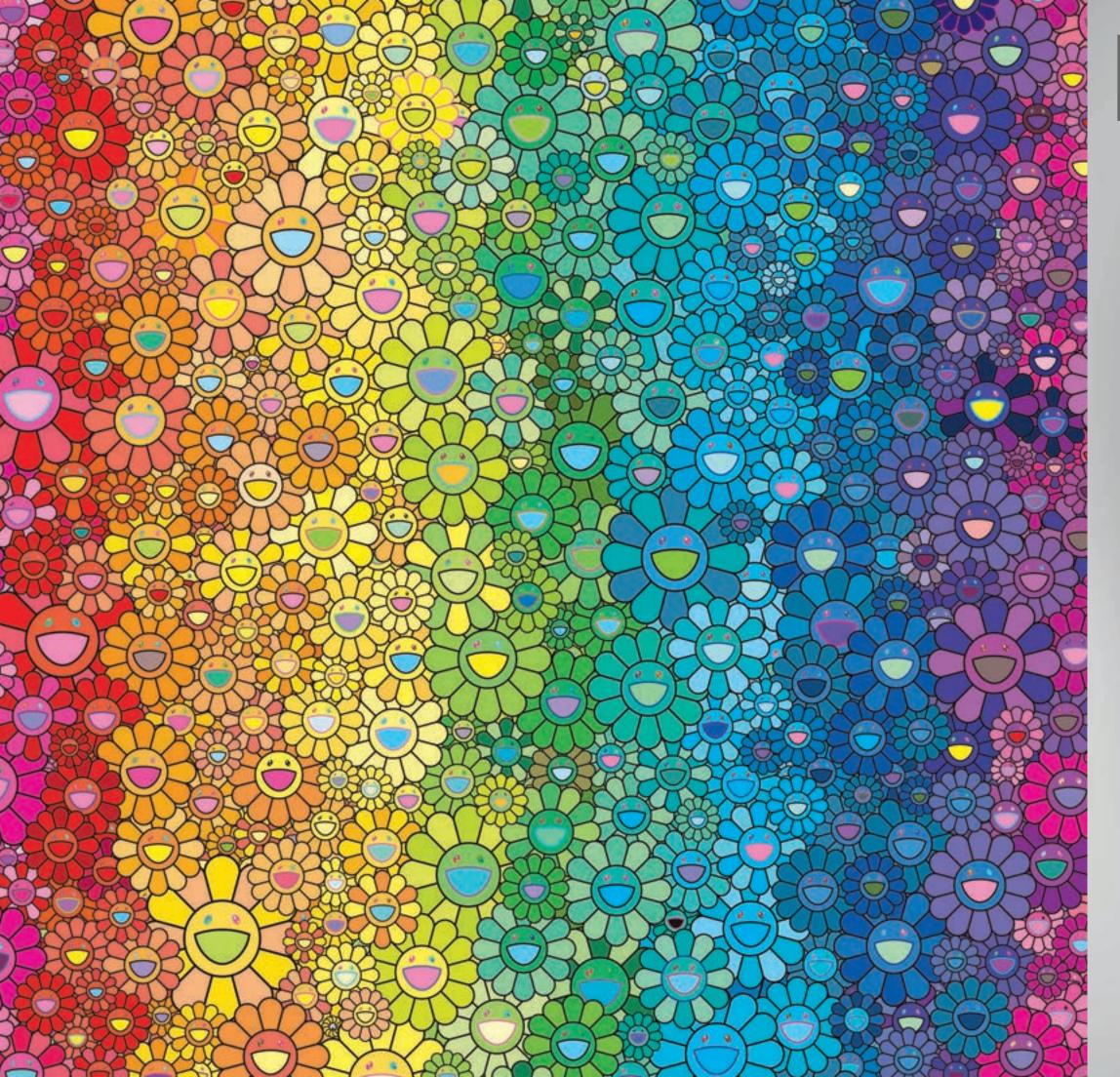












# HUBLOT



CLASSIC FUSION TAKASHI MURAKAMI SAPPHIRE RAINBOW

Sapphire case. Dial with rotating smiling flower set with colorful gemstones. In-house UNICO movement. Limited to 100 pieces.

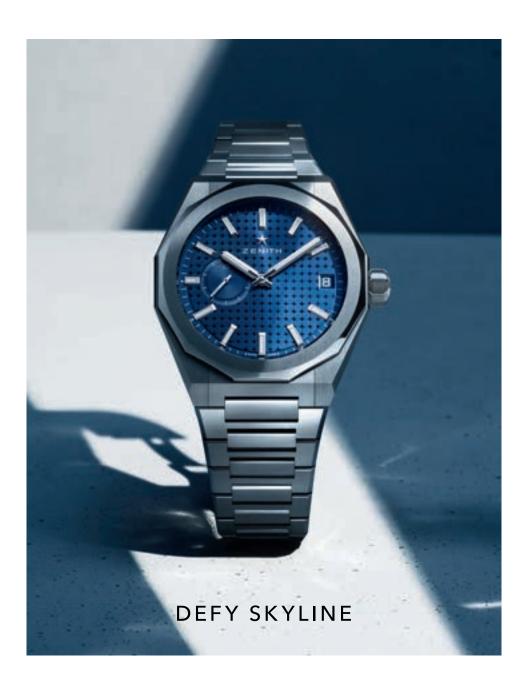


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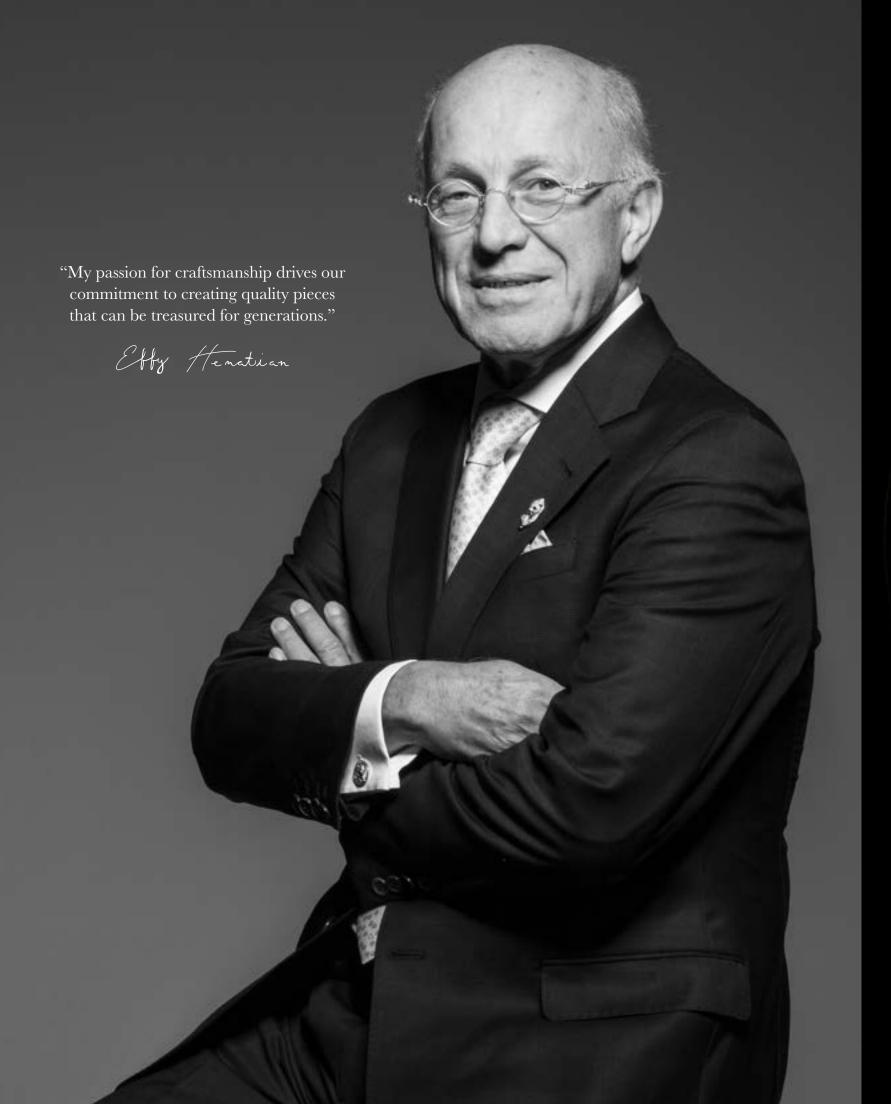








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NEW YORK



Publisher's Letter



**Welcome Aboard!** We are honored to present our exclusive publication for Royal Caribbean International—SEAWAVES ADVENTURES.

The new SEAWAVES ADVENTURES magazine is an integral part of the program, providing a deeper dive into the products, experiences, dining, and entertainment on your ship and ashore. Throughout the magazine, you'll find ideas for everything from limited-edition jewelry collections, fashion, and beauty to planning your next adventure. We also feature a unique Island Guide tailored exclusively for the Royal Caribbean International passenger.

As Royal Caribbean International's partner of expertise in duty-free luxury, we are excited to introduce an onboard expansion of our service and knowledge, the Port & Shopping Expert. You will now have your own personal guide to help you decide what to do, what to see, and most importantly, where to shop.

Tax and duty-free shopping, both on-board and ashore, have become an integral part of any cruise vacation. We invite you to visit the desk of our onboard Port & Shopping Expert for a one-on-one consultation. They are at your service to custom curate an amazing cruise experience based entirely on your requests and interests.

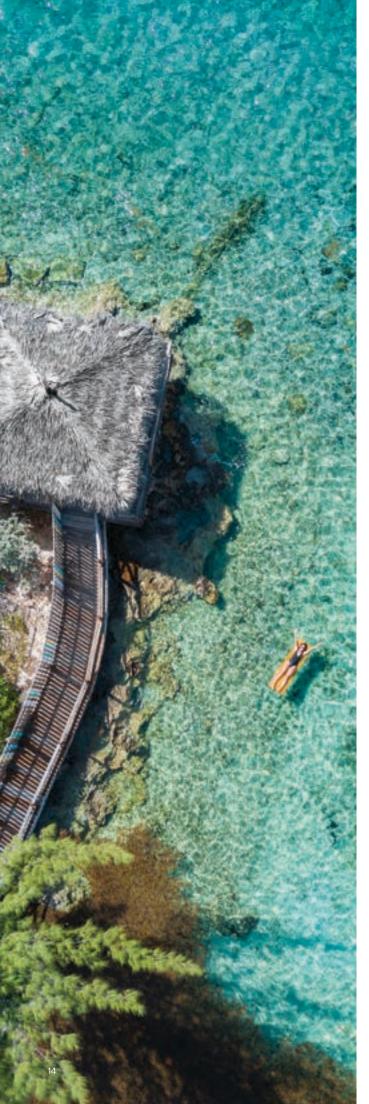
From our family to yours, we wish you a beautiful vacation!

#### **Bobby Hematian**

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

Robby Homatian\_





#### Editor's Letter



**Seek and you will find.** We're excited to present our debut issue of *SEAWAVES ADVENTURES*, the exclusive on-board magazine for Royal Caribbean International passengers.

And what will you find inside? We sought out the best and brightest experiences on-board and ashore, from world-class sommeliers to private beach clubs on remote islands, in order to bring you the ultimate Caribbean guide to leisure, dining, travel, and seaside style. And don't forget to shop—we've curated a connoisseur's take on fine jewelry, timepieces, beauty, and skincare, so leave your search for life's little luxuries in our expert hands.

And, of course, you'll find a deep dive into on-board life in the *Royal Insider*, our exclusive feature on Royal Caribbean, from dining to entertainment, the newest fleet, and where to aim for your next seagoing adventure!

Creating this magazine has been an extraordinary journey with an incredible team of talented, avid cruisers that have sailed from St. Martin to Rome in search of the best of everything that we can bring to you.

Buon Viaggio. **Tracy Squillante**EDITOR IN CHIEF

Lay C. Squellet





# **Contents**





# 24 Seek and Find

Dive into glamorous, must-have jewelry, scope the latest and greatest timepieces, embrace the sun, and celebrate essential beauty finds for lips, body, and more.

Finish off with an assortment of perfect-for-warm-weather wines culled from around the world.

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## **Royal Insider**

Welcome to the wonderful world of Royal Caribbean! Meet the new fleet plying the seas, fall under the spell of a luxe, family-friendly suite, head for the spa, savor incredibly fresh, innovative sushi, and settle in for world-class entertainment.

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## Wanderlust

Embrace your bliss on the perfect St. Thomas day trip, celebrate culinary delights in St. Martin, enjoy a sybaritic weekend in Rome, and explore Australia's awe-inspiring Outback.







# 80 Features

Soothe your soul, pack the perfect tote, fall into easy-breezy, cruise-ready fashion, and get ready for a little glamorous glitter.

# 97 The Island Guide

Dining! Culture! Shopping! Beaches! How to navigate the Caribbean like a true local. 112 Dream On

Retreat to historic canal-side glamour in the heart of Venice.



Only by pushing the limits of possibilities, you discover new dimensions.

### **BEYOND THE EDGE**

TAG HEUER AQUARACER



AVAILABLE ONBOARD IN SELECT LOCATIONS



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# Contributors



#### Jason Oliver Nixon

Global Editor at Large

Global Editor at Large Jason Oliver Nixon took his first cruise from Venice to Barcelona at the age of five and there has been no looking back. "I am mad for cruising," Nixon says. "There's no better way to travel with a glamour and excitement, which just doesn't exist on an airplane. I love the journey as much as the destination." The former Editor in Chief of Gotham and Hamptons magazines and Chief Luxury Officer of Four Seasons Hotels magazine, Nixon oversees North Carolina-based lifestyle brand Madcap Cottage when he isn't crisscrossing the globe. Says Nixon, "Have sturdy suitcase, will travel. I just need more pages in my passport."

#### Misha Pinkhasov

Global Features Editor

The mismatch between Misha Pinkhasov's name, accent, passport, and address makes one wonder: Who really is he? From a start in New York magazines, Misha moved on to the Paris fashion scene and a decade dealing with diplomats—then left it all for Lisbon. His book, Real Luxury, shook up the industry de luxe, which he teaches at Portugal's premier NOVA University. When not edifying the leaders of tomorrow about luxury brands, he covers travel, culture, and lifestyles for global editions of Vogue, Architectural Digest, and more.





## Gabriela Langone

Fashion Stylist

Since her childhood in New York, Gabriela Langone has always had a passion for beauty and fashion. She began her career by assisting a coterie of renowned stylists before breaking out on her own. Langone's editorial clients include V Magazine, Nylon, Issue, Shape, Harper's Bazaar, Elle Girl, Marie Claire, GQ, and L'Officiel, among many others. Langone's commercial clients range from Lilly Pulitzer and Target to Birkenstock and Pepsi. Langone believes that style is a fashion footprint so, she says, "Let your style always be individual."

#### Gabriele Baldotto

Photographe

Colombian-born, Italian-raised, and New York-based design powerhouse Gabriele Baldotto splits his time between creative direction and photography. After graduating from the Politecnico di Milano in Industrial Design, Baldotto began his career in Milano as Print Art Director and has since collaborated with international luxury brands such as Cartier, Versace, Patek Philippe, Coach, Fendi, Blumarine, David Yurman, Tiffany & Co., Calvin Klein, and V Magazine, to name a few. Baldotto continues his creative journey in the interior, fashion, and editorial worlds. Says Baldotto, "I am passionate about design and love the idea of bringing a brand story to life through myriad influences." He is an avid photo book and furniture collector and loves reconnecting with nature and the elements in the Italian Alps or in the Caribbean coast of Colombia.





## Tom Hayes

Photographer

Long Island, New York-based photographer Tom Hayes has a passion for traveling the globe and photographing outdoor adventures with his wife, Sarah. But in the photo studio, Hayes focuses on shining a light on beautiful products, especially jewelry, making all the rich details of curated objects come to life. He says that he receives great joy from taking small and intricate works of art and making them feel larger than life, perhaps revealing the special qualities or telling a story. When he isn't in front of the lens, Hayes loves to garden, play tennis, and hike.

Ryan Jenq Photographer

Ryan Jenq is a Paris, Tennessee-born photographer based in Brooklyn, New York. Since graduating from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 2013, he has developed a focus on reintroducing fine art storytelling with modern still life imagery. His work has been featured in recent editorials for Elle, The New York Times, Vogue UK, V Magazine, and more.





# Seking AND

Celebrate the best and brightest finds under the sun.

Edited by Tracy Squillante Photographs by Ryan Jenq

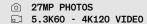




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# Masterpiece THEATER

Stunning good looks pair with exceptional, time-honed craftsmanship.

 ${\tt 3}$ 

# Sun SEEKERS

Embrace the sun in timeless style.



Silver marco pilot sunglasses by **Tom Ford**,

tomford.com. Recycled square sunglasses

by **Emporio Armani** 

armani.com. Linea rossa sunglasses

by **Prada**,

prada.com.



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Squalane + rose vegan lip balm by Biossance, biossance.com. Briogeo scalp revival treatment by Briogeo, briogeohair.com. Cloud cushion moisturizer by Eadem eadem.co. Nordic hydra gel mask by Lumene, lumene.com. Resurfacing night serum by Biossance, biossance.com. Firming cashmere cream by Caudalie, caudalie.com. evival Cloud Cushion AIRY BRIGHTENING MOISTURIZER OSSANCE: SQUALANE + LACTIC ACT RESURFACING NIGHT SEN EADEM LUMENE ILAHDEI NORDIC HYDRA CAUDALÍE 72" HYDRA GEL MASK Resveratrol-Life \*\*\*\*

# Youth DEW

Keep your skin dewy and fresh with earth-friendly essentials.





by **Saint Laurent**, ysl.com. Reversible visetos tote by **MCM**, mcmworldwide.com. Marine bag by **Le Sac Francais**,

hometoharbour.com.

Rive Gauche tote

# Carryon, CARRYALL

The tote is the new travel essential. Here, a trio of our favorites.





#### Red wine might be the go-to for grown-up connoisseurs,

but the playful mood of the lower latitudes gives even the most serious palates a craving for white wine's freshness and vibrancy. Something that lifts you and dances, with notes of citrus and underripe apricot—something to sip casually seaside, as opposed to the darker, warmer tones that accompany a formal dinner.

To navigate the world of options, we consulted style savant and Certified Sommelier Sarah Thorne-Markman. After a decade on the fashion scene in New York, Milan, and Paris, she trained as a chef and food stylist before turning her attention back to a passion cultivated during a youth enriched with family vineyard visits and tastings out of the barrel. As founder of Kestral Wines and Spirits, Sarah scours the planet to find the best bottles to represent every grape-growing region. Here's what she had to say:

Château d'Esclans, Whispering Angel Rosé

There is a reason you see this on every wine list: it's perfect. Light in color and body but never thin or weak on the palate. "Unlike many other rosés I have tried, there is a plushness to this one that is never cloying, because it remains bone dry," Sarah says. Made from a blend of Grenache, Cinsault, and Rolle, the wine shows beautiful red-fruit notes of strawberry and white nectarine, balanced by a lactic, crème-fraîche note on the finish. This rosé is wonderful poolside or beach-adjacent and does not need food to complement it but will work well with a wide range of cuisines.

"We buy with our eyes, and a charming hippo on this elegant label makes it the ultimate hostess gift. But don't let the fun fool you —this is serious wine!"

#### Jean Luc Colombo, Les Abeilles Côtes du Rhône

Even on a hot day, sometimes a little richness coupled with freshness is in order, and this is just the bottle. This wine shows all the classic Côtes du Rhône hallmarks: white flowers and almond skin, stone fruits and melon, golden apple, and a subtle, almost savory spice component. This wine will pair easily with a wide range of dining options, and immediately elevate any fish with a cream-based sauce or bold vegetable dish. Les Abeilles means "The Bees" because it is farmed organically by the daughter of lifelong beekeepers who taught her great respect for the natural ecosystem that keeps the vineyard thriving. A portion of the proceeds from each bottle sold goes to entomology research to protect these hardest-working members.

## Digby Fine English, Leander Pink Sparkling Wine

It's true that "We buy with our eyes," and a charming hippo on this elegant label makes it the ultimate hostess gift. But don't let the fun fool you—this is serious wine! Meticulously crafted from Champagne's traditional method and grapes (50% Pinot Noir, 35% Chardonnay, 15% Meunier), this bottle will please the enthusiast and novice alike. Showing notes of wild strawberry and ripe citrus, this is a bottle to enjoy as an aperitif, but also has enough complexity and body to pair with more substantial fare, like barbeque, roasted vegetables, aromatic salads, seafood, and fish. Fun fact: Digby is named for Sir Kenelm Digby, the 17th century philosopher, theologian, writer...and pirate! Leander Pink was developed with the world's oldest rowing club, England's The Leander Club, and sales support its young athletes.



"You won't often find me drinking Sauvignon Blanc and even less-so one from New Zealand," says Sarah, "but this stands out from the very large crowd." New Zealand did an incredible job establishing a winemaking style. Deep Down wanted to make wines with an elegant side and to do so by farming organically, a real rarity in region. This one tends to be intensely aromatic, showing grapefruit, tarragon, and gooseberry. Also expressing notes of citrus, kaffir lime, green apple, and fresh herbs, this wine is great paired with a cheese course (particularly from goat or sheep milk) and will elevate light fish or chicken on the grill, salads, and vegetables.

## Anthill Farms, Pinot Noir

"I love a red that chills nicely," Sarah confesses. "Anthill Farms in California is one of my favorite producers—winemaker Anthony Filiberti knows his way around Pinot Noir and Chardonnay so well that most sommeliers can't guess whether his wines are new- or old-world in a blind tasting." It has all the high-toned fruit and ripeness you want, but perfectly balanced and light on its feet. The vineyards get plenty of cool marine air coming off the Pacific, which keeps the wine fresh and elegant. Steaks on the grill, barbeque ribs, burgers, brats, and hot dogs will taste better with a slightly cool glass to wash them down. Just not too cold: 45 degrees for whites and 55 for reds, or you'll mute their aromas. Popping the bottle in the refrigerator or an ice bucket for 20-30 minutes before serving should do the trick.



Cerified Sommelier Sarah Thorne-Markman



Window available at **Vestual** treated in an admirite condensitie con



# Royal INSIDER

By Misha Pinkhasov

This season, ROYAL CARIBBEAN brings you ideas to extend that warm-weather vibe, whether enjoying this cruise or planning your next. Our two latest superlatives of the SEAS-ODYSSEY AND WONDER-offer even more reasons to cruise than before, with a third—ICON—on the slipway being readied to revolutionize seafaring technology. The whole family will delight in familiar and fresh surefire favorites, like VITALITY SPA treatments and the showstopping ULTIMATE FAMILY SUITE. Speaking of shows, discover how ROYAL CARIBBEAN blends talent and tech as one of the world's biggest producers of live entertainment. And see how our expert chefs serve spectacle plate-side at IZUMI SUSHI AND HIBACHI GRILL. Finally, fantasize of the future with a look at coming itineraries: sneak a moment away or see the world-the choice is yours!

# The LATEST and Greatest

An inside look into Royal Caribbean's stunning new ships including *Wonder* of the Seas and Odyssey of the Seas.



# Welcome to Wonder of the Seas!

The world's latest wonder, Royal Caribbean's highly anticipated Wonder of the Seas, welcomed its first guests in March 2022, setting course for the Caribbean from Port Everglades, Florida. A combination of brand-new thrills and signature favorites make this fifth ship in Royal Caribbean's epic Oasis Class a getaway for holidaymakers of all ages.

The biggest ship in the world is also the first to host eight unique neighborhoods. The Royal Promenade bustles with buskers, live music, shops, restaurants, and buzzing bars (even a Latin dance club). Central Park's paths wind through more than 20,000 exotic plants to quiet nooks, and upscale shopping and dining. The openair Boardwalk conjures Coney Island with a carved, classic carousel and carnival games, and casual, kid-friendly eats. Entertainment Place is your nightlife go-to with jazz, comedy, and karaoke clubs, stage and skating shows, and the Casino Royale. The Pool & Sports Zone spans the length

of the ship, with climbing walls, zip lines, surf simulators, mini-golf, and more. In the Vitality at Sea Spa & Fitness Center, find facials, massages, and acupuncture, steam and sauna, and workouts galore. The Youth Zone is packed with hangout spaces and events tailored by age (including a nursery for parents' nights out).

And finally, the all-new Suite Neighborhood welcomes Royal Suite Class guests to a reimagined Suite Sun Deck with a plunge pool and bar, and returning favorites, the Coastal Kitchen restaurant and the Suite Lounge. True to its name, Wonder has surprises in store even for Royal Caribbean regulars. Among 40-plus places to dine and drink, the new Mason Jar Southern Restaurant & Bar is already a firm favorite, where country comfort and hospitality meet royal creativity. Enjoy staples and twists on country classics for brunch, dinner, and late at night, with live music, farmhouse decor, and 19 American whiskeys and other libations.

The Caribbean Pool Deck is a rainbowhued candy land for kids and grownups, day or night. The cantilevered Vue Bar joins the lineup of hotspots, like Lime & Coconut, offering live music. Nearby, the underwater-themed Wonder Playscape offers a surreal, new, outdoor adventure—slides, climbing walls, games, interactive activities that come alive by touch, imaginative puzzles, and light shows—that engage young travelers in more ways than one. So much fun, it just may bring out your inner child!

And what would a Royal Caribbean cruise be without the famed four "stages": air, ice, water, and theater? Prepare for "inTENse" in the AquaTheater open-air amphitheater, where the first all-female cast perform aerial stunts and white-knuckle dives into the deepest pool at sea. And debuting this summer in "The Effectors II: Crash 'n' Burn," high-tech superheroes battle their archenemies to save the planet.

After a European debut, Wonder returns to the U.S. in November to sail from its new, year-round home in Port Canaveral, Florida. Fourteen three- to eight-night itineraries will explore all-time favorites, like Royal Caribbean's private destinations, Perfect Day at CocoCay in The Bahamas and Labadee, Haiti, as well as San Juan, Puerto Rico; Roatan, Honduras; and Cozumel and Costa Maya, Mexico.

## Set sail aboard Odyssey of the Seas...

# Not just another ship Sparkling Icon

Royal Caribbean is proud to announce the coming of Icon of the Seas, the very first ship in the all-new Icon Class debuting in 2024. Icon will be Royal Caribbean's first of three ships powered by LNG (liquefied natural gas) — the cleanest fossil fuel available to cruise ships today.

Royal Caribbean is already known for decades of strides in energy efficiency and reduced emissions through technologies like air lubrication, which sends billions of microscopic bubbles along the hull of a ship to reduce friction, and using excess energy to help power the ship's operations. Combining LNG with this lineup, Icon will be the next important step in Royal Caribbean's journey toward a clean-energy future: virtually zero sulfur dioxides and particulates, and a significant reduction in nitrogen oxides.

# Was ever a ship so aptly named? Odyssey of the Seas became the 2

July 2021.

# Odyssey of the Seas became the 25th ship in Royal Caribbean's award-winning fleet in

The second Quantum Ultra Class ship weighs 169,000 gross tons and measures 1,138 feet (347 meters) long and 135 feet (41 meters) wide. Odyssey was the first of its kind to call Florida home.

Vacationers of all ages are in for a combination of 12 all-new and first-to-brand experiences, as well as the signature adventures guests know and love. For starters, sporting a whole new look across two decks, *Odyssey's* Caribbean-inspired pool deck features two open-air pools, four whirlpools, and Splashaway Bay. Anchored by a Quantum Ultra Class first—The Lime & Coconut bar—all travelers can enjoy the sun and stars in style.

And for more kinetic types, the SeaPlex offers the next generation of a longtime Quantum Class favorite: the largest indoor and outdoor activity center at sea features a Playmakers Sports Bar & Arcade. Meanwhile, returning guest

favorites on the action-packed top deck include the gravity-defying SkyPad virtual-reality bungee trampoline adventure, FlowRider surf simulator, skydiving with RipCord by iFly, and the iconic North Star all-glass observation capsule that boasts 360-degree views from 300 feet above sea level.

All that fun is sure to work up an appetite. Giovanni's Italian Kitchen & Wine Bar gives a fresh take on the cruise line's signature trattoria and is the first to introduce its new wine bar concept. For a more exotic flare, Teppanyaki serves up East Asian flavors in the traditional, Japanese tableside grill style.

What's dinner without a show? In typical Royal Caribbean fashion, Odyssey's full-scale productions take top billing in teched-out venues, such as the Royal Theater and Two70, where immersive technology, unparalleled special effects, and world-leading performers and aerialists take the stage alongside six agile Roboscreens for a multidimensional live immersion experience. This is truly a must see!



# LIFE is Suite

An invitation inside a color-packed wonderland at the Ultimate Family Suite is the ideal retreat for family and friends.

From spectacular views to deluxe amenities, sailing with Royal Caribbean is like nothing else at sea. And to amp up the way you stay and play even more, nothing beats the Ultimate Family Suite.

The first and only one of its kind, the Ultimate Family Suite debuted on *Symphony of the Seas* and *Spectrum of the Seas*, offering endless ways to bond over thrilling new experiences, all in one room. Now, the grandest Ultimate Family Suite is nestled in *Wonder of the Seas*' new, eighth neighborhood—the Suite Neighborhood. Whichever your ship, with only one suite like it on-board, bragging rights are at stake for the most exclusive family experience.

The Ultimate Family Suite spans 1,346 square feet on two levels filled with awesome thrills. That's more than enough room for the whole family—and friends—to come together and catch up on quality time. Groups of up to 10 can enjoy comfort, luxury, and most importantly, fun! If that's not enough to bring the whole brood, there's a connecting Loft Suite with your name on it. And it's all completely accessible.





"The Ultimate Family Suite boasts whimsical color schemes and jaw-dropping features. And, yes, the double-height living room doubles as a private cinema and karaoke lounge."



Imagination brings this suite to life with whimsical color schemes and jaw-dropping features. The double-height living room doubles as a private cinema and karaoke lounge. Families always get the best seats in the house with an 85-inch 4K Ultra-HD TV screen, access to an expansive family movie library (streaming services included) and 27 games for the world's top consoles: Xbox One X, Nintendo Switch, and PS4 Pro.

A floor-to-ceiling LEGO wall awaits aspiring architects, and the chalkboard wall is the perfect grand canvas kids can draw on to inspire their inner artiste. Hidden nooks offer cozy spaces to chill and recharge for a change of pace. And at the convertible, multipurpose dining table, families can share a meal one minute, and start family game night the next.

Meanwhile, upstairs, a "Magic Door" crawl space connects the two bedrooms—a bunk-bedded kids' room and a stylish, separate, master suite where parents can escape. And there's never a line for the multistory slide, big enough for the tallest of kids to dive into the day's adventure.

But that's just the inside. The 212-square-foot balcony touts its own excitement. Relax in the full-size whirlpool with unmatched ocean views. Table tennis amps up the family-friendly competition and conveniently doubles as an outdoor dining table. Luckey Climber, an interactive, three-dimensional vertical maze for kids, is the first of its kind created in a private space. And chaise lounges offer different ways to take in nature's panoramas and the ocean air.

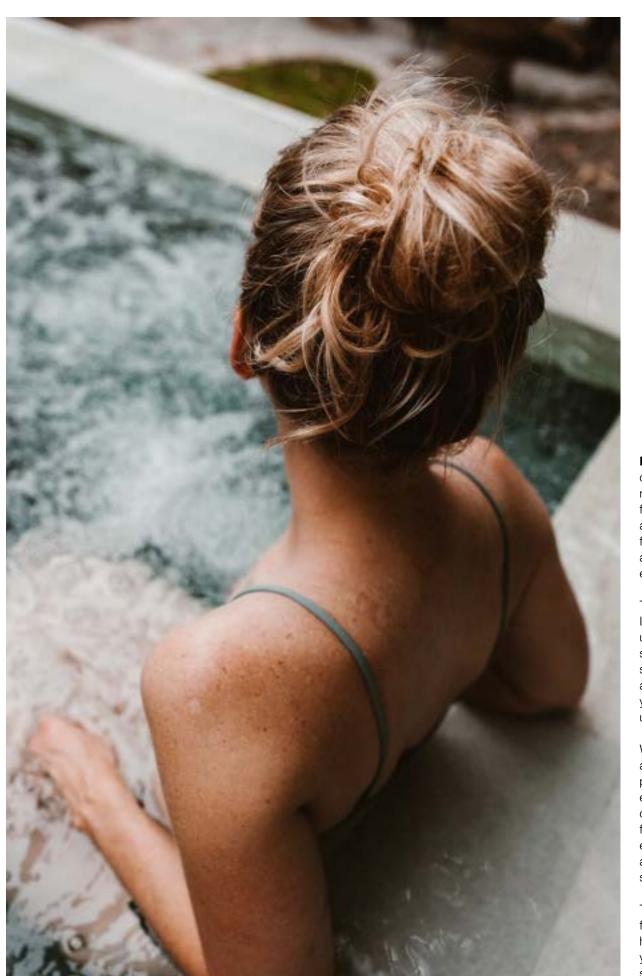
When you're done playing, your private Royal Genie can coordinate exclusive one-of-a-kind experiences, from planning the perfect date night at sea, to reserving front row seats to your favorite performance. What's more, you'll all enjoy the Royal Suite Class experience, which includes the exclusive Suite Sun Deck with a plunge pool and bar, and the private Coastal Kitchen restaurant.

Because the Ultimate Family Suite is part of the Star tier, that means you'll enjoy a red-carpet arrival, ensuring every member of the family feels like a celebrity, and has access to VIP perks, like complimentary drinks, specialty dining, and internet. Stars, they're just like us!









# The Royal TREATMENT

Escape to the transporting, exceptional Vitality Spa and bliss out as you uncover a new you.

From working out to winding down, the Vitality Spa & Fitness center is your sanctuary at sea. Restorative massages and rejuvenating facials, world-class fitness classes, state-of-the-art facilities powered by Life Fitness, and exclusive amenities help you achieve total relaxation—at the Vitality Spa & Fitness center, you'll find everything you need to recharge between adventures. There are even spa services for teens and a beauty salon. It's never been easier to find balance while on vacation.

Time away doesn't have to mean time away from your fitness goals. If the on-deck sports and activities have you craving more, power up your day with specialized exercise classes. From a fast-paced spin class urged on by a dynamic instructor, to mindful strength and stretching with yoga, Royal Caribbean offers a range of motivation and inspiration. Or explore our expansive training, and discover you'll never want for weight and cardio machines to help you work up a sweat.

When you're done toning, it's time to wax, polish, and buff. Uncover a new you with lavish salon treatments like a full range of manicures, pedicures, makeup, and hair services. And enjoy access to exclusive amenities with a spa day pass to enjoy the Thermal Suite of luxurious jetted pools, saunas, and steam rooms. The possibilities for pampering are endless with an extensive menu of gold or enzyme facials; herbal, stone, seaweed, and invigorating massages and body treatments; even acupuncture and wrinkle treatments to send you off looking as good as you feel.

The expert Vitality Spa & Fitness teams can design an experience for anyone. They can customize a special time just for Mom to treat herself and leave all her cares behind. Or add a bit of romance to your day of relaxation. So, make it a date and reconnect with your significant other while you center your body and mind.





"A sushi chef has the honor to create items that are from the ocean," says Izumi Founder and Master Chef, Travis Kamiyama. Kamiyama began training as a sushi chef at age 14, drawn by a fascination for the history and art of sushi, and opened his first restaurant at 29. In between, the Southern-California native majored in economics and business administration, which he credits with giving him a leg-up running restaurants. "Like any business, an amalgamation of skills is essential," says Kamiyama. "Culinary skills and an understanding of business areas like finance and marketing are key to building a profitable restaurant."

That combination equipped Kamiyama to tackle the challenges of running a restaurant on the world's biggest ship when Royal Caribbean asked him in 2009 to collaborate on "Project Genesis"—code name for the mammoth Oasis class. Kamiyama managed the start-up of Izumi: he developed the menus and recipes, execution, and training of the first Izumi restaurant on-board *Oasis of the Seas*, the world's biggest ship by far at the time. From that experiment, Izumi has become a signature restaurant for Royal Caribbean, with over 26 sushi and hibachi restaurants across the fleet.

But even with a half-dozen seafood restaurants in Los Angeles in his portfolio, plus collaborations on Asian restaurants in five-star resorts across the Caribbean, and consulting for corporate clients like Toyota and Japan Airlines, creating Izumi represented a whole other level of complexity. "Imagine up-and-shipping a 3,000-room hotel from New York to Rome or Singapore every six months," Kamiyama explains, "and the changeover that implies for your sourcing supply lines, quality, and customer service, all while working to deliver the consistent, high standards and reliable experience guests love."

Kamiyama's approach is innovation upon tradition. In addition to Izumi recipes that blend Japanese, Latin, and Southeast Asian flavors, that meant adding a hot-stone concept with ingredients served on a slate heated to 575 degrees Fahrenheit to bring out their fresh-grilled flavor. More recently, he's been working on a new tamaki (or handroll) concept. The palm-sized, coneshaped mother of sushi rolls comes with innovative sleeves to keep the nori seaweed wrapping crisp, with fillings like champagne lobster and toro fatty tuna.

Ja! Itadakimasu! (Let's eat!)

# Set Sail for JAPAN

Treat your tastebuds to a tantalizing epicurean experience at Izumi that will carry you from sushi to hibachi.

From delicious maki rolls to fresh-sliced sashimi, hand-molded nigiri, and flashy displays of tableside teppanyaki, Royal Caribbean's Izumi Sushi and Hibachi restaurants serve up an intimate and exotic dining experience. Whether crowning the ship with endless views or nestled off one of its lively promenades, for a romantic evening, a family lunch, or making new friends, the contemporary take on traditional Japanese food and flare has established Izumi as one of the must-try specialty dining experiences on-board.

For a light bite, try appetizers izakaya-

style—named for the casual sake shops where customers stop in at happy hour. The characters that spell "izakaya" literally mean "stay-drink-place," so picture the equivalent of a British pub or Spanish tapas bar but for Tokyo's smart set. Another treat: oshizushi, harking back to how sushi was made—cured and pressed—for hundreds of years, with spicy tuna on the inside and yellowtail on top, flavored with scallions and ponzu sauce.

Linger to indulge in a four-course meal. From the starters, don't miss the firecracker spring roll, served golden-fried and stuffed with shrimp, crabmeat, and the perfect balance of sambal chili to cream cheese. Try the crispy shrimp and vegetable tempura, served with a sweet and savory dipping sauce. For your main course, the yaki udon spotlights thick, stir-fried noodles topped with tender grilled chicken, beef, shrimp, or tofu. Get your fish fix with one of the chef's signature rolls. Foodies love the baked snow crab and salmon dynamite roll, which fuses cool cucumber with spicy mayo, garlic-chili oil, citrus, and a decadent champagne sauce. For dessert, choose between velvety cool mochi, traditional green tea ice cream, rich chocolate lava cake, or crispy sesame balls served with red bean and strawberry.

But while Izumi might be known for fresh sushi and sashimi, a highlight is watching the chefs prepare delicious dishes cooked in the traditional teppanyaki style right at your table. Royal Caribbean searched for the best teppan chefs across the world to bring you an experience that is part cooking class, part magic show, part comedy routine, and all immersive. Performing plateside at intimate tables of eight, the chefs will delight you with their knife skills, nimble fingers, art, and wit, while grilling up favorites like a combination of beef tenderloin and tiger shrimp, or sea scallops and lobster.

To honor where the magic truly comes from, Royal Caribbean's sustainability initiatives extend to the origin of the seafood served on board. In a first for the cruise industry, Royal Caribbean aims to procure 90% of wild-caught seafood and 75% of farmed seafood from sources certified by the Marine and Aquaculture Stewardship Councils. Sustainable sourcing gives species like tuna and salmon time to replenish their population—which leads to more and better seafood on your plate.

No matter what you order, you're in for a far out, Far East feast filled with flavors as good for your palate as for the planet.



"Master Chef Travis Kimiyama began training as a sushi chef at age 14, drawn by a fascination for the history and art of sushi..."



# Take Center STAGE

One of the world's biggest producers of live entertainment, Royal Caribbean, delivers a sight and sound fantasy that caters to every sense and sensibility.

You know that Royal Caribbean sails the world's biggest ships. But did you know that it is also among the world's biggest producers of live entertainment? On some ships, more than 100 cast and crew perform in the enveloping, state-of-the-art venues across four kinds of stages: theater, water, air, and ice. That marriage of world-class talent and cutting-edge technology create the spectacles synonymous with Royal Caribbean.

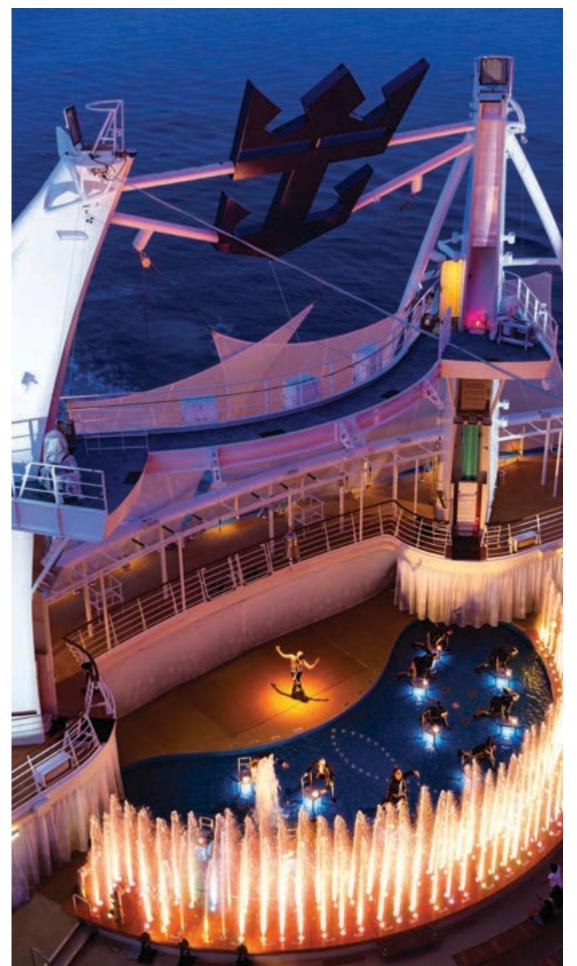
The latest installment of Royal Caribbean's very own superheroes saga, "The Effectors II: Crash 'n' Burn" is bigger and bolder, featuring trailblazing applications of pioneering autonomous technology. Your favorite stars—Captain Viz, Lume, Pixel, and Reverb—return to the Royal Theater in an exhilarating, high-tech battle with their arch-nemesis, Crash, and his new sidekick, Burn. The heroes use their superpowers, based on artistic talents, performance skills, and the unlimited power of creativity, to save the planet and edge out their rivals once and for all.

Exclusive to Wonder of the Seas, the AquaTheater's first, mighty, all-woman cast of "inTENse" dials up the energy and intensity in the one-of-a-kind, open-air amphitheater with the deepest pool at sea. Awe-inspiring athleticism is on full display for this high-octane show as the epic cast performs Olympic-level dives from as high as 55 feet, slack-lining feats, tumbling, aerial acrobatics, and more, punctuated by inspiring lighting and sound for a fully immersive adventure.

Also on *Wonder*, in the one and only Studio B, "365: The Seasons on Ice" tells a unique story of the earth's changing seasons through the artistic movement of champion skaters. Performers embody the flow of time as their characters and their every move are accentuated by innovative projection mapping, colorful lighting and images, and sound, which transform the venue from one season to the next.

And in "Voices: An Intimate Performance on a Grand Scale," the modern world of virtual communication fuses with the evocative power of live performances in an all-new style of musical production. The Royal Theater's bespoke show, featuring a wondrous medley of music, singing, and dancing, underscore the unifying power of performance art.

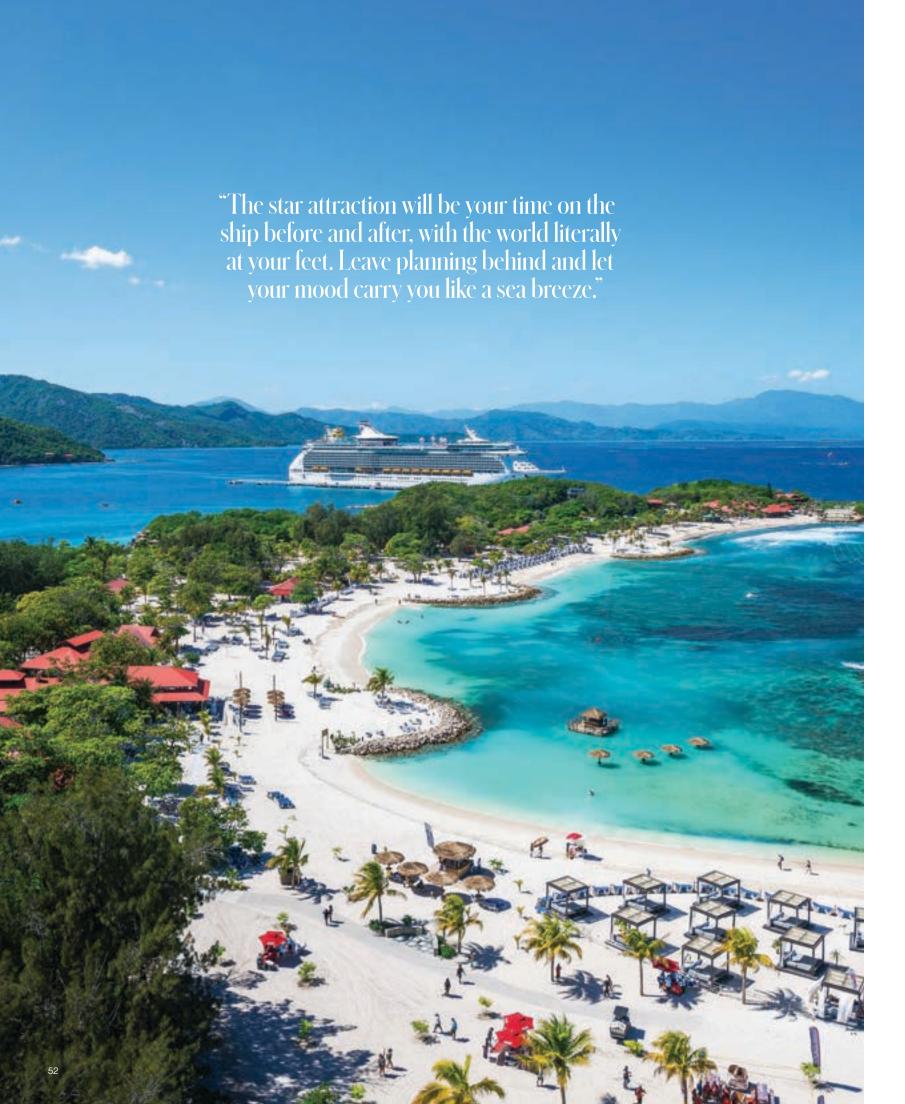
Finally, fusing art and technology on Quantum Class ships, Two70's panoramic windows transform in plain sight into a 135-foot-wide and 22-foot-tall screen with its Vistarama technology. As day turns into night, the venue becomes a multidimensional theater, where six agile Roboscreens create unimaginable visuals in sync with music, special effects, and multitalented live performers and aerialists.





Settle in for a bespoke show that features a wondrous medley of music, singing, and dancing that underscores the unifying power of performance art.







# Weekend AWAY

Exceptional short cruises are the perfect tonic for a busy, harried world and put land out of sight and mind.

For many people, shore excursions are a big part of selecting a cruise: anchoring in the early morning to spend the day visiting natural wonders, learning the local history, or hunting for flavors to savor or treasures to bring home. But for some, there's another way. It's all about the complete getaway. With land out of sight and out of mind, disconnected from daily life, bills, obligations, emails, even from social media (if you can stand it), you're free to reconnect—with your loved ones, with the sound and rhythm of wind and waves and sunsets, or with just a good book and your thoughts.

While most Royal Caribbean itineraries aim to make the most of their time in port, a few, maybe lesser-known but certainly no less-loved ports maximize your time at sea. A selection of four-night cruises, leaving from your choice of Miami, Fort Lauderdale, or Port Canaveral, and on the Gulf Coast from Tampa, New Orleans, or Galveston, give you two full days at sea with a single call in-between to one of the cruise line's most popular destinations. This is the perfect itinerary to relax and enjoy the sea!

For an effortless resort experience, opt for a Perfect Day at CocoCay or Royal Caribbean's private enclave at Labadee, Haiti, where the kids can thrill down zip lines and waterslides while you let the water lap your toes and your fingertips caress the sand. For Latin beats, head to Cozumel, Mexico, to see ancient sites, swim with dolphins, or snorkel the colorful reefs. Or don't even decide in advance, because in Nassau, The Bahamas, you can do all these things plus enjoy world-class duty-free shopping.

But the star attraction will be your time on the ship before and after, with the world literally at your feet. With everything mere steps away, you can leave planning behind and let your mood carry you like the sea breeze. Contemplate the horizon over room service on your private balcony. Engage your core in a yoga class. Let the spa wrap you in self-indulgence. Then pick up the pace among the endless dining and diversions on board.

Enjoy a quick trip back to your best self.

# Your Next CALLING

## A Greek Island rhapsody of worlds old and new.

There's something about the eastern

**Med.** The dark blues and blinding whites, the light dancing off the water—even the wildest mythologies seem possible. With a soulful and scintillating 7-night sampling of the region's best aboard Rhapsody of the Seas, you'll be writing your own epic poetry.

Pre- or post-cruise, explore Limassol, Cyprus. With a culture that dates back to antiquity, the city radiates from the fortress of Richard the Lionheart to sparkling beaches, a glamorous marina, and a heady mix of restaurants, bars, nightclubs, and shops. UNESCO-protected ruins date back to the Romans and include a forum, public baths, the House of the Gladiators, and a restored theater still in use, with unique acoustics and views of the city. The cuisine features local and international (especially Asian) influences. Restaurants line the waterfront, while Agiou Andreou Street offers leather goods, olive oil, lace, and glasswork created using traditional methods.

Your first port stop is Santorini—one of Greece's most popular islands, known for dramatic scenery, whitewashed villages, and fiery volcanic activity. A cable car takes you to cliffside Fira, awash with old cathedrals, enthralling museums, and cozy tavernas. Swim in blue waters that lap red and black beaches, or trek the moonscape and soak in the hot springs on islands at the caldera's center. Later, Oia beckons with art galleries and heart-stopping sunsets, perfect with a glass of raki or one of Europe's oldest wines from the local vineyards.

Next, the bustle of Athens offers a look back in time to Greece's famed antiquity. In the Acropolis' powerful shadow find ancient archeology, contemporary shopping, and stylish dining on local flavors of sun-ripened tomatoes, eggplant, bell peppers, and fresh seafood like mussels and grilled octopus. Look for trovolia, a typical fresh cheese to savor with marinated olives. Heading back to the ship, Mikrolimano is the smallest and most picturesque port of Athens, making it

perfect for a romantic afternoon. And the Church of St. Nicholas has a magnificent interior filled with orthodox icons, frescoes, and sculptures.

The Colossus of Rhodes might not be standing anymore, but the island still delivers beauty and allure on a giant scale. Head to the Old Town, surrounded by medieval walls and seven ancient gates. The Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes has mosaic floors dating from Hellenic, Roman, and early Christian times. For an excursion, hit Lindos Bay, where you'll spend time relaxing beside translucent blue waves amid idyllic scenery. The most scenic spots to shop in Rhodes are the many boats parked along the sides of the port, where you can pick up colorful seashells to bring home.

Famed Mykonos pulses with irrepressible energy. Hora is a hub for designer fashions and homegrown crafts. Catch glints of blue waters down powder-white marble lanes laced with purple bougainvillea. See the 16th-century windmills spinning high above the port, then explore the strip of medieval houses and waterfront cafés in Little Venice. Find a beach to suit your style: Agrari for serenity, Psaroú for families, or Paradise for party boys. Or dig up the past on Delos, mythological birthplace of twin gods Apollo and Artemis. And don't leave without a bite of kopanisti peppered cheese.

Last call, Haifa! Israel's northern metropolis brings Mediterranean cosmopolitanism home. Stroll around the smart German Colony's restaurants, cafes, and art galleries. Take a meditative walk around the 19 terraced Bah'ai Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Shrine of the Bab's golden dome composed of 12,000 tiles. Admire the Carmelite Monastery and views atop Mount Carmel, or pop down to Bat Galim beach for windsurfing or a stroll along the boardwalk. Finally, find vintage treasures at the flea market and fill up on burekas, a crispy pastry with vegetables, spices, and cheese.



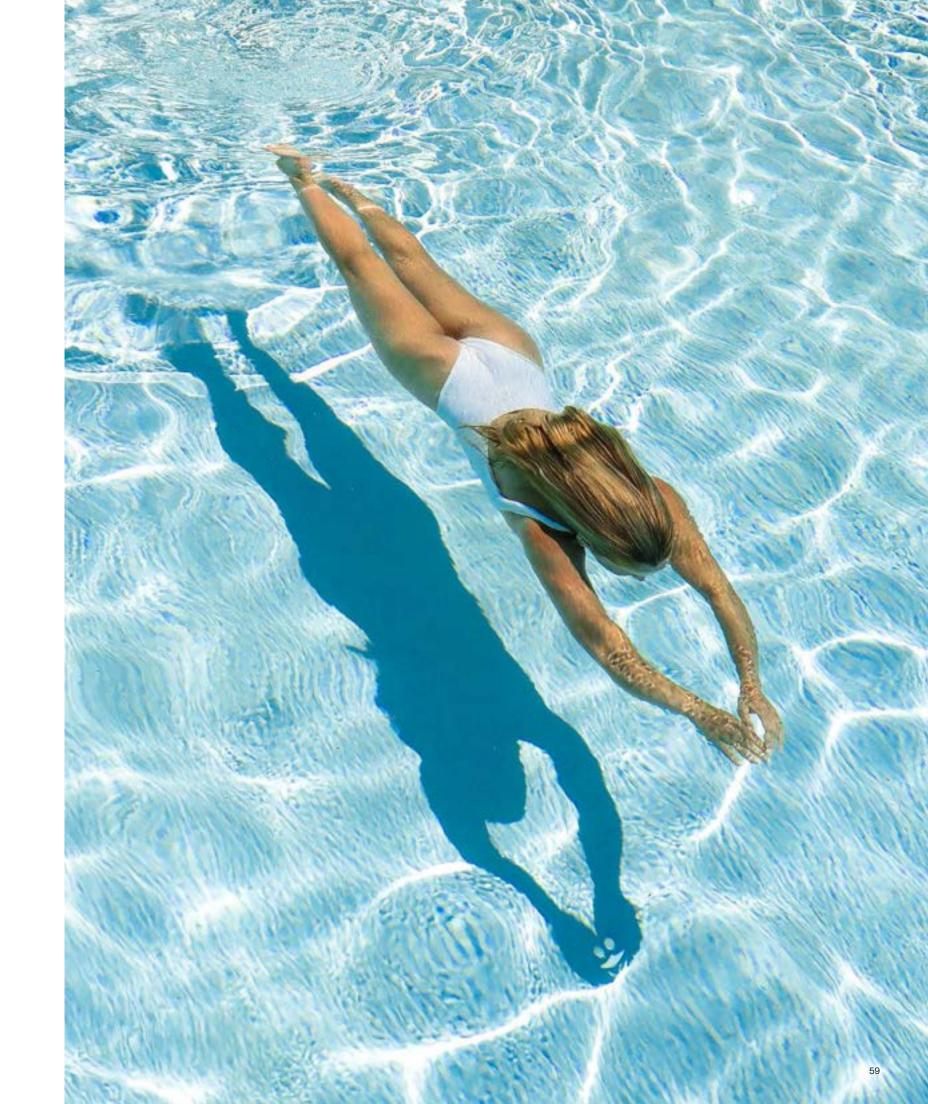






# Wander LUST

Get ready for far-flung adventure to energize the body, mind, and soul.



# LOVE at LOVANGO

A private island retreat just off St. Thomas delivers an amazing day in paradise.

by Jason Oliver Nixon



Welcome to St. Thomas! You've explored the island's charming port and shopped for gorgeous treasures. It's time for some R&R under the blissful sun. Perhaps a gorgeous view of the sea. A glass of a crisp rosé wine paired with inspired cooking that's simple but beautifully prepared—think a kicky Caribbean lobster guacamole followed by a spot-on burger. Topped with pimento cheese, naturally. Picture a deep blue swimming pool perfect for the kids—or just the two of you—and a spirited round of cool, cool cocktails for the adults. Add a luxurious boat ride that delivers you to this never, never land, and the formula is electric, transformative.

Say hello to Lovango Resort + Beach Club, a private island resort sandwiched between St. Thomas and St. John. A short cab ride from the colorful Effy jewelry boutique whisks you to the Lovango ferry dock in Red Hook for the 20-minute journey to this otherworldly combination beach club, restaurant, and resort.

As the boat docks, you'll swear you've arrived in paradise. And it's paradise without the crowds as Lovango only allows a regulated number of day visitors, making it

wonderfully calm and peaceful. With its stunning vistas overlooking dreamworthy, turquoise-hued waters, Lovango delivers on the promise of a relaxed-chic beach club eatery escape—the ideal spot at which to while away an afternoon in tropical splendor. No pretense. Nothing fancy. Truly. Rough-hewn stone walls and organic woods pair with abundant palms and other lush tropical vegetation.

As you step ashore, the gracious staff welcomes you to the 48-acre Lovango complex and gives you the lay of the land. One part eatery, another part bar, beach club, pleasure palace, eco resort, and retail experience, Lovango lives up to its mantra, prominently displayed at the front entrance, "There's no place like home." Settle in under a crisp, white umbrella, and kick off a meal with a tangy watermelon-basil margarita before sharing the creamy burrata or the sumptuous seafood platter, a Neptune's feast of oysters, crab, tuna poke, ceviche, and more. As the waves crash upon the shore, you might visit the charming shopping pavilions with their beautifully edited assortment of resort-chic attire and accessories. There's no place like Lovango!



#### Wanderlust

Come for lunch. Stay for the beach club. There are two beach areas on the island: The arrivals-side beach club has breathtaking views of all three U.S. Virgin Islands, including St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix. The north side of the island offers Crescent Beach, an untouched, magical, and serene beach with world-class snorkeling well worth the 30-minute hike. The latest from Mark and Gwenn Snider, the visionaries behind Nantucket's Nantucket Hotel + Resort and Martha Vineyard's stunning Winnetu Oceanside Resort, Lovango is the tropic-luxe jewel in the couple's ever-growing Little Gem Resorts crown.

Says Gwenn, "Mark and I have tried to create the quintessential Caribbean experience for day and overnight visitors—something most of us fantasize about but don't discover."

Adds Mark, "The very first time we set foot on Lovango, we thought, 'Is this what heaven looks like?' We hope you will experience its magic and fall in love with the island the same way that we did."

And as *Vogue* magazine recently trumpeted, "Lovango is the next great Caribbean hideaway."

The music segues from Brazilian bossa nova to Nina Simone and Jamiroquai, the sun shifts in the azure sky, and you splash about in the infinity pool one last time. Perhaps you're tempted to linger longer at one of the mini-resort's incredible villas scattered about the island. But the ferry beckons and further adventures await.

Lovango, we will see you again soon!







lovangovi.com.
Beach club, from
\$135 per person.
Lunch and beverages
are additional.





# Let's Do LUNCH

We tap a St. Martin local for his favorite spots to dine on the Dutch-French island.

By Jason Oliver Nixon

#### Perched on a cozy corner overlooking

Marigot's Boulevard de France and the bustling, picturesque harbor, Le Comptoir des Fromages serves as a temple to all things cheese. But there's no pretense or affectation here. Step inside the bright, modern fromagerie and inhale deeply as you savor the scent of exotically named treasures such as Bleu de la Chataigneraie, Brillat truffé: le Pierre Robert, Chabis Cendré, and Crottin de Chavignol. And not only can you purchase glorious cheeses to-go, but you can kick back in-store with wonderful cheese tasting workshops accompanied by stellar, perfectly paired wines. Thank Géraud Vallet for this vision.

A native of Cantal, a rural region of France where farms and cheesemaking are inherent to the culture, Vallet worked at a

bank for 30 years before a trip to St. Martin inspired his next chapter. Says Vallet, "The French side of St. Martin is renowned for its food and wine—but there was a lack of good cheeses available. So I decided to go back to school and did internships with several cheesemakers before returning to the SXM. We opened the Comptoir just before Christmas 2021, and the response has been phenomenal. I love sharing my passion and introducing this integral part of French gastronomic culture with locals and travelers alike."

So what are Vallet's favorite St. Martin eateries—from high to low and everything in between? Here, his SXM top ten that stretch from the French side across to the Dutch and back. *lecomptoirdesfromages.fr.* 



## Bikini Beach, Orient Bay

"Picture a cool cocktail with your feet in the sand," says Vallet, "and the Trade Winds blowing a refreshing breeze. Sublime. A wonderful menu, too. And, of course, they offer a terrific plate of mature cheeses." Settle in on the kicky green chairs overlooking the stunning beach and relax with a cool glass of rosé as the sun sets. A perfect-for-sharing charcuterie plate might precede the stunning mahi mahi with an almond crust and anise cream sauce or the mango-scented duck breast. Kick off your shoes and fall under the relaxed-chic spell. la-plantation.com.



# Spices of India, Maho

"Spices of India offers a wonderfully tasty and varied cuisine," suggests Vallet, "paired with warm, thoughtful service. If you want to find Indian flavors on St. Martin, this is your best bet." Start your meal with traditional samosas stuffed with potatoes, peas, and herbs followed by shrimp tikka kebab or Goan fish curry rich with coconut milk. All washed down with a Kingfisher beer, naturally. Great for takeaway, too. spicesofindiasxm.com.



## L'Atelier Bar à Viande & Poisson, Orient Bay

Says Vallet, "If you are a meat lover, this is the perfect spot for a terrific meal. Think the most tender and flavorful cuts of beef you've ever eaten. The proprietor, Lyon native Alex Deglise, loves exceptional ingredients, and you can feel the passion. The cocktail menu is also a stunner." Situated on the square in Orient Bay Village, L'Atelier welcomes guests warmly (the mantra, "work hard & be nice to people," is prominently displayed on a wall) and delivers an ever-changing menu highlighting market specials. Of course, there are exceptional steaks culled from the world's top producers (from Japanese wagyu to Kansas' Creekstone Farms ribeye) but plucked-from-the-ocean dishes such as yellowfin tuna and grilled mahi mahi are winners, too. latelier-sxm.com.



### Korner, Grand Case

"A great place to kick back," says Vallet.
"Korner is a very chic lounge with a lovely space smack on the beach. Mix terrific sunset views and a cool cocktail with one of their perfect-for-sharing dishes."

## Dock 46, Sandy Ground

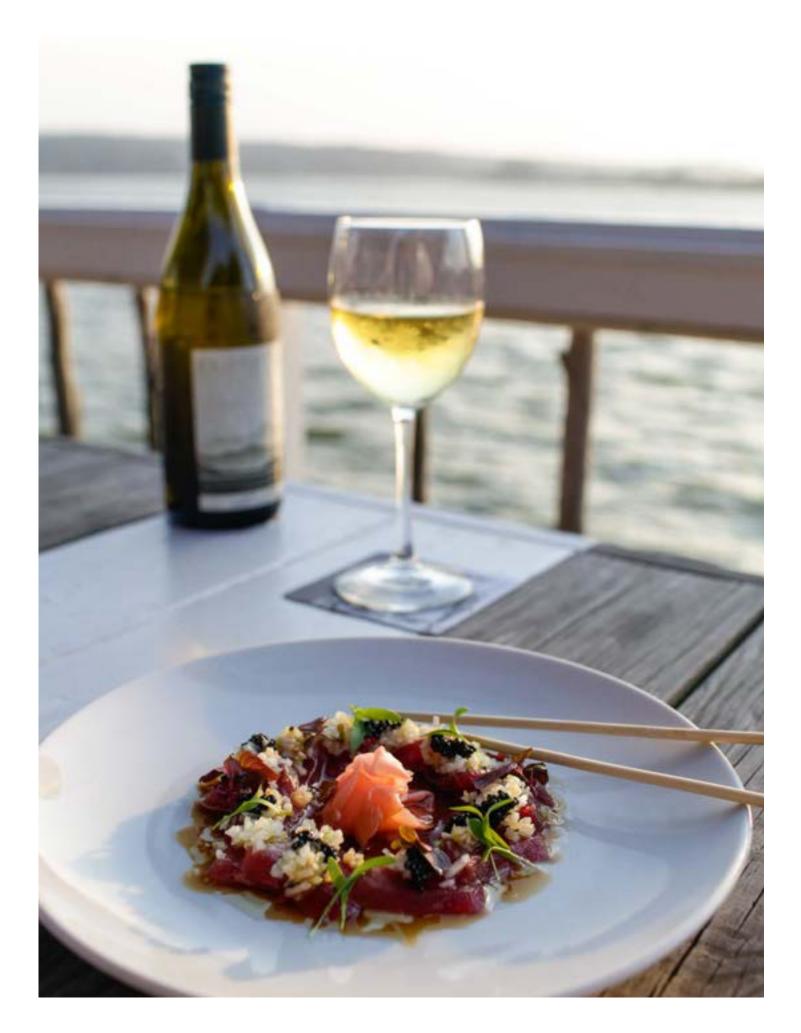
Notes Vallet, "Dock 46 is a super warm place to have a good time. Live music in the evenings, with an appropriate sound level that allows you to continue talking with your friends. Book a table on the water for even more charm. Very reasonable prices round out the experience." P.S. You might end up singing along (and dancing!) in this lively eatery as you savor tapas or a beautifully prepared pizza. The live jazz nights are especially fun.



# The Wine House, Maho

"It's a wine bar and tapas spot that serves the most perfect fromages," chuckles Vallet. "The Wine House offers a fine selection of vintages and terrific French recipes such as the melted cheeses (raclette, tartiflette) accompanied by crusty bread, meats, and potatoes prepared with love and served with good humor. A good time is guaranteed." The beef carpaccio with Parmesan, cherry tomatoes, and basil is a wonderful choice as is the charcuterie board with dried sausage, ham, and dried beef. Live music, too! The only downside is that they don't take credit cards.







# La Villa Hibiscus, Orient Bay

"Think top-flight gastronomy," says Vallet. "Layer-in wonderful, creative flavors. The menu is constantly updated by Chef Bastian with the approval of Sabine (Bastian's charming wife and an SXM native), who ensures flawless service. I wouldn't be surprised if the restaurant—now ensconced in a gorgeous new location were to garner a coveted Michelin star in the upcoming months." Situated high above the sea, the Villa Hibiscus offers stunning panoramic vistas and an air of calm that perfectly marries with the thoughtful, beautifully crafted dishes. Chef Bastian, who worked at much-lauded restaurants in France such as Joel Robuchon and Anne-Sophie Pic, delights with vivid colors and exceptional flavors that change seasonally. Think multi-course menus that celebrate the epitome of tropic-luxe fine dining. Be sure to book the Hibiscus well in advance as the restaurant has become something for gourmands. la-villa-hibiscus.fr.

# Les Délices Créoles, Marigot

Says Vallet, "A fun, relaxed local restaurant that is always full. No pretense. For breakfast, pair the signature, round johnny cake with salt fish (or egg, ham, and cheese—if salt fish is too adventurous) with a terrific coffee. At lunch, sample the oxtail, stuffed chayote squash, acras de morue (codfish balls), or chicken colombo." Closed for dinner.

### Anse Marcel Beach

Vallet suggests Anse Marcel Beach as the ideal place to relax on Sundays. "It's one of the most charming spots on the island, with incredible views of the sea. There's a beautiful menu and heaps of creativity and stunning flavors coming together in the kitchen. Don't miss the Stracciatella with tomatoes and the slow-cooked mahi mahi with curry seasoning and fried rice." ansemarcelbeach.com.

# Le Marocain, Marigot

"Le Marocain is like a mini vacation to Morocco without leaving SXM!," says Vallet. "If you are looking for a wonderful couscous or a tajine rich with preserved lemons and almonds, paired with a stunning décor that calls to mind a historic riad, Le Marocain is a must-visit. Tented ceilings. Colorful lanterns hanging overhead. Belly dancers, too!" Wash it all down with a potent Bellini cocktail and let a sumptuous, atmospheric evening unfold.

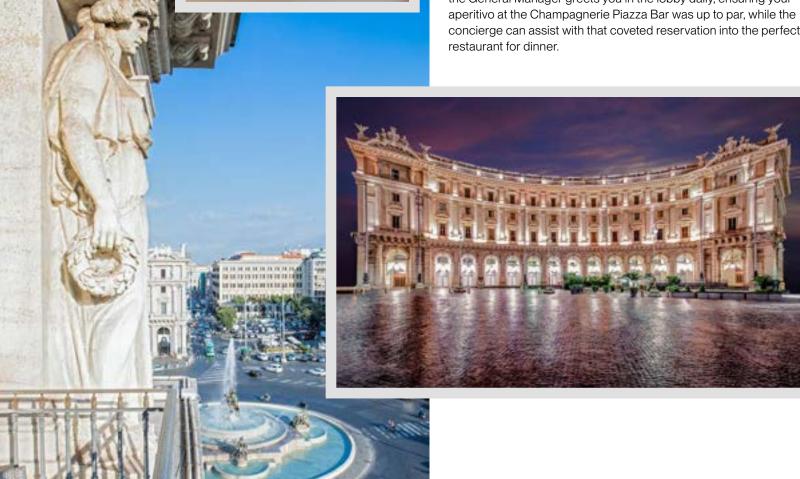




Fine foods, famous antiquities, and avant-garde finds keep ROME forever young.

Italy called this year, and we answered. Our primary destination was the opaline waters sparkling around the island of Sardinia, Sorrento, and the Amalfi Coast. But that kind of magic requires a transition between sensuous seaside villages and real life, and there's no better place to decompress (or recompress, as we did) than an extended weekend in Rome.

Home for our stay was the Anantara Palazzo Naiadi, an easy stroll to Via Veneto, the Trevi Fountain, and Spanish Steps, but blissfully removed from Rome's buzzing tourist core. Even in a city famed for its monuments, the hotel holds its own, its arched and colonnaded front following the gentle curve of Piazza della Repubblica. Bangkok-based Anantara is long-loved across Asia, and recently made European inroads, bringing West the East's celebrated know-how in dazzlingly personal hospitality. So, while we expected the traditional, palatial feel—high ceilings, rooftop pool, grand rooms, and marble bathroom stocked with Acqua di Parma—we were surprised by its warmth. Like at a family-run establishment, the General Manager greets you in the lobby daily, ensuring your aperitivo at the Champagnerie Piazza Bar was up to par, while the concierge can assist with that coveted reservation into the perfect restaurant for dinner.





"Finally, I longed to revisit Roscioli, a tiny salumeria in Campo di Fiori and one of the toughest reservations in town—aiming for perfect execution and taste."



And dine we did! The concierge sent us to Checco Er Carettiere, hidden behind the Tiber River on a crooked and cobbled, leafy lane in the perennially edgy Trastevere neighborhood. The tavern, whose history dates back to 1935, played host to the likes of Robert De Niro and Muhammad Ali, and we sat in the back garden on a warm night, serenaded by a trio of musicians. The big menu focuses on local ingredients, especially seafood, classic Roman meat stews, and extravagant pastas (including gluten-free options), accompanied by a 300-bottle wine cellar.

For a completely modern take on Roman cuisine, we went to Retrobottega, near the Pantheon, whose chef and owners personally forage every week for wild-grown herbs, tubers, roots, flowers, and fruits. The of-the-moment fresh, eight-course tasting menu offers the likes of caviar with dry-aged radish and almonds, zucchini with black olives in milk and mint, mutton with eggplant, sea urchin with fusilli and cucumber, and panacotta with raspberries and citrus blossoms.

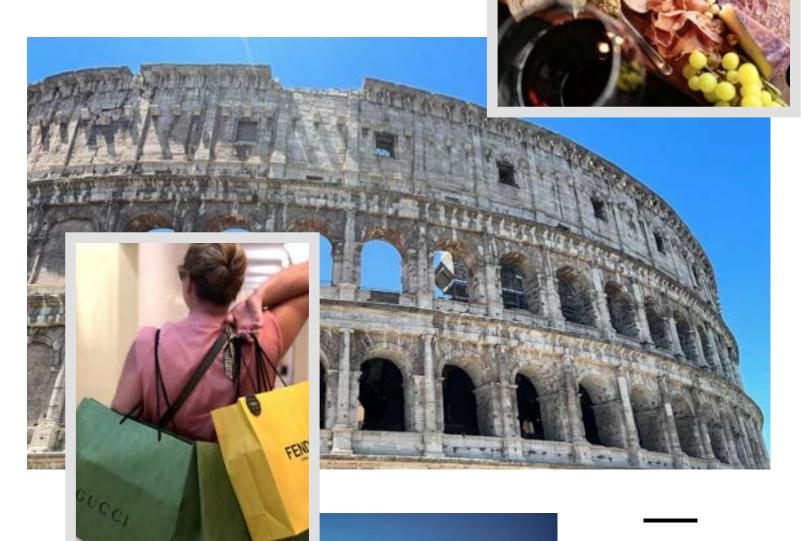
Finally, I longed to revisit Roscioli, a tiny salumeria in Campo di Fiori—and one of the toughest reservations in town—aiming for perfect execution and taste with a focus on the raw purity of authentic products and in-depth research into the history of every recipe. Over 300 cheeses and 200 cured meats alternate weekly alongside jars of tomatoes, pestos, mustards, olive oils, balsamic vinegars, exotic salts and peppers, spices, truffles, and bottarga, plus a wine cellar with over 2,800 labels of the best Italian and world production.

Beyond sustenance, style was our priority, and Via Condotti delivered, running from Piazza di Spagna—where classic Italian brands Emilio Pucci, Furla, and Versace let us have one last feel of our Caprese caprice and bask in our Roman glory—into the future with the fashion-forward Fendi, Gucci, and Prada flagships, where we let ourselves be seduced by exquisitely crafted shoes and limited-edition accessories.

With our whirlwind visit coming to a close, it was time to prioritize. Luxury shopping bags in hand, we grabbed one of the hop-on-hop-off Big Bus tickets to whisk us around town. First, to the Vatican (because "when in Rome"!) and nearby Museo dell'Ara Pacis for 20th Century Photography. Then to the Coliseum and National Roman Museum (conveniently opposite our hotel), with its Renaissance-era church of Santa Maria of the Angels and Martyrs, and Roman-era baths transformed by Michelangelo into a cloister and sculpture garden.

Before boarding the plane for home, be sure to take in some last-minute shopping at Fiumicino Airport for some of the world's best duty free. Speaking of which: don't forget to hit the impressively efficient tax window for a VAT refund of up to 15% on everything you bought in town—keep your receipts!

"Beyond sustenance, style was our priority, and Via Condotti delivered."



Where we stayed anantara palazzo naiadi,

anantara.com.

Where we ate

checcoercarettiere.it.

KEIKUBUITEG

retro-bottega.com.

ROSCIOLI,

salumeriaroscioli.com

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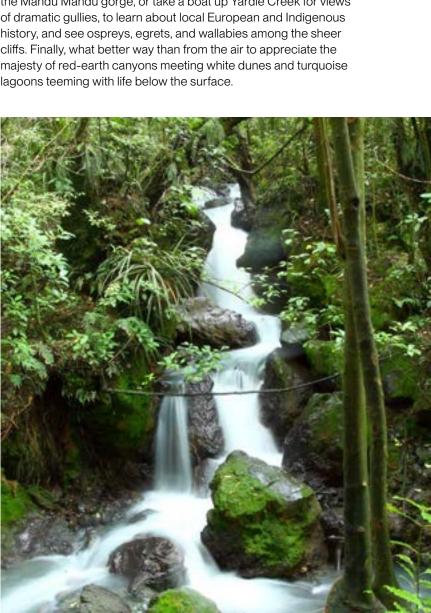


#### West: Ningaloo Reef

Ningaloo Reef anchors Australia's remote northwest corner, on the Indian Ocean some 745 miles north of Perth. The ocean interweaving with the arid coast form a visually arresting mosaic of land and seascapes that include lagoons, reefs, rocky shores, sandy beaches, estuaries, and mangrove forests. In the adjacent karst system, the dissolving limestone bedrock has created hundreds of sinkholes, underground streams, caves, springs, and other features to explore.

According to UNESCO, as many as 500 whale sharks and 40,000 humpbacks gather here during their annual migrations. The reef sustains tropical and temperate marine plants, fish, birds, reptiles, and mammals. Guided kayak tours let you swim with rays, turtles, whales, clownfish, and baby reef sharks. Boaters can head to sea in pursuit of sail-fishing or take a glass-bottom tour to see the reef with wildlife experts.

On shore, luxuriate in the Ningaloo experience at Sal Salis, an ecoluxe safari camp with gourmet dining. From here you can explore Cape Range National Park: drive up Charles Knife Canyon, hike the Mandu Mandu gorge, or take a boat up Yardie Creek for views of dramatic gullies, to learn about local European and Indigenous history, and see ospreys, egrets, and wallabies among the sheer cliffs. Finally, what better way than from the air to appreciate the majesty of red-earth canyons meeting white dunes and turquoise lagoons teeming with life below the surface.



Last but not least, between Brisbane, on Australia's Gold Coast, and the Great Barrier Reef, lies the world's largest island made entirely of sand. Within minutes of landing on World Heritagelisted Fraser Island, known locally as K'gari, you'll feel the magic of surprises at every turn.

East: Fraser Island

Water lovers can swim idyllic Lake McKenzie, its turquoise water filled with natural tea tree oil like a picture-perfect spa pool nestled among the rainforests. Or float down Eli Creek, whose current makes for an effortless yet exciting trip down to Seventy-Five Mile Beach. There, you can resume your spa treatment in the effervescent, champagne pools—saltwater baths formed by volcanic rocks—while watching for marine life playing in the ocean. Speaking of which, from August to October, you can get up close and personal to thousands of humpback whales and their newborn calves enjoying the protected bays.

Meanwhile, land-lovers can't beat the exhilaration of driving 4WDs down a white-sand beach next to wild blue waves. Or, for something more intimate, explore K'gari's jaw-dropping scenery on the immersive Fraser Island Great Walk to discover serene lakes, lush foliage, and sweeping lookout points. Amid dense rainforest, there's no shortage of incredible wildlife sightings and encounters. Guided night tours can give you a peek at the island's nocturnal neighbors as they come out to play under the inky sky. Finally, take one of the scenic flights for unbelievable scenes over its picturesque lakes, verdant-green forest, and beautiful turquoise waters.



#### South: Styx River Valley

**Even among Australia's many landscapes** Tasmania stands apart. In the Styx River Valley, just about an hour's drive from the capital, Hobart, you can visit Tasmania's old-growth forests, home to the tallest flowering trees on the planet, which form the cultural and historical identity of the Palawa, the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, who know the island as Lutruwita. This is one of the largest intact temperate forest ecosystems on the planet, containing ancient trees, rock art, and endangered animals.

Among World Heritage sites, most meet only one or two of UNESCO's 10 criteria for selection—four natural and six cultural. Tasmania's old-growth forests are the only place to meet seven: all four natural criteria, plus, thanks to the rich, First Nations heritage of the people who have lived in, used, managed, and modified the forest landscapes of Tasmania for at least 35,000 years, the forests meet three of the cultural criteria as well.

Time capsules from when Australia was part of Gondwana—the supercontinent that existed millions of years ago—the forests support spectacular and peculiar native wildlife, including the stunning swift parrot, giant freshwater lobster, and the Tasmanian devil, as well as Bennett's wallabies, wombats, pademelons, possums, and quolls. As a biodiversity hotspot, the forests offer a sanctuary for endemic flora, such as the precious, thousand-yearold pencil and Huon pines—some of the oldest organisms on the planet.



**About 90 minutes from Darwin,** capital of Australia's Northern Territory, Kakadu National Park offers outback adventures that defy expectation. A place of superlatives, Australia's biggest national park—the size of Switzerland—is home to the oldest living culture on earth, and brings you rugged escarpments, lush rainforests, thundering waterfalls, swimming holes, and wetlands spanning six dramatically different climates.

Come specially to witness the beauty of Kakadu's wet season (November to April), when Australia's iconic red outback turns with the shades of green flora and white cataracts. The billabong channels of Kakadu weave through wide landscapes where serene evenings can be spent cruising Yellow Water for crocodiles and other wildlife, like flatback turtles and migratory birds. Watch the sky turn pastel pink as you float along the sunset. Fishing here is abundant too—try your luck at landing the iconic barramundi! Kakadu has been home to Aboriginal people for 65,000 years, and the park's extensive rock art provides a window into human civilization in the days before the last ice age. The park's traditional Bininj/Mungguy custodians are deeply connected to their land. Visit the Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre to see displays of artifacts, a gallery of art and crafts to purchase, and watch artists at work. Or see the landscape from their perspective on an Animal Tracks Safari with exclusive access into the wetland, and end the day with a campfire bush food cook-up.



## Find your HAVEN

A cruise is a wonderful opportunity to turn off, recharge, and recalibrate. Here, a handful of tips to help you embrace your bliss.

By Tracy Squillante



# 1. Good morning, sunshine!

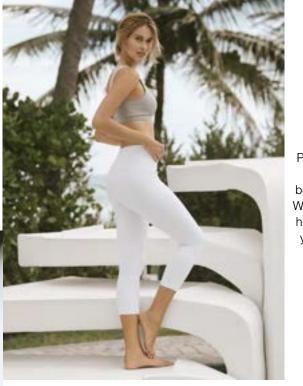
Begin the day with a 10-minute meditation on your balcony.
And if you don't have a balcony, head up on deck and find a quiet space of your own. If you are looking for guided meditation, Headspace is a terrific app to guide you into a blissful day ahead.



3.

Enjoy your breakfast.

Really savor that pastry—or something more substantial—with your coffee as the sun rises and you curl up in a cozy robe. Stare out to the glistening ocean and embrace the endless horizon.



## Stretch in style.

Pack your favorite active pieces that look good both on deck and in port. We love Haven Collective, high-quality, high-impact yoga and workout gear that will take you from studio to pier! Fawn Bella Bralette and White Contour

haven-collective.com.

Legging by Haven.



## **J.** *Embrace scents!*

Integrate essential oils into your routine. We love the Signature Scent Luxury Body Oil travel size from Vered Organic Botanicals. The sultry combination of rose, jasmine, and amber will leave you feeling naturally uplifted.



#### **U**• Hello, yoga!

Download the Yogamaya Yoga Studio app and Om from your cabin. The classes are perfect for students of every ability. yogamayavirtual.com.



## Embrace island-style bliss.

Find your haven at one of the incredible in-port day spas.
A Perfect Pampered package is at Half Moon resort in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

halfmoon.com.

8.

Unwind in the evening.

After a long day, skip dinner and take advantage of the last massage appointment at the on-board Vitality Spa. It is the perfect way to release the day and ease yourself into sleep before starting it all again tomorrow.





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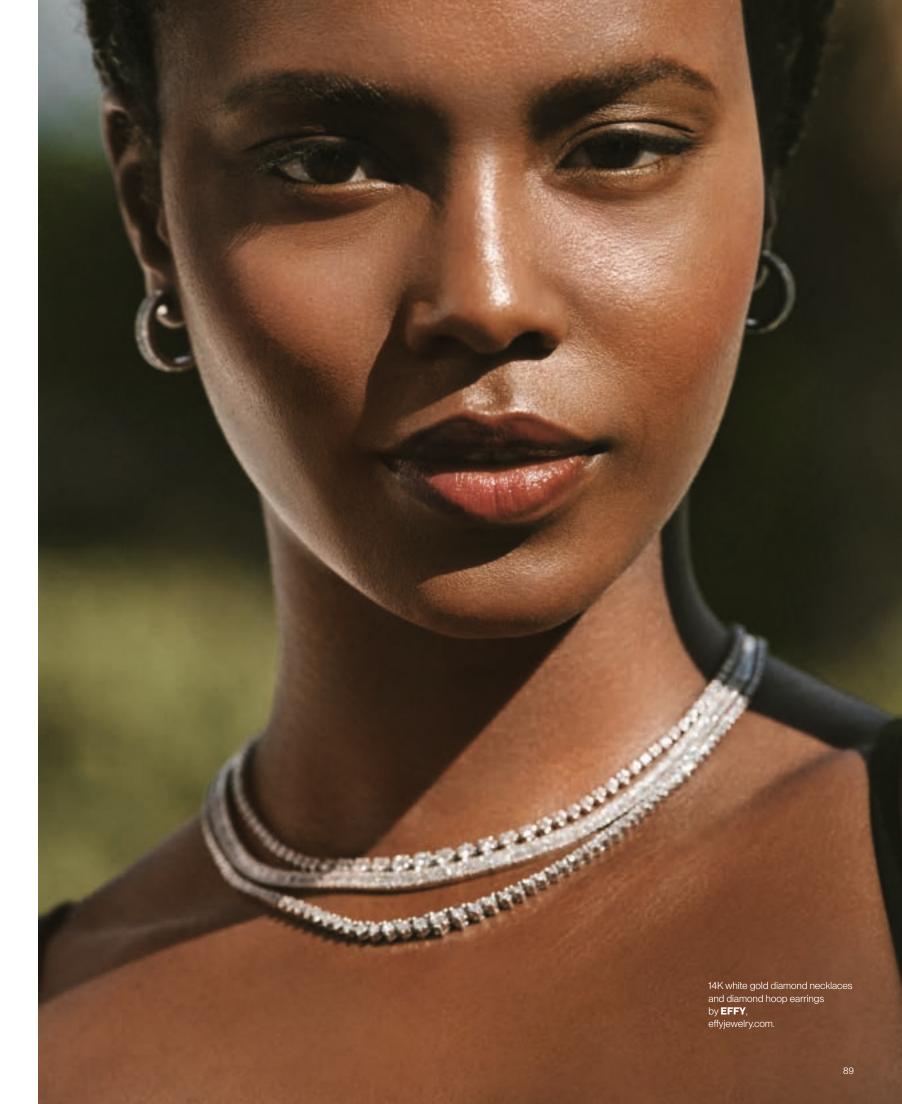






















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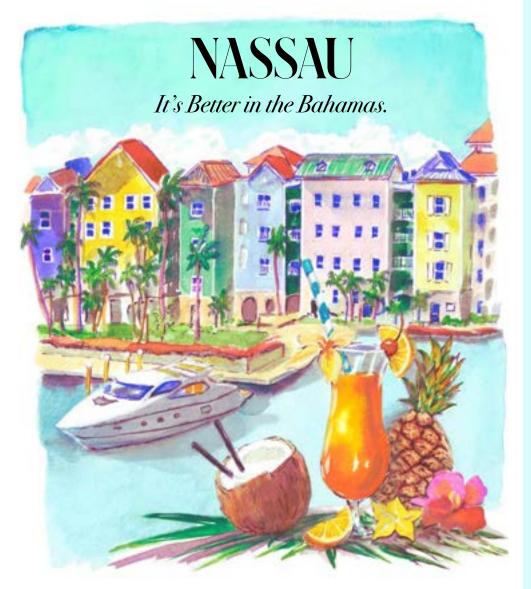
# The ISLAND GUIDE



Now get out and explore!

By Jason Oliver Nixon Illustrations by Garance Wilkens





Mixing cutting-edge resorts with nods to a high-flying British colonial past, Nassau bridges the gap between the historic and the shock of the new. The largest city in the island chain and the nation's capital, Nassau sits only 185 miles from Florida but seems worlds away. Picture impossibly blue waters. Sparkling beaches. Gorgeous cocktails sipped as the sun sets in Hollywood splendor. Stock up on straw handicrafts for friends and family back home and peruse the gorgeous just-caught fish that awaits a lucky someone's dinner plate. Talk pirates with the kids, lunch on a colorful conch salad, or kick back beside a pool with a rum-infused yellow bird cocktail.

Savs one longtime Nassau visitor, "We love to explore downtown and then relax at one of the super resorts such as Baha Mar with its myriad swimming pools, exceptional restaurants, and casino. Plus, you can take an excursion from Nassau to the other Bahamas islands to scuba dive or swim

with the pigs. Now that's something you just cannot do at home!"

Explore downtown and maybe pick up some trinkets at one of the markets for folks back home or visit one of the trio of atmospheric forts that will delight the kids. There are great cafes downtown if you're looking for a more cosmopolitan vibe, or hail a cab and head for Paradise Island, where you can wander the sprawling Atlantis resort complex. If you do end up venturing outside of Nassau, stop for a conch salad at a local eatery—you'll truly love the experience. Or take an island-hopping excursion. Says one Nassau resident, "Try the Powerboat Adventures. These Miami Vice-like speedboats whisk visitors to the exquisite chain of cays known as the Exumas, an unparalleled necklace of 365 little islands in shallow agua water that are considered the most beautiful archipelago in the world. A day of boating and islandhopping and picnicking is unforgettable."

#### Local Flavor

American-born interiors whiz Amanda Lindroth has lived in the Bahamas for decades where she has crafted a distinctive island-chic design sensibility. The former head of PR for Gucci in London, Lindroth oversees decorating offices in Nassau, Palm Beach, and Charleston. Her first book, *Island Hopping*, debuted in 2019. Here, Lindroth's Nassau top five.

#### Dining Oasis

Nassau's prettiest restaurant in the heart of the historic town offers a magical garden paired with wonderful food and gracious service. Walking distance from the docks

## 2.

#### Raise the Bar

A chic bar for smart locals and visitors alike. Island-y craft cocktails and a brilliant wonderland of an interior. Located at Sandyport, a 20-minute taxi from the docks.

bonvivantsbahamas.com.

#### 3.

#### Boutique Chic

Located in the best boutique hotel on the island, The Island House, Yellowbell is the hot new place for drinks and small bites. All the way out west. 30 minutes from the docks.

the-island-house.com.



#### Shell Seekers

Dino's pioneered a "tropical" conch salad, adding pineapple to the national staple of this delicious and heathy conch ceviche. Dino's is a dream—an island-y, roadside shack with enormous charm and authenticity. Twenty-five minutes west along the beautiful West Bay Street.

## **5.**

#### History Lesson

Located at the Fort Fincastle historic complex in the downtown center, these 66 steps were hewn out of solid limestone and connect the fort at the top of the steps with the harbor town below. They are a wonder of beauty and age and just a short walk from the docks.



















Find us online and in port.







## **COZUMEL**

Welcome to Mexico's Isla Bonita.

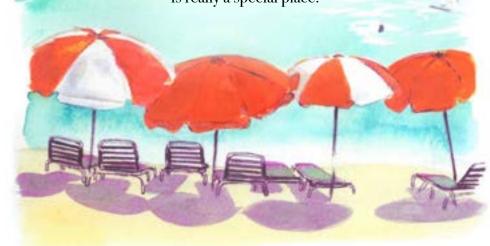
"Cozumel is so different from most Caribbean islands in that it is largely undeveloped and protected," says one frequent Cozumel visitor. "I love the idea of escaping the crowds on my own private beach. You can drink margaritas in town, snorkel in bliss, or explore an exceptional wild ecosystem all within a few hours."

Cozumel is not live-large and in your face like Cancun, just up the Mexican mainland coast. This isn't an island that caters to the party crowd—although you can kick back a few here in style—but it's really more of a destination to celebrate nature. The snorkeling and diving are off the charts thanks to Cozumel's vast reef system. The kids will love scampering along the pristine beaches and splashing about in the turquoise waters. There are vast national parks perfect for exploring by Jeep. Settle into a funky, laidback beach bar and dig into street tacos paired with a cool beer. Splash about at a beach club or wander downtown San Miguel de Cozumel with its charming shops and cafes. You might just fall in love.

San Miguel de Cozumel is the island's central hub and boasts shopping, restaurants, and galleries all within a charming, colorful footprint. There are also leafy parks, tequila distilleries, atmospheric churches, museums, and galleries, so you can really make an afternoon of it in town. Order a potent margarita and guacamole paired with a spot-on street taco and wander the charming streets. But be sure to venture out of San Miguel, too. Hail a cab and set off. Perhaps a beach club appeals to you: The myriad clubs offer plenty of food and cocktail options, pools, watersports, and a beautifully maintained beach with comfortable chaises. Find a remote beach and plunk down, rent a Jet Ski, jaunt off on a diving excursion, or explore the vast swathes of pristine nature courtesy of a Jeep tour. There's a reason many refer to Cozumel as Mexico's most beautiful island.

#### Local Flavor

"I am smitten with Cozumel," says Global Editor at Large **Jason Oliver Nixon**. "I have visited the island numerous times over the years, and it's really the perfect place to turn off and retreat to nature and beaches that are so wonderfully remote. But then if I feel motivated, I head to a beach club suchas Buccanos or wander around downtown San Miguel. The island is really a special place."



#### I.

#### Downtown Digs

Offers wonderful shops for Mexican handicrafts and culinary delights, but Los Cinco Soles (The Five Suns) is possibly the most comprehensive. While your husband sips a margarita on the shop's laidback patio, you can stock up on Talavera pottery, Mexican vanilla, folk art sculptures, and more. I visit Los Cinco Soles and check all of my shopping wants off my list. If you have time to stay for dinner, don't miss the wonderfully crafted Mayan cooking at Ix-Kool restaurant.

#### 2.

#### Dive In

Cozumel has an amazing, extensive reef system that is renowned the world over. If you are an experienced diver, you can explore the various "walls" that offer exceptional experiences including cave and tunnel systems. Or simply throw on a snorkel, mask, and fins at a beach club and paddle about just offshore. You will see candy-hued sea life that will surprise and delight.

#### **3.**

#### Back to Nature

While the West Side of the island is more developed, Cozumel's unspoiled eastern flank is a beacon for nature lovers. Grab a taxi in San Miguel and ask them

to take you to a remote beach for a few hours—and be sure to give them a time to come back and collect you. Watch the birds fly overhead, stare at the endless horizon, and take a quick siesta. There are funky, cool beach bars scattered along the coast such as reggae-styled Rasta's where you can try their peanut butter tequila.

#### 4.

#### In the Club

Cozumel has a wonderful assortment of beach clubs where you pay a fee and can spend an entire day (some are all inclusive while others are a la carte). Buccanos is close to town and offers fantastic cooking that segues from day into evening; Paradise Beach Cozumel is great for the kids thanks to the myriad water toys; Cabana Beach Cozumel offers charming cabanas; and allinclusive Mr. Sanchos Beach Club has more of a high-energy cocktail-fueled vibe (they offer great massages, too!).

### **5.**

#### Eco Chic

The seventh heaven for nature lovers, and it's a great spot to take in diverse species of birds and explore the many lagoons. The kids will enjoy climbing the tower to watch the crocodiles in their natural habitat There's also a lighthouse that delivers spectacular vistas. Book a private half-day Jeep tour to maximize your experience.

# 

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## ST. THOMAS

Have fun under the sun in the USVI.



"My husband and I first visited the island on a cruise." said Chervl. a stylish shopper we met in downtown Charlotte Amalie. "We loved it so much that we ended up buying a villa on Magens Bay before the prices went through the roof. Now it takes a lot for us to return 'home' to the US mainland—the life here is so easy and relaxed."

St. Thomas is the liveliest of the three islands in the United States Virgin Islands chain and offers loads of action and activities paired with a heaping side of history. A Danish colony from the 17th century onwards with a few Britishcontrolled blips in the mix, St. Thomas was purchased (along with St. John and St. Croix) by the US in 1917 for \$25 million in gold. Today, the island attracts visitors for its stunning waters, gorgeous beaches, watersports, and fishing—and that's just scratching the surface. There are fantastic restaurants, world-class resorts, relaxed beach bars, endless sea vistas, and a relaxed vibe that is wonderfully appealing.

Charlotte Amalie, named for the wife of Danish King Christina V, is the island's bustling port of call and delivers an urban footprint looking onto a palm-shaded park and harbor. The town offers numerous shops and restaurants as well as historical sites such as the 99 Steps, built by the Danish to traverse the town's hilly landscape. But be sure to get out of town and explore. Book a cab, just make sure to ask for the fare in advance—trust us. The island is blessed with gorgeous bays and beaches, so hit a crystalline shore such as Magens Bay and bliss out. But there are so many more activities, too. Head to the eastern end of the island for the Red Hook marina village with its numerous shops and restaurants, such as The Easterly and 3 Palms.

The concierge team at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Thomas, recommends the island's Butterfly Farm as a favorite family-friendly activity and suggests not missing Coral World where visitors can swim with sea lions and turtles. Visit the Undersea Observatory Tower for a unique look onto a colorful reef.



#### Local Flavor

Global Editor at Large and frequent Caribbean traveler **Iason Oliver Nixon** picks his favorite St. Thomas finds. Says Nixon, "St. Thomas is an easy flight, and I love the wonderful assortment of restaurants that offer everything from Caribbean specialties to the finest in high-flying fusion. I fly in, poke about Charlotte Amalie, then zip over for an afternoon at the nearby Lovango beach club, my idea of heaven."

## 1.

#### View to a Thrill

Sunset and knockout views high above the island. Reach the Point via Charlotte Amalie's Skyride and settle in for a cool drink upon the observation deck. It can get busy but it's still a lot of fun.

paradisepointvi.com.

#### Waterside Dining

Overlooking the gorgeous waters of Baye de Grigri, Oceana attracts high-flying foodies for the likes of grilled Spanish octopus bruschetta followed by mahi a la plancha with a fresh pineapple chutney. oceanavi.com.

#### 3. Brunch Bunch

The Old Stone Farmhouse is a must! An historic plantation house with stellar views paired with a spot-on avocado or lobster benedict paired with a Smokey Mary cocktail. Yes, please

oldstonefarmhouse.net.

## 4.

#### Beach Bliss

Situated on the island's north side. Hull is absolutely gorgeous with fishing boats bobbing about and photo-worthy far-off vistas. Plus, there is a funky, surfer-vibe restaurant and bar that hosts live music on the weekends.

## **5.**

#### Water World

Offers an array of excursions but I like the stand-up paddle tour through a protected mangrove lagoon. A three-hour adventure through shallow crystalline waters.

viecotours com

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## **GRAND CAYMAN**

Welcome to one happy island.

Yes, they really do refer to Grand Cayman as "one happy island," and the motto stands true. There are spectacular beaches and waters that glisten like sapphires and diamonds. You can swim with stingrays and turtles or admire the starfish as they slowly glide across the ocean floor. There are wonderful dive sites where you can swim amongst atmospheric statues of bronze mermaids. The restaurant scene is off the charts (try Blue by Eric Ripert at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman, or Bàcaro for Italian-inspired small plates), and there's plenty of great shopping. Explore a bioluminescent bay or relax at Coccoloba Bar & Grill with a killer cocktail. Fall under the spell of this magical island and turn

any vestige of a frown upside down.

George Town is the central hub on Grand Cayman and offers terrific shopping and restaurants as well as distilleries and art galleries. But if you want to go further afield, hail a cab. And, besides, this is a British Overseas Territory so leave the driving on the left to the experts. Head to Rum Point beach, a 50-minute drive from the cruise terminal, a great place to depart for a tour of the Stingray City sandbar for a swim with the rays. You'll also find a restaurant, changing rooms, and showers, so you can plunk down and make it home base. Take in the abundant starfish crawling about at Starfish Point. Seven Mile Beach is highly regarded, but there are plenty of lessdeveloped beaches—such as Smith Cove with its rock formations and stellar sunset vistas—on the island to enjoy. The island offers excellent diving options at exoticsounding spots such as Devil's Grotto and Eden Rock. And don't miss the blowholes on the island's East End that shoot water some 20 feet up into the air.

#### Local Flavor

Chef and television host Dylan Benoit has resided in the Cayman Islands for over a decade. He is the chef/owner of Prime Consulting and Prime Kitchen, Cayman's premier private chef and catering service, as well as Carnivore Premium Meats and San Si Wu Noodle Co. When he's not cooking in Grand Cayman, he can be found hosting "Fire Masters" on the Food Network Canada and the Cooking Channel in the US. Says Benoit, "The Cayman Islands have become a culinary epicenter in the Caribbean. The caliber of food keeps getting better and better." Here, his Grand Cayman top five.

## Eat Local

Oxtail at The Cuban Restaurant, West Bay. This small, sign-free roadside eatery serves up the best oxtail on the island. Head north from the police station on Reverend Blackman Road and stop at the non-descript green-and-brown hut on your right with an overhang and a few small tables.

## **Fishtails**

Cayman-style fish and conch fritters at Heritage Kitchen, West Bay. Heritage Kitchen is as quaint as it gets, serving up fresh local fish and dishes with the most spectacular view of the Caribbean.

heritagekitchencayman.com



#### Favorite snack-on-the-go

When I'm on the go, I can't help but pull into Tortuga for a Beef Max, a Jamaican-style beef patty with cheese that's cut open and garnished with shredded lettuce and tomato. The perfect snack to tide you over between meals.

tortugarumcakes.com

#### 4. Cool Cocktails

Coccoloba Bar & Grill at the Kimpton Seafire Resort + Spa, Seven Mile Beach. There is nothing better than kicking off your flip-flops, digging your toes into the sand, and enjoying a nice cold cocktail while casually watching the sunset. And there is no better place to do all of this than at the Coccoloba with its unrestricted panoramic views of Seven Mile Beach and Grand Cayman's picture-perfect turquoise waters.

#### **5.** Not Quite Lunch

Brunch culture is a big part of life in Cayman, and we do it up! Many hotels and restaurants offer sprawling tablescapes of international cuisines paired with signature

> cocktails or bottomless bubbles -many with a stunning view of the ocean.



## SAINT MARTIN

Celebrate this Dutch-French delight.



Split in half, the magical island of St. Martin/Sint Maarten packs a two-fold punch in a 37-square-mile footprint thanks to its lively Dutch/French dual personalities. The Dutch side bustles with activity and features stellar shopping, hopping nightlife, stunning seaside vistas, and the island's sleek international airport. The French side is a tad more relaxed with an emphasis on culinary masterstrokes, sophisticated shops, stylish beaches, and beach-facing, chic bars. On either side of the island, dress up or down and make a gorgeous day of it. And, no, you don't need to show a passport to hop from the Dutch side to the French and vice-versa—it's the oldest officially open border in the world.

Philipsburg is the beating heart of the island's Dutch side and serves as the bustling port of call. There are endless

duty-free shops and restaurants lining the main Front Street, so set out and wander. You might care to try your hand in a casino or sample a local dish such as the hearty soup known as callaloo or some kicky conch fritters. Catch a cab and head to nearby Maho Bay which offers a wonderful selection of eateries, bars, and nightlife. Equally, venture across to the French side (again, no passport required to cross the border) and wander charming Marigot with its French bakeries and cafes as well as its colorful harbor-facing market. Grand Case is the French side's culinary capital so venture here for lunch and settle in at any of the numerous, charming beachside eateries for grilled fish paired with a crisp Sauvignon Blanc. Afterwards, simply jump in a cab and have the driver return you directly to the cruise port for a perfect day in paradise.

#### Local Flavor

An SXM native, charismatic, charming **Cherline Charles** models frequently when she isn't serving as the hostess with the mostest at highly regarded Ocean 82 in Grand Case on the French side.

#### 1.

#### Lunch With a View

Le Karibuni is a charming boutique hotel with wonderful rooms and amazing sunrise vistas. Be sure to sample an in-house massage—they are life-altering! Settle in for lunch at their restaurant on gorgeous Pinel Island for ceviche and a cheeseburgerin paradise.

## 2.

#### Get Juiced

Casa Vegan SXM in Maho near the Princess Juliana International Airport is heaven. They offer fresh, fresh juices paired with vegetarian and gluten-free treats such as the incredible waffles topped with vegan Nutella. Ask for Liv and Tim.

casavegansxm.com.



#### Jet Set

Is my go-to as they offer really unique
Jet Ski excursions and their instructors are
the best on the island. Try the Lowlands tour
that allows you to see all of the most private
and luxurious properties on the island.
And keep your eyes open for turtles!

jetskistmartin.com.



#### Jungle Fever

When I want to escape on my own, I head to Loterie Farm, a glorious, private nature reserve and sanctuary. Enjoy splashing about the Jungle Pool or try the Flyzone zip line experience through the canopy (watch for iguanas!). The Jungle Kids Adventure Park will delight the little ones.

loteriefarm.com

#### **5.**

#### Sunset Bliss

Dine at Ocean 82. You cannot beat the knockout cooking and the stellar views. Savor fresh oysters and champagne before sampling salt-crusted sea bass with a glass of white wine. Ask for Cherline!

ocean-82.fr





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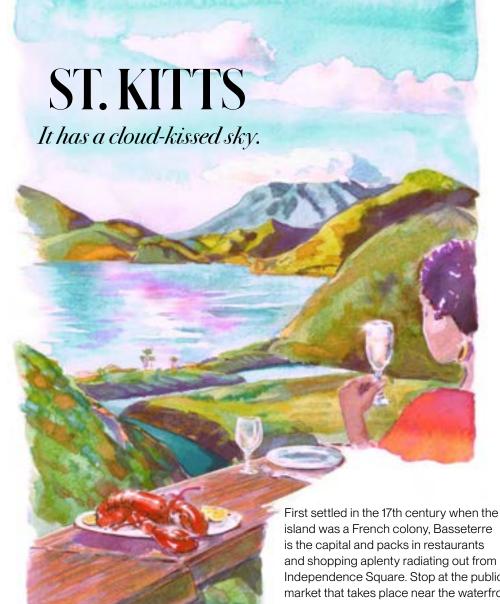
Aruba: Touch Of Gold, Effy Barbados: Milano Diamond Gallery Cayman: Milano Diamond Gallery, Effy Curacao: Milano Diamond Gallery, Effy Cozumel: Touch Of Gold, Effy, Falmouth: Gem Palace, Gold Mine Montego Bay: The Royal Shops Ocho Rios: Gem Palace, Gold Mine San Juan: Blue Diamond St. Kitts: Gold Mine, Effy St. Thomas: Effy, Milano Diamond Gallery

#### ALASKA

Ketchikan: Blue Diamond, Effy Juneau: Blue Diamond, Effy Skagway: Aurora Jewelers, Effy

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Port Zante serves as the cruise ship arrivals port on the island nation of St. Kitts/Nevis and sits within easy walking distance of the capital, Basseterre. St. Kitts is a stunner thanks to its cloud-wrapped volcanic peak swathed in rainforest jungle that spills down to turquoise-hued waters and magnificent beaches. Once a major hub for sugar production, the island's former plantations have been converted into charming inns and shopping destinations. St. Kitts is the larger of the two islands; Nevis is a bit more laidback and boasts a sleepy central hub in the form of Charlestown. St. Kitts offers innumerable activities from ziplining, snorkeling at Turtle Beach, or shopping the gorgeous wares at Caribelle Batik, set amongst gorgeous gardens at historic Romney Manor. Take the amazing scenic railway tour—an absolute must. Keep your eyes open for vervet monkeys and be sure to sample conch fritters before you depart. P.S. The average annual temperature ranges from 77-82 degrees Fahrenheit. That's heaven.

and shopping aplenty radiating out from Independence Square. Stop at the public market that takes place near the waterfront on Wednesdays and Saturdays and ogle the gorgeous fresh produce and colorful fish. If you have time, head out of town via taxi and explore the island with a stop at The Strip, a collection of beach bars and restaurants such as the Monkey Bar. Cockleshell Beach is a magnificent whitesand strand and boasts the always-fun Reggae Bar & Grill (and you might just spot a turtle as you splash about). Other standout beaches include South Friars Beach: South Frigate Bay Beach where you can Jet Ski or windsurf, among many other activities; and Major's Bay Beach with its stunning vistas onto the neighboring island of Nevis. The concierge team at the island's Park Hyatt recommends a hike up stunning Mount Liamuiga volcano. "Liamuiga is St. Kitts' highest point, and a hike to this dormant volcano is a can't-miss experience. Guided tours are recommended as the trek can be quite challenging. The arduous hike is well worth the effort, with the mountain peak offering unparalleled island views." After, kick back with a well-deserved rum cocktail at a favorite watering hole such as the Shipwreck Beach Bar.

#### Local Flavor

Julian Armstrong, the owner of the highly regarded Coconut Grove restaurant, gives us his St. Kitts/Nevis top five.

#### 1.

#### Window Dressing

Marshall's. A touch of fine dining. Exquisite food. Consistent. Lovely atmosphere. Ask for a window seat and enjoy the breeze.

marshallsdining.com.

## **2.** Take a Dip

Head to the Caribbean side of the island for unspoiled, clean, beautiful beaches great for swimming—it's calm and flat most of the time!

## **3.** Off Roading

Greg's Safaris does it great every time!
The special-purpose 4WDs get deep into the rainforest and the views from the mountains are breathtaking.

gregsafaris.com.

## 4.

#### Gift of the Sea

Arthur's is an amazing lunch spot at a point of the island where the Caribbean and Atlantic meet. The food is incredible.

The fish is delivered right from the sea to the kitchen.

## **5.** Trainspotting

St. Kitts Scenic Railway is the so-called Sugar Train. I've done this trip three times and I would do it again tomorrow. A unique way to see the island and get a feel for the landscape and history of St Kitts.

stkittsscenicrailway.com.

## SAN JUAN

## Explore this historic island.

#### San Juan is the perfect port of call

as it is a microcosm of the Old World meets New. You can wander around a centuriesold fort and then go dance the night away to the sounds of a world-class DJ. You can dine in a decades-old eatery manned by an equally atmospheric, creaky staff or dine in a cutting-edge restaurant that showcases the latest in far-flung fusion cuisine. Throw back a piña colada or two. Smoke a cigar. Wander through a rainforest punctuated with dramatic waterfalls and exotic greenery. Plunk down on the beach and watch the kids scamper about or take an excursion to a nearby island. San Juan. There's something for everyone here. And P.S. Happy birthday! In 2022, San Juan celebrated the 500thanniversary of its founding.

"Wandering the streets of Old San Juan is really magical," a longtime visitor to the city tells us. "The history and charm are off the charts. And, wow, the caliber of the restaurants and nightlife. I love to stay over in San Juan for a night or two before my cruise—it's really a special city plunked right down in a small slice of paradise."

Old San Juan, the historic heart of the vibrant, pulsating city, is wonderfully atmospheric and walkable so break out the comfortable shoes and set out to explore. There are cobblestoned streets loaded with bakeries and charming shops. Historic forts loom above the city and offer eye-popping views and photo opportunities. There are terrific museums, bars, and nightlife aplenty. And, only minutes away, there are other areas to explore with a completely different perspective such as the Condado with its glittering array of resort hotels that deliver one-stop-shop escapes.





#### Local Flavor

The talented team at historic El Convento Hotel in the heart of Old San Juan suggests the five following San Juan must-dos.

## Life's a Beach

Escape to the beach! Although Old San Juan's beach is technically El Escambrón (great for snorkeling), which runs along the strip that divides Old San Juan from the rest of the island, a true favorite is the nearby Laguna del Condado. It's a very active spot that is great for kayaking and paddleboarding and it has become a local tradition for people to sit and watch the local youth dive from the bridge into the lagoon throughout the day.

#### Dining Options

Chef Franco Seccarelli combines traditional Italian "alta cucina" with a hint of local flavor. Seccarelli, a chef of choice for luminaries such as Pavarotti, has his own olive groves in Italy and his homemade olive oil serves as the foundation for most of his dishes. The restaurant is a small idyllic, romantic courtyard covered with string lights and a few tables nestled around a fountain. For those looking for more authentic Puerto Rican flavors, world-renowned Chef José Santaella offers creative takes on local cuisine in an elegant but modern setting at Santaella

seccarelli.com. josesantaella.com.

#### Art Attack

While the forts and their exhibits are usually the main attraction for travelers, Old San Juan has a myriad of museums showcasing everything from naval history to exhibits of pre-Columbian artifacts. The best art museums are located either a 10-minute car ride away in Santurce or an hour away in Ponce with the Ponce Museum of Art boasting the most important and varied art collection in the Caribbean. The Museum of the Americas near San Felipe del Morro also offers a quick but worthy variety of art installations.

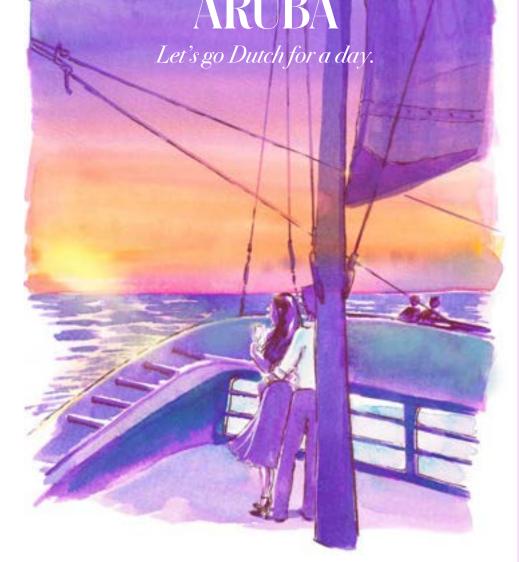
#### Bar Scene

While there are many bars worth your visit, few San Juan moments compare with walking into La Factoría with its worldfamous mixology program before making your way through the five themed rooms. The wonderfully curated drinks are just a part of the experience here—a live orchestra livens up the salsa room while a DJ plays house music in the cave room. lafactoriapr.com.

#### **5**.

#### Ice, Ice, Baby

Our version of a local shaved ice treat that's available in nearly 30 tropical flavors. Usually, the piragua cart is a gleaming vision of a bygone era and when the piraguero begins to shave that iceberg-like block of ice, it is the most magical sound vou will hear.



#### A charming arid island with a dramatic,

rugged appeal and a wonderful Dutch history. Aruba sits in the lower Caribbean off the coast of Venezuela. Dutch and Papiamento are the island's official languages, but English is spoken by almost everyone. Twenty miles long and six miles wide at its widest point, Aruba packs a lot into a small package. The beaches are gorgeous, and the waters truly sparkle. There's a wonderful, unexpected landscape thanks to the very dry climate with cactus and other desert-like vegetation taking center stage. Dramatic trade winds sweep the island and have made Aruba a mustvisit for windsurfers and kiteboarders from around the globe. Splash about with colorful fish, keep your eyes open for leatherback turtles, and explore the stunning national parks that cover almost 20% of the island. And be sure to take a boat excursion out into the gorgeous, impossibly clear waters surrounding the island for a day under the blissful sun.

Oranjestad is the capital of Aruba and dates back to the end of the 18th century. Picture candy-colored historic buildings interspersed with the more modern, delivering stellar shopping, restaurants, and cultural attractions devoted to the island's history and archaeological finds. The capital is also the perfect spot from which to depart on an excursion—perhaps a catamaran sail paired with a spot of snorkeling. If you choose to get out of town, hail a taxi and set out for a beach, such as Eagle, Palm, or Manchebo. But as the island sits on igneous volcanic rock, be sure to pack water shoes to protect your delicate toes. The days are hot and dry, but the nights get cool so bring a light sweater or jacket with you as you venture off into the evening. The official currency is the Aruban florin, but, not to worry, American dollars are accepted everywhere. Aruba is rated as one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, so it's a great place for the kids.

#### Local Flavor

Tanya Yarzagaray, the guest relations coordinator at The Ritz-Carlton. Aruba, shares her island top five.

## By the Sea

Driftwood is my go-to restaurant as it serves ultra-fresh seafood paired with outstanding service. Try the pan-fried fish "Aruban style" or the seafood pasta thermidor loaded with shrimp, scallops, baby clams, and lobster. I grew up dining here, and it never disappoints. driftwoodaruba.com.

#### Playa Perfecta

Beach Bar at the Playa Linda Beach Resort has a delectable lunch menu (from pizzas to burgers and shrimp tacos)—not to mention the island's longest happy hour (a Mango Madness, anyone?). A great, relaxed environment. beachbararuba.com.

#### 3.

#### Swim with the Fish

Tres Trapi beach boasts beautiful, crystalclear waters perfect for snorkeling. As you splash about, you might have the opportunity to see baby turtles, cushion sea stars, crabs, and plenty of fish. Tres Trapi is great for the whole family—including the kids.

#### 4.

#### Hotel Stories

The Ritz-Carlton is my favorite hotel, offering excellent service that always goes above and beyond. Don't miss our international selection of restaurants including BLT Steak, Casa Nonna, and the Divi Sushi Bar & Lounge. ritzcarlton.com

#### **5**.

#### Sun Downers

De Palm Tours' sunset cruise is a two-hour excursion aboard a luxury catamaran. Think incredible sunset vistas, limitless cocktails, tropical fare, and great music.

depalm.com.







