

# SAVOR

At Sea

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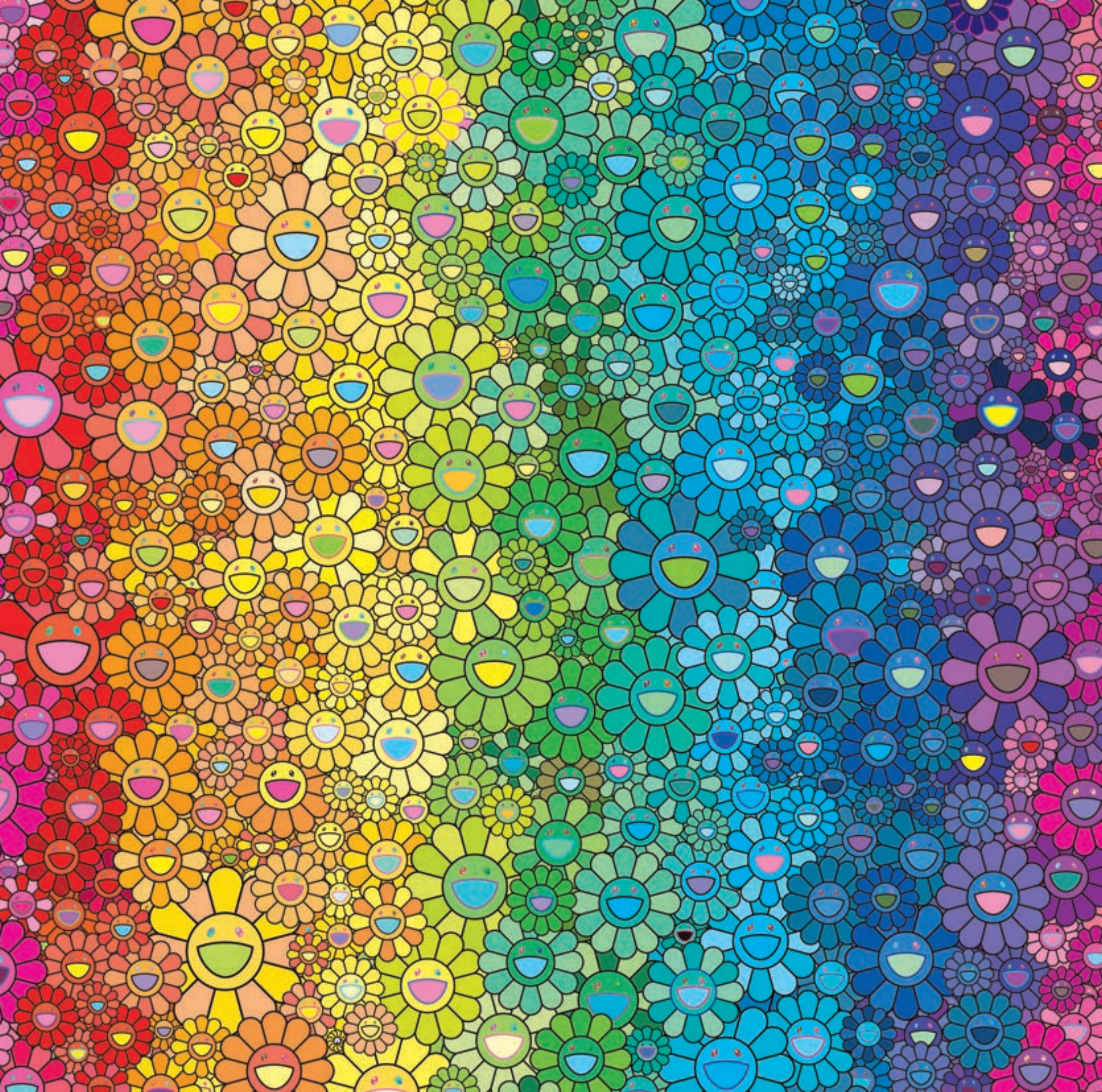
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*Effy Hematian*



**EFFY HEMATIAN**

NEW YORK





**Welcome Aboard! We are honored to present our exclusive publication for Holland America Line—SAVOR AT SEA.**

The new SAVOR AT SEA 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 Holland America Line passenger.

As Holland America Line's partner of expertise in duty-free luxury, we are excited to introduce an on-board expansion of our service and knowledge, the Port & Shopping Concierge. You will now have your own personal guide helping you with 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 Concierge 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 of HFG Media



**Who said you can't have it all?** You most certainly can, and you will find it all in this debut issue of SAVOR AT SEA, the exclusive on-board magazine for Holland America Line guests.

Our team of global tastemakers has created the ultimate insider's guide to your Caribbean journey. We bring you the best in shopping, dining, travel, and style for every generation. Pair an Italian wine, selected by the famed Polo Bar sommelier, with cheese from St. Martin's chicest fromagerie. Share a candlelit dinner at a 200-year-old restored plantation fieldhouse in the countryside of St. Thomas. Take a deep dive into your Holland America Line experience as we reveal the next extraordinary cruise around the globe.

As you make your way ashore, follow the unique finds in our Island Guide. Global Editor at Large Jason Oliver Nixon interviewed local personalities, artists, hoteliers, and restaurateurs to reveal their favorite secret Caribbean spots.

Creating this magazine has been an extraordinary journey with an incredible team of talented and avid cruisers, who have sailed from St. Thomas to Anchorage, London to Singapore in search of signature experiences.

Enjoy every day and remember to *Savor the Journey!*

—Tracy Squillante  
Editor in Chief

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Sparkle at sea with glorious gems, sport the perfect timepiece, head to Italy for a taste of the grape, and pack the perfect cruise essentials.



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### Isn't Life Grand?

On Grand Cayman, you might just want to mix and mingle with the natives. And by natives we mean the blue iguana, the island's largest indigenous land animal.

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Start your day with sublime pastries in St. Martin then settle in for far-flung wines and cheese before finishing off with dinner in an historic former plantation high above St. Thomas. Set sail for happening Anchorage, Alaska, and think of England, courtesy of a handful of London must-dos.

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### Savor the Journey

Embrace the magic of Holland America! Set sail for a Grand World voyage, celebrate 150 years of the Holland America Line with transatlantic journeys, kick back in style at Half Moon Cay, feast your eyes (and tastebuds), and listen to the world pass you by.



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### Island Guide

Welcome to paradise! Think global but act local. Where to shop, dine, kick back on the perfect beach, and so much more.

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Embrace your inner and outer beauty with grooming must-haves that will pamper your skin and deliver the perfect scent.



# Savor at Sea ISSUE 01

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PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

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# CHANEL

COCO MADEMOISELLE

EAU DE PARFUM

AVAILABLE AT  
THE SHOPS

— of Holland America Line —



# CONTRIBUTORS



## Jason Oliver Nixon, Global Editor at Large

“I have been lucky enough to take more than 30 cruises over the past several years,” says Global Editor at Large Jason Oliver Nixon. “And each journey opens my eyes to new destinations, cultures, and incredible adventures.” The former Editor in Chief of Gotham and Hamptons magazines and Global Lifestyle Editor at Delta Sky, Nixon calls North Carolina home where he co-owns lifestyle brand Madcap Cottage. Says Nixon, “I am a storyteller who engages audiences through an omnichannel lens—whether magazines stories, social content, or interiors products.”

## Misha Pinkhasov, Global Features Editor

comes from a long line of ocean travelers—“My godmother taught me to hold off seasickness with ginger ale and mashed potatoes at every meal,” he says—and has a fondness for ships with a heritage, like Holland America Line’s. “I remember the first time I saw Rotterdam V’s elegant curves and ramparts in New York.” Based in Lisbon, Misha is a luxury business expert and author of Real Luxury, who 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, Photographer

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 editorials 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.



## Sacha Maric, Photographer

Fashion photographer and director Sacha Maric was born and raised in London and is a Fine Art graduate of the renowned Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. Maric’s work has appeared in far-flung publications such as Esquire, Marie Claire, V Magazine, Wallpaper\*, and WSJ magazine. Based in Brooklyn, New York, Maric is the proud father to three daughters. “As a photographer I love being able to work with different creative people on interesting projects, everything from fashion to beauty, art, and video.”

## 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 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 along the way.



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*in rose gold*

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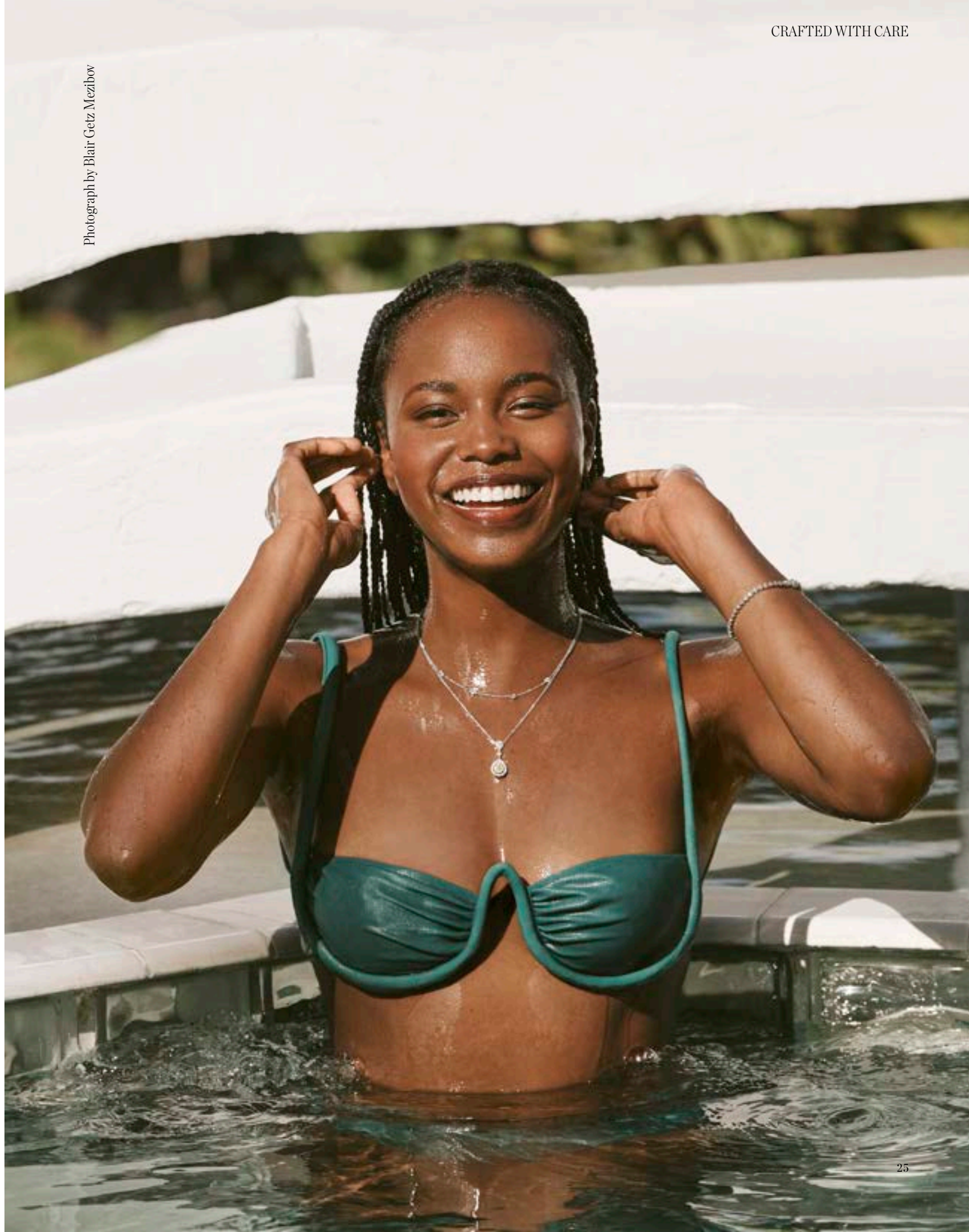


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Photograph by Blair Getz Mezibov

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14K Yellow Gold Diamond Starfish Pendant, 14K White Gold Diamond Ethiopian Opal & Diamond Ring, 14K White Gold Enamel, Diamond & Sapphire Seahorse Ring, 14K White Gold Aquamarine & Diamond Ring, 14K Yellow Gold Opal Ring, 14K Yellow Gold Fresh Water Pearl & Diamond Shell Pendant Available on board at the EFFY Boutique and at [effyjewelry.com](http://effyjewelry.com)

# Symbols of the *Sea*

Glittering treasures pulled from the ocean waves

Photographs by Tom Hayes, Prop Styling by Linden Elstran

# *Diamond Life*

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By Jason Oliver Nixon



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**True Blue**

A great pair of jeans is an absolute essential, even in the islands. For the sushi dinner...for the night on the town. You just can't go wrong. **ALL SEASONS JEANS BY BONOBO, BONOBO.COM.**

**Classic Fantastic**

Why travel with an expensive watch when a classic such as a timeless Swatch will dress your wrist whether in the pool or in the dining room. **TWICE AGAIN WATCH BY SWATCH, SWATCH.COM.**

**Eyes Have It**

A great pair of classic eyeglasses for scoping the scene without anyone knowing what you are thinking. **LEMTOSH MONOCHROME SUNGLASSES IN EMERALD BY MOSCOT, MOSCOT.COM.**

**Tinker Tailor**

A great blazer will take you everywhere with polish. On the plane or in the dining room. Pair it with a great T-shirt. **LUDLOW SLIM-FIT UNSTRUCTURED SUIT JACKET IN IRISH COTTON-LINEN IN NAVY BY J.CREW, JCREW.COM.**

**Bottle Rocket**

Stay cool and hydrated in style. Fourteen color options...or design your own! **WIDE-MOUTH WATER BOTTLE, 32 OZ. BY HYDRO FLASK, HYDROFLASK.COM.**

**Preppy Polish**

I never, ever wear dress shirts, but a few polo shirts in fun colors are my style go-tos. Pair them with shorts or jeans or wear them under a blazer. **POLO SHIRTS IN GREEN AND PINK BY J. PRESS, JPRESSONLINE.COM.**

*Leader of the PACK*

A go-go globetrotter who lives out of his suitcase, Global Editor at Large Jason Oliver Nixon knows how to pack minimally, albeit with a colorful punch



**In the Navy**

A great tote is an absolute essential for carrying towels, sunglasses, and other sundries in style, and nobody does it better than T. Anthony. **BOATING TOTE IN BLUE BY T. ANTHONY, TANTHONY.COM.**

**Blossoms, Dearie**

Embrace the power of flowers and stand out at the pool in style. **6" STRETCH SWIM TRUNK IN FLORAL PRINT BY J.CREW, JCREW.COM.**

**Stripe Tease**

A light sweater is a cruise essential, and a colorful striped pattern adds some whimsy and fun to the mix. **SUPIMA COTTON FUN STRIPED SWEATER BY BROOKS BROTHERS, BROOKSBROTHERS.COM.**

**Go Green**

Slip-on sneakers will carry you from day into night, especially when embellished with a punchy tropical print. **CUSTOM SLIP-ONS WITH MADCAP COTTAGE PATTERNS BY VANS, VANS.COM.**

**Page Turner**

I love to record my thoughts and musings in a great diary, and Smythson's notebooks are true classics. **BLUE SKY THINKING NOTEBOOK BY SMYTHSON OF BOND STREET, SMYTHSON.COM.**



# In the BAG

After a decade as the head of celebrity relations at Louis Vuitton, Meg Carlozzi understands the power of high-impact style. Here, the inveterate traveler picks her favorite cruise essentials for an easy-breezy chic getaway

Photographs by Sacha Maric

*“Real style is about embracing your own unique flair and personality. It’s all about the self-confidence.”*

—MEG CARLOZZI



## The Perfect Pareo

This is my #1 travel essential — a big, beautiful swath of cloth to wrap around a swimsuit and wear to the beach, as a scarf on chilly evenings, or knotted neatly around your neck as a flowy top, kimono, or even a dress. **SILK PAREO SCARF BY SHWETAMBARI, SHWETAMBARI.COM.**

## One Good One-Piece

A body-bracing bathing suit looks and feels great, whether swimming at the beach or lounging around the pool. Pair it with a pareo and—voilà!—you’re set for lunch without so much as a costume change! **AMALFI SWIMSUIT IN BLACK BY ANDIES SWIM, ANDIESWIM.COM**

## A Packable Hat

Nothing beats the heat or elevates your look like a dramatic hat. But there is nothing worse than having to babysit it on the way to your destination. This one stands up to the pressure of any suitcase to look great upon arrival! **PACKABLE FEDORA HAT BY ERIC JAVITS, ERICJAVITS.COM.**

## Beautiful Lip Balm

These super Sugar Lip Treatments by Fresh go anywhere and aren’t too precious to throw in your beach bag or take on a long hike. They come in colors from sedate to seductive and keep your lips sweetly smooth. **SUGAR LIP BALM BY FRESH, FRESH.COM.**

## Especially Espadrilles

Timeless. Internationally chic. A great pair of espadrilles is my go-to wherever I’m headed. I find myself wearing them all day and night. They’re everywhere, but a bright pair from Portugal, Spain, or Italy makes for a special souvenir. **CANVAS ESPADRILLE FLATS IN VIVID FLAME BY J.CREW, JCREW.COM.**

## Shades Aplenty

Jackie O never left home without hers and neither should we. With an endless assortment, from Flower Child to Terminator, you should really pack for more moods than one, but you can’t go wrong with this oversized cat-eye! **COSMO CAT EYE SUNGLASSES BY ZIMMERMANN, ZIMMERMANN.COM.**

## Sacred Sandals

There’s a reason these barely-there basics have a global appeal. And there’s a reason Birkenstocks’ combo of comfort, function, and style is among the most popular. They take you everywhere, even under water! **AVA SANDAL IN WHITE BY BIRKENSTOCK, BIRKENSTOCK.COM.**

## Hoop to It

From ancient Greek goddesses to J.Lo, gold hoop earrings always add a flash of casually exotic glamor. If I bring only one item of jewelry on my travels, I opt for this sleek, simple little number by Effy. **14K YELLOW GOLD ROUND TUBE OPEN HOOP EARRINGS BY EFFY, EFFYJEWELRY.COM.**

## Hip Flask

Soaking in the sea doesn’t mean you can forget to drink. Stay hydrated and away from plastic bottles during your excursions with a thermal bottle that keeps your beverages ice cold and looks cute to boot. **ROSE AGATE INSULATED BOTTLE BY S’WELL, SWELL.COM.**

## Book ’em

Holidays are the time to open your mind to new ideas or revisit old classics. Even better if you take the time to get off your screens and go analog for a complete break. Bring along an assortment of books in your favorite travel tote! **BOAT AND TOTE OPEN TOP BAG IN LAWN GREEN BY L.L. BEAN, LLBEAN.COM.**





# Raising the BAR

Ivy Mix, the co-owner of Leyenda, the Brooklyn-based, James Beard-nominated cocktails hotspot, suggests her must-have mixers for crafting the perfect at-home bar



Ivy Mix co-owner of Leyenda

**Are you feeling like your at-home bar lacks elegance and style?** Frankly, it's easy to go out to your local liquor shop and pick up a bottle of gin, vodka, or tequila—whether you prefer something more mainstream or a tad boutique. But without the essential mixers—or modifiers, as we call them in the industry—you will not be able to craft the perfect cocktail. Here, my favorite bottle-centric go-tos. Layer-in a citrus juicer and a 2 x 2 Peak-brand ice cube tray for nice big blocks of ice, and let the festivities begin.

## Cointreau

This liqueur is a must-have on any bar cart. It's a fundamental ingredient in cocktails such as a sidecar, margarita, or cosmopolitan. Cointreau is the benchmark triple sec and has beautiful orange flavors that make cocktails so fantastic. No margarita is complete without it!

## Dry Vermouth

Vermouth was once look down upon, mostly because people didn't know how to store it (news flash: It's made from wine, so keep it refrigerated!). Gone are the days of martinis with a "whisper" of vermouth. Make a 50/50! This vermouth, in particular, has a really nice acidity, making a fantastic drink. You can even make a drink with just dry

vermouth, lime, and Campari, called Rome with a View—a real crowd pleaser.

## Angostura Bitters

The salt and pepper of the bartender's arsenal. Bitters are very concentrated little drops of flavor that elevate cocktails to that next level. Want an old fashioned? What about a Manhattan? Then you have to have these on hand.

## Campari

While this bitter spirit is most famously used in a negroni, it is also my favorite low ABV (alcohol by volume) guilty pleasure with a little bit of lime and soda. So über-refreshing and delicious! However, it's a MUST-have on any bar cart because it is integral to the negroni, boulevardier, and others.

## CleanCo Gin Alternative

Non-alcoholic mixing is a must on any bar cart these days. Look at cocktail bars across the country and everyone is touting new No ABV elixirs. CleanCo in particular is excelling at this game. I love their tequila and gin alternatives. Make yourself a gin and tonic or if you want a little ABV in there, try mixing a martini with the above vermouth and this gin alternative for a smooth sipper with just a hint of alcohol.





*“This wine (Tenuta Sette Cieli ‘Scipio’) begs to be paired with short ribs over polenta.”*

# Love, ITALIAN STYLE

Nathan Wooden, the charismatic wine director at Manhattan’s exclusive Polo Bar, selects his favorite sun-kissed Italian wines

By Jason Oliver Nixon

**We are tired of the usual suspects lurking about our fridge and wine cellar, aka the wire shelf in our pantry.** Sauvignon Blanc is so yesterday, and we are over rosé. Pouilly who, we ask, and, frankly, we have sipped way too much Chianti this season. So how to add some pizzazz and panache to our at-home wine selection? We turned to charismatic, über-knowledgeable Nathan Wooden, the wine director at the buzzy Polo Bar in Manhattan, for his must-haves, and the wanderlusting wine-lover guides us through five of his favorite Italian vineyards.

## Marco Tinessa Ognostro Bianco

Made from the crisp and clean white grape Fiano, which one would normally consume on the beach or a boat off of the Amalfi coast, this example goes for something far different in style and character. The wine, which spends many days resting on the skins of the grapes, produces something far more exotic, decadent, and luscious. Think late fall or early winter with roast chicken. Full of honeyed fruit and an almost beeswax character. Yet for all of the full-bodied extravagance, this wine has a lightness and purity that make it an absolute must-try for anyone interested in the wines being produced just outside of Napoli.

## Villa Sandi “Cartizze” Prosecco DOCG

I would be hard-pressed to ever willingly drink a sparkling wine from anywhere other than Champagne. If given the choice to drive a Ferrari, why choose any other option? However, there is one exception to this self-prescribed rule of mine. It can be found in the rolling hills of the Veneto region. Villa Sandi produces Proseccos that are far removed from the nonsense served with orange juice at Saturday brunch. These are wines with real pedigree and complexity. The Cartizze bottling is without a doubt the finest of them, and very much deserving of comparison to that beautiful machine with the dancing pony on the hood. Refreshing, elegant, and brimming with floral perfume, every sip is full of satisfying depth and richness. Drinking a bottle is almost enough to make you forget that they even make sparkling wine in France.

## Campo Alle Comete Bolgheri Superiore

The word “comete” in Italian translates to guiding star or comet. After drinking a bottle of this, you may feel as if you are drifting off to heaven and floating amongst the stars. Featuring an all-star cast of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Syrah, this wine is pure pleasure. It is chock full of ripe plums, blackberry, and chocolate. Yet all of that fruit is underpinned by a tannic earthiness that keeps everything in balance. One would be well-advised to decant well ahead of serving. And though it plays nicely with sweet and tangy BBQ ribs or brisket, my advice is to let the wine have the stage all to itself.

## Tenuta Sette Cieli “Scipio”

Cabernet Franc is not exactly a grape that springs to mind when one thinks of coastal Tuscany. Frankly, Cabernet Franc is not a grape that most drinkers give much thought to at all, Italy or otherwise. However, after one sip of this juice, named after the famous Roman general that defeated Hannibal, one might just have to add this grape to the regular rotation of drinking options. The aromas are spicy and reminiscent of a pot of Earl Grey tea. The palate is full of dense and robust fruit. The true character and beauty of this wine takes a bit of time to coax out. But the final result is worth the wait. This wine is begging to be paired with hearty stews or short ribs over polenta.

## Fattoria Galardi Terra di Lavoro

A true icon of the Italian wine world and yet this bottling somehow always seems to fly just below the radar—and that is both a shame and a blessing. This is a wine that you only want to share with a select few who can truly appreciate the magnificent experience that comes with drinking it. It is made from the Aglianico grape, a brooding and smoky cousin to Cabernet. Grown in volcanic ash soils, which lend the wine its unique character, this bottling is not for the faint of heart. But at peak maturity it is hard to find anything that is as complex, exotic, and rewarding—it is absolute perfection.



Wine Director Nathan Wooden



# LOTUS

BY EFFY



OUR SPECIALTY CUT DIAMOND CAPTURES THE SYMMETRICAL BEAUTY OF A LOTUS FLOWER, A SYMBOL OF LOVE.

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THE GREENHOUSE®  
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# Soothe your SOUL

It's time to pamper your mind  
and body and embrace the bliss

Edited by Tracy Squillante

## *The Science of* HAIR SHINE

Radiant hair is infinitely desirable, yet it can be so elusive. With Elixir Ultime, the scientists at Kérastase have harnessed the power of shine to infuse every strand with undeniable brilliance.

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# After GLOW

Lavish your skin and hair  
with glorious natural oils

Photographs by Ryan Jenq



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# Skin in the GAME

Firm, tighten,  
and moisturize  
your hands and  
body in a flash



Hand and Nail Treatment Balm, Body Firming Cream, and Beauty Flash Peel by Clarins, clarinsusa.com.

# After the SUN

Take your skin  
from nice to  
knockout  
with marvelous  
moisturizers



Ultra Rich Body  
Cream, Milk  
Concentrate Cream  
by L'Occitane,  
loccitane.com.

Daisy Eau de Toilette  
Spray by Marc Jacobs,  
marcjacobsfrances.com.  
Gucci Bloom Eau de Toilette  
Spray by Gucci,  
gucci.com.



# Petal PUSHERS

Step into the garden with  
timeless floral scents





# Fresh & FABULOUS

Stay cool with a spritz of a sun-kissed scent



Cool Water Eau de Toilette Spray by Davidoff, zenodavidoff.com. Eau Extraordinaire Fragrance by Clarins, clarinsusa.com.

Photographs by Tom Hayes

# By the LIGHT

Set the scene with beautifully scented candles



Haven signature soy vegan herb, citrus, and vanilla candle. Do Not Disturb santal, lily of the valley, and sandalwood candle by Haven, haven-collective.com.

# At First BLUSH

Celebrate a fresh-faced  
look with a hint of color

Day Glow Highlighting  
Balm in Bounce by Merit,  
meritbeauty.com. Sheer  
Healthy Glow Highlighting  
Fluid by Chanel,  
chanel.com. Caviar Stick  
Eye Color in Bed of  
Roses by Laura Mercier,  
lauramercier.com. Shimmer  
Brick Compact in Pink  
Quartz by Bobbi Brown,  
bobbibrowncosmetics.com.  
Dior Addict Lip Glow in  
Pink by Dior, dior.com.



Prop Styling by Linden Elstran

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# LET them *eat* CAKE

Begin your spirited St. Martin  
adventure with a heavenly croissant paired  
with a café crème at Chez Fernand

By Jason Oliver Nixon



OUT AND ABOUT



**If you have been lucky enough to visit France, chances are you have wonderfully evocative memories** of discovering the perfect café and recollect blissful mornings spent savoring colorful, sugar-laden pastries. Happily, the bustling waterfront in charming Marigot will bring those recollections back to life paired with a heaping side of relaxed, easy-breezy tropical chic.

And while there are numerous cafes in Marigot, a favorite go-to is Chez Fernand La French Bakery with lovely, friendly service and the staff outfitted in crisp gray aprons. A comfortable open-air setting delivers great people watching. But, oh, it's the pastry selections that will send you reeling.

Says a Chez Fernand regular, "I love the modern ambience in the heart of Marigot and the al fresco vibe. I come here every morning, say hello to the charming team behind the counter, and settle in for a different pastry as the selection is ever changing. The color and assortment of the confections always surprise and delight." Think a dreamy tartelette au caramel beurre sale, aka a caramel tartlet with

salted caramel. An assortment of artisanal baked breads—from the classic French baguette to brioche and pain campagne—scent the air. A quiche Lorraine that will carry you to the French countryside. Light, flaky, buttery croissants. Pain au chocolat. Local ice creams. And terrific sandwiches such as jambon beurre Emmental and tuna mayonnaise or a tandoori chicken salad should you choose to stay for lunch. Freshly crafted pizzas, too (try the four cheeses loaded with gorgonzola, goat cheese, mozzarella, and fontina!). And, of course, Fernand offers a wide variety of coffees as the perfect accompaniment to your artisanal confection.

As for us, we settled in at the counter overlooking the harbor and nibbled a stunning tarte laden with whipped cream and fresh strawberries and a fondant chocolat paired with a perfect cappuccino and watched the world go by.

And, yes, we might have snuck in another pastry or two before heading out to explore Marigot's busy market just up the street. Why not, that's what vacations are for, n'est-ce pas? Bliss.



# *Falling for* FROMMAGE

From his sun-filled cheese shop and tasting workshop in the heart of St. Martin's busy Marigot, French-born Géraud Vallet hopes to make fromage an island-life essential

by Jason Oliver Nixon

**If you are a lover of fine French fromages, hop in a taxi and hightail to the French side** of St. Martin and bustling Marigot.

Perched on a cozy corner overlooking the town's Boulevard de France and the picturesque harbor, Le Comptoir 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 inspired vision. A native of Cantal, a rural region in France where farms and cheesemaking are inherent to the culture, Vallet worked at a bank for 30 years before a trip to St. Martin sparked a life change that would carry him across continents and into new worlds of knowledge.

Says Vallet, "The French side of St. Martin is renowned for its food and wine—but there was a lack of good cheeses available. I decided to go back to school and learn everything I could about cheese. I did several internships with cheesemakers and returned to the SXM to

start a new life. I 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."

If you have an hour or two to spare, why not settle in for a spirited tasting at Le Comptoir overseen by Vallet. Even impromptu. Gorgeous cuts of cheese—blooming, pungent, yellow, orange, fruity, veined, and crusted with cinders—will magically appear from the kitchen. Glasses of red and white wines materialize, and Vallet will give you the backstory behind each selection as you partake.

Says Vallet, "I love to work with small groups and teach them about the history, the production, and the French culture linked to cheese as guests sample nine to 10 different cheeses with three to four wines. Because cheese is our passion, we want to share it by accompanying you on a journey that is as sensory as it is cultural. It's really a lovely experience."

So dive into delicious! Then take some cheeses to go. That evening at dinner, you can regale your fellow cruisegoers with your newfound epicurean knowledge as you share your fabulous fromages. [lecomptoirdesfromages.fr](http://lecomptoirdesfromages.fr)

# Up at THE FARM

By Jason Oliver Nixon



Tucked high above St. Thomas, the Old Stone Farmhouse mixes history, a gorgeously atmospheric setting, and spot-on cooking to create a wildly romantic night out

*“My goal is to be the curator of happiness for our guests.”*

—CHEF JUSTIN WERLE

**As your taxi zips out of St. Thomas’ Charlotte Amalie and up densely planted, residential-minded roads,** you might just wonder where you are headed. And then the cab turns down a steep, vertiginous driveway and you arrive at gorgeously overgrown stone stairs that lead down to wonderland.

Candles flicker in hurricane lanterns. A fountain trickles from an ancient stone basin. A stunning centuries-old stone building stands tall, and the sounds of Nina Simone spill al fresco. Hello, hello, the gracious host beckons, and the storyline unfolds. Welcome to the Old Stone Farmhouse! You might opt to sup outdoors in the ivy-draped tent, but indoors really packs in the romance.

Think a 200-year-old restored plantation field house with a series of beautifully decorated dining rooms draped with gauzy curtains that look onto postcard-perfect vistas. Sconces flicker upon the walls, deep arches invite intrigue, and wide-planked, creaky wood floors add further atmosphere. Settle in upon rattan chairs at a cozy, à deux table as candles wave in the balmy breezes and lazy fans whirl overhead. Jazz plays, and there’s a lovely bustle that adds a certain frisson to the romantic vibe. Service is gracious and easy, crisp but never fussy. Dress up or down, and you will fit right in whether in blue sport coat and party dress or white jeans and colorful top.

Kick off your meal with a classic French 75 cocktail or a strawberry-basil kombucha smash libation before moving on to Scallops St.

Jacques with garlic, cream, and sundried tomatoes or a conch-rich chowder with scallops, shrimp, and cream. Scrumptious main courses might include Sole Meuniere with butter noisette, almonds, and capers or a New Zealand lamp chop with an herbed bread crust. Finish with a sumptuous dessert crafted by the restaurant’s in-house pastry chef.

Notes a fellow diner, “The cooking at the Farmhouse is superb. Think high-quality ingredients paired with a French-inspired vision and relaxed American sensibility. The menu delivers gussied-up comfort food that really packs a punch. And don’t overlook the nightly specials—they are always inspired and well worth sampling.”

As the night continues, there’s nothing rushed. Tables are beautifully spaced, and, happily, conversations can be heard but not overheard. Diners are glamorous, flushed in the flattering lighting, and the superb wines flow freely.

Notes the Farmhouse’s talented chef Justin Werle, “My goal is to be the curator of happiness for our guests. My food has a lot of French influences, and I am a proponent of classic cooking, but I always want the character of St. Thomas to shine through locally sourced food. Ultimately, we want to ensure you have a memorable experience whether you are stopping in for dinner on your way home from work or here for a special occasion.”

The Old Stone Farmhouse truly delivers the perfect experience in paradise. Mission accomplished. [Oldstonefarmhouse.net](http://Oldstonefarmhouse.net)



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— of Holland America Line —

# Think of ENGLAND

Global Editor at Large and diehard Anglophile **Jason Oliver Nixon** selects his 10 favorite London inside-track finds



**London is my second home. In most years (minus that recent two-year hiatus that shall go unnamed),** I hop the “pond” at least 10 times each year. I sample new neighborhoods, take the bus and Tube hither and yon, walk everywhere, and visit heaps of attractions that aren’t on the typical traveler grid. My mom attended Oxford for her master’s degree when I was a child so England is really in my DNA. I have photos of me romping about Harrods as a toddler; scampering about Knightsbridge in the groovy 70s as a precocious eight year old; and looking rather punk on Carnaby Street in the 1980s. Today, I am more prone to visit museums, sample high tea, and try on rakish boater jackets on Jermyn Street. Here, my 10 favorite must-dos when visiting this truly most capital of cities.

*“When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life.”*

# 01

## Maggie Jones's Anywhere

London is one of the world's dining capitals, and every season sees a slew of bright young things descend onto the city's high-octane restaurant scene. And while it's fun to experience the shock of the new, sometimes it's more fun to savor the tried and the true. No scene, no attitude, no strange fusion menu and overpriced cocktails. Case in point: Long-running Maggie Jones's (40+ years!) sits off bustling Kensington High Street and around the corner from Kensington Palace. Step inside from the urban grit and enter a relaxed, throwback world of aged pine furniture, mismatched chairs, and heaps of candles burning brightly, with herbs and baskets clumped together overhead. Think of Maggie's as an incongruous mini vacation to an English farmhouse that's absolutely cozy, rustic, romantic, and inviting. Settle in upstairs or down and sup on the likes of a perfectly steamed artichoke with Hollandaise sauce followed by Maggie's fish pie or the roasted guinea fowl in a white wine sauce. Pair your meal with a crisp Sancerre, and the mix is perfection. The prices are spot-on, too.

*Maggie-jones.co.uk*



# 03

## Wander the Chelsea Physic Garden

Dating back to 1673 and occupying four acres of land overlooking the Thames, the Chelsea Physic Garden truly packs a horticultural punch. If you are a fan of glorious gardens, hightail it to this magical wonderland that offers everything from a Tropical Corridor rich with cocoa and vanilla to the History bed that explores the backstory of London's oldest botanical garden. After wandering, stop for lunch at the charming Physic Garden Café and savor your meal al fresco.

*Chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk*



# 04

## Splurge on Friday or Saturday— Live at the Ritz, Dinner & Dancing

The fabled Ritz hotel sits smack upon bustling Piccadilly in the heart of London and offers unparalleled views of Green Park. Step inside (if dressed appropriately, they are sticklers for decorum), and the century-old hotel is a floral wedding cake of French-styled plaster garlands, marble, gilt furnishings, and über-attentive service. For an extra special occasion, book a Friday/Saturday "Live at The Ritz" dinner in The Ritz Restaurant. It pairs a superlative four-course meal in a breathtaking setting with dancing courtesy of the London Dance Orchestra. Sup on the likes of Isle of Mull scallops and Suffolk lamb with onion and mint before taking to the dance floor for some Cole Porter kicks. Expensive, but otherworldly. And note that coat and tie are required for the gents, so pack accordingly.

*TheRitzlondon.com*



# 02

## Explore Liberty of London

In a world in which department stores—especially the American varietal—have lost their "special," London provides a welcome retail tonic with its incredible, historic grand emporia. Standouts include Selfridge's and Harrods, and there's epicurean mecca Fortnum & Mason, but we will get to F&M later. Liberty of London, just off Regent Street, tops our list of must-visit department-store superstars. Housed in a mock Tudor-style, atmospheric building, Liberty is the perfect marriage of history and cutting edge. Think of-the-moment men's and women's fashions and accessories rounded out with signature, timeless Liberty floral print fabrics, global housewares, and an ever-changing selection of in-house boutiques that highlight trends and artisans. Peer down from the atrium with its carved wood animals perched on the railings and take in the pure theater.

*Libertylondon.com*



# 05

## Traverse London via Hop-On/Hop-Off Bus

If you've never visited London before, the Hop On/Hop Off buses that circle the city are truly the best way to see the English capital for the first time. On clement days, sit upstairs al fresco and take in the sights—from Piccadilly Circus to the South Bank, the Tower of London, and Notting Hill. Get off wherever your heart desires—perhaps at the exceptional V&A Museum—before hopping back on. Steer clear of the buses if traffic is bad that day (you can sit for hours!) or it's going to rain.



# 06

## Visit an Off-the-Beaten-Path Museum

While London has heaps of above-the-marquee museums, such as the National Gallery, the Tate Modern, and the Natural History Museum, the city also has many under-the-radar collections that are truly exceptional. Here, five favorites that are well worth the visit. Google to see what each has going on when you visit: The Wallace Collection, Sir John Soane's Museum, The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, Leighton House Museum, and the Museum of the Home.





# 07

## Picnic at The Regent's Park

A gloriously manicured parkland oasis in the heart of London, Regent's Park boasts vast swathes of green grass, acres of roses (more than 12,000 in Queen Mary's Gardens!) and manicured flowers, meandering waterways, a zoo, and a stunning open-air theater. We suggest picking up a picnic at any of London's myriad department-store food halls (think nearby Marks & Spencer) then head to Regent's for a sunset dinner al fresco. Oh, and an M&S gin & tonic in a can (yes, only in London!) paired with poached chicken and a sumptuous pudding. Economical and wonderfully cheerful. [Royalparks.org.uk](http://Royalparks.org.uk)

# 08

## Take Afternoon Tea at Claridge's

London is one of the world's dining capitals. There's high tea, and then there's afternoon tea at Claridge's, possibly the best of the best of London's high-end hotels. Sorry, Connaught and Savoy! Served in the Edwardian meets Art Deco (yes, the style mash-up works!) Foyer and Reading Room, the Claridge's afternoon tea elevates the experience with a colorful creativity and whimsy paired with exceptional, attentive service. Pour yourself some Oolong and savor a coconut and strawberry pavlova or a coronation chicken sandwich on brown granary bread. Heaven. [Claridges.co.uk](http://Claridges.co.uk)



# 09

## Hit the Antiques Markets

If you love to bring some bric-a-brac home, London has plenty of wonderful markets around the city to satisfy your craving. You can find everything from vintage china to housewares, jewelry, silver, and, well, almost everything in between. On Mondays, head for the Jubilee Hall at Covent Garden; Thursdays is Spitalfields; Friday is Bermondsey Market; and Saturday is Portobello Road. Get ready to haggle and have some fun.



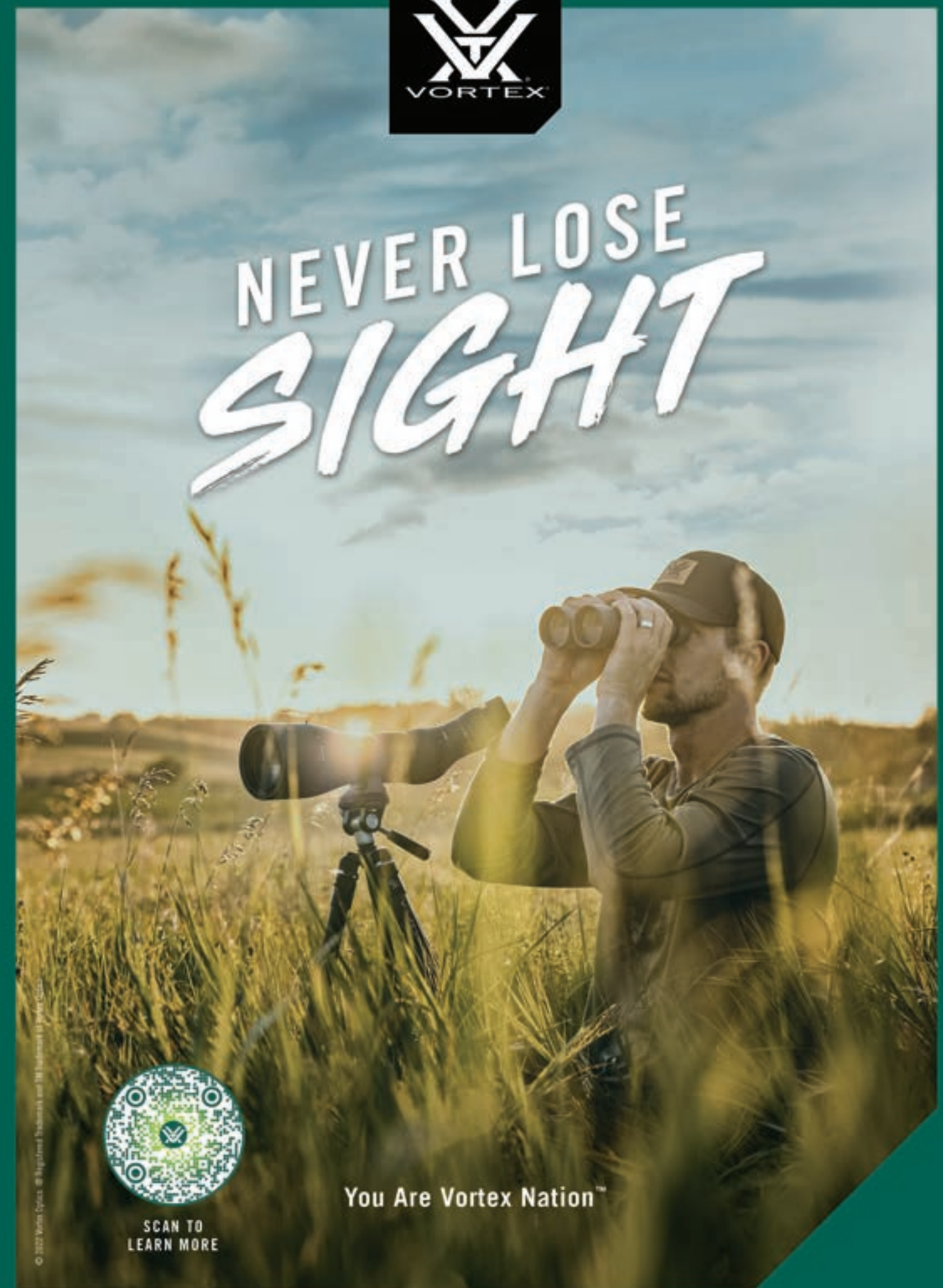
# 10

## Shop for Groceries at Fortnum & Mason

Since 1707, epicurean grocer and tea merchant Fortnum & Mason has wowed generations of shoppers with its incredible selection, wonderfully witty packaging, and attentive service. Ogle the wonderful, ever-changing store windows on bustling Piccadilly before stepping into wonderland. Wander the many floors that pack in everything from candies and teas to fragrances, tabletop books, and more, and don't miss the basement with its takeaway food hall and wine bar. And be sure to sample one of F&M's terrific eateries such as 45 Jermyn Street, Field, or The Parlour (order the Knickerbocker Glory sundae). [Fortnumandmason.com](http://Fortnumandmason.com)



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# Anchorage AWAY

America's northmost metropolis surprises with Alaskan delights beyond your wilderness imagination

by Misha Pinkhasov



**The United States' upper-left corner has seen its share of motion.** First, there was the Northwest Territory—now deep in the national heartland—stretching from West Virginia's Alleghenies to Minnesota, land of 10,000 lakes. More recently, we think of the outdoorsy, grunge, coffee and tech meccas of Portland and Seattle. But there's no big city more north or west than Anchorage, whose glass spires rise from marshy plains and boomtown streets to mirror the Alaska Range's snowcapped peaks in the distance.

That position, like a shimmering outpost of the furthest reaches of modernity, makes Anchorage perhaps the biggest city with the closest access to the most extreme wilderness in North America. Leave your downtown high-rise hotel or rustic lodge on the waterfront, and within minutes you'll be soaring over rugged peaks and ancient glaciers, meeting wildlife up-close, and discovering the indigenous and prospector cultures that take it all in stride.

## Naturally phenomenal

Denali dominates the Anchorage skyline: the tallest mountain on the continent, a mere 9,000 feet shorter than Everest, is easy to reach by five-hour drive or flightseeing excursion. But the peak is just the most obvious attraction in Denali National Park, with wildlife including caribou, brown and black bears, wolves, moose,

and fox calling the park home. Off-trail hiking options abound, while maintained trails concentrate around the Denali Visitor Center, with educational exhibits, films, and ranger-led programs.

Another way to reach Denali is an adventure of its own. The Alaska Railroad's Denali Star offers dramatic views from its glass-domed GoldStar Service, with tour guides to explain the sights. The train makes two stops daily, allowing you to arrive from Anchorage mid-morning and be back in time for nightcaps. From the Talkeetna Depot, catch land, air, or jet-boat tours, or shop and taste your way down picturesque Main Street.

Closer to shore, Anchorage's surroundings gleam with the gemlike facets and colors of glaciers, easily reached on a day cruise. Portage Glacier is the crown jewel: it is 10 stories tall and miles of icy wonder. Forest Service Rangers on your excursion vessel share the story of Portage Valley's geology, wildlife, and history. More glaciers await back on land. From the Boggs Visitor Center, run by the National Forest Service, the Trail of Blue Ice features five miles of easy paths and boardwalks to nearby glaciers and campgrounds for hikers and bikers. It's also a great trail for salmon viewing. Nearby Whittier is also famous for glacier and wildlife day cruises, kayaking, and deep-water fishing.

## Learning Local

The Upper Cook Inlet's natural abundance means the Anchorage Bowl area is filled with historically significant spots. The region is called Dena'ina Etnena, the traditional homelands of the Dena'ina Athabascan people, one of Alaska's many distinct and diverse Indigenous groups. The arrival of outsiders and development disrupted Dena'ina life, but its roots remain strong, and the Alaska Native Heritage Center and the Native Village of Eklutna preserve the heritage of Alaska's 11 major cultures by supporting subsistence activities like berry picking and fishing, and public art installations, performances, and contemporary crafts.

Alaska's largest museum, the Anchorage Museum, tells the social, political, cultural, scientific, historic, and artistic story of Alaska. The collection includes masterworks of Alaska Native art and design from the Smithsonian Institution. Paintings, sculpture, photography, and multi-media depict a range of past and present perspectives on the land and its people. Exhibitions also focus on the technology that allowed people to thrive in and develop the harsh environment during different stages in its history. Finally, the 11,000-square-foot Discovery Center provides a scientific perspective, through technology, interactive installations, artwork, marine-life tanks, and more.

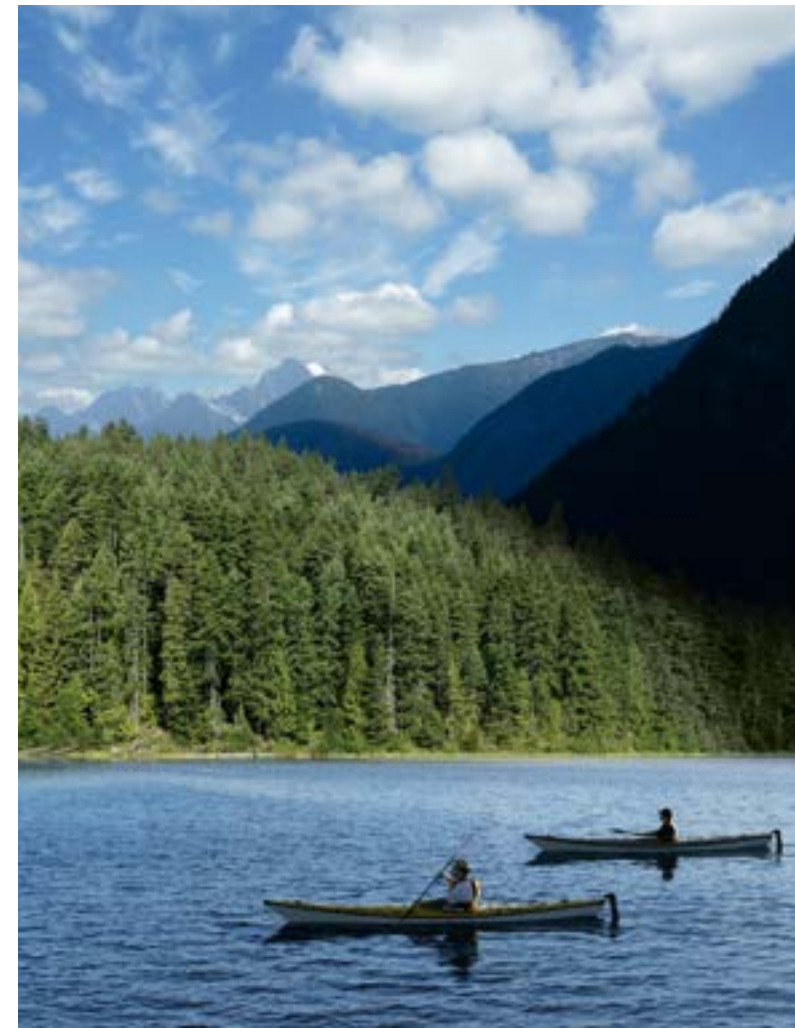
When you're done, let the museum store—named among the world's 10 best by Condé Nast Traveler—and café be your prelude to Anchorage's world-class shopping. The city is a tax-free haven for authentic works straight from the artist, traditional and innovative Native crafts, and local delicacies from king crab, halibut, and salmon to reindeer sausage or craft beer.

## Waterborne

For anglers, local waters host five species of salmon, plus trout, grayling, and Arctic char. Ship Creek, Anchorage's most popular salmon fishery, lies city-center—one of the only urban fisheries in the country. Compete for the biggest catch during the annual, 10-day Slam'n Salm'n Derby in June, benefiting various Alaska nonprofits. Or discover many other exceptional fishing spots within a day's drive of town: the Mat-Su Borough and the Kenai Peninsula.

If angling isn't your thing, a whale-watching excursion will take you to see white beluga whales chase salmon runs down Turnagain Arm. Continue on to Prince William Sound and Resurrection Bay to watch fin, minke, humpback, gray, and killer whales among the dozens hunting hunt puffins, sea lions, and seals. Tantalizing tail-slaps break the silence before their gigantic forms break the surface and come crashing down to applause. The best spots to see beluga are Bird and Beluga Points and Cook Inlet, especially in mid-summer. Whale-watching cruises run from Seward beginning in early March, when gray whales arrive from Baja California, and continue to early October.

While you're on the shore, watch out for the Bore Tide, an event no less unique for being a daily occurrence. Some of the biggest tidal ranges in the world rush from Cook Inlet up the gently sloping floor of shallow, narrow Turnagain Arm, forming a wave up to six feet tall, moving up to 24 miles per hour for miles. While Alaska isn't known for surfing, brave locals gather for the challenge of an hours-long ride on the frothy front.



*“Leave your downtown high-rise hotel or rustic lodge on the waterfront, and within minutes you’ll be soaring over rugged peaks and ancient glaciers, meeting wildlife, and discovering the indigenous cultures.”*



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# SEASONS OF STYLE

Celebrate timeless style  
with cruise-ready looks that  
inspire every generation

Photographs by Sacha Maric  
Styling by Gabriela Langone



*On Previous Page:*  
Beige Printed Dress by  
Gap Kids, gap.com.  
Blue Dress by Bila 77,  
bila77.com. Heather Grey  
Oversized Wrap by  
J.Crew, jcrew.com.

*Here Shown:*  
Pink Top by Gap Kids,  
gap.com.  
Reimagined Denim  
Overalls by J.Crew,  
jcrew.com.



Orange Top by Splendid,  
splendid.com.  
Pinstripe Pant by  
Splendid, splendid.com.  
Printed Silk Scarf  
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14K White Gold Diamond  
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White Pants by Nili Lotan,  
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Printed headscarf by J.Crew, jcrew.com. Brown Jumper by Unsubscribed, unsubscribed.com. Floral Dress by Crewcuts, jcrew.com. Marine Bag by Le Sac Francais, hometoharbor.com. Brown Checker Top by Eileen Fisher, eileenfisher.com. Purple Skirt by Pali Swim, paliswim.com. 14K White Gold White and Yellow Diamond Bangles by Effy, effyjewelry.com.





Floral Dress by Intermix, [intermixonline.com](http://intermixonline.com). Hat by Eric Javits, [ericjavits.com](http://ericjavits.com). 18K White and Yellow Gold Yellow Diamond Earrings by Effy, [effyjewelry.com](http://effyjewelry.com). 14K White Gold Tennis Bracelet by Effy, [effyjewelry.com](http://effyjewelry.com).

Beige Printed Dress by Gap Kids, [gap.com](http://gap.com). Blue Dress by Bila 77, [bila77.com](http://bila77.com). Ballet Slipper Pink Pashmina by Haven [haven-collective.com](http://haven-collective.com).



WHAT GOES AROUND  
COMES AROUND

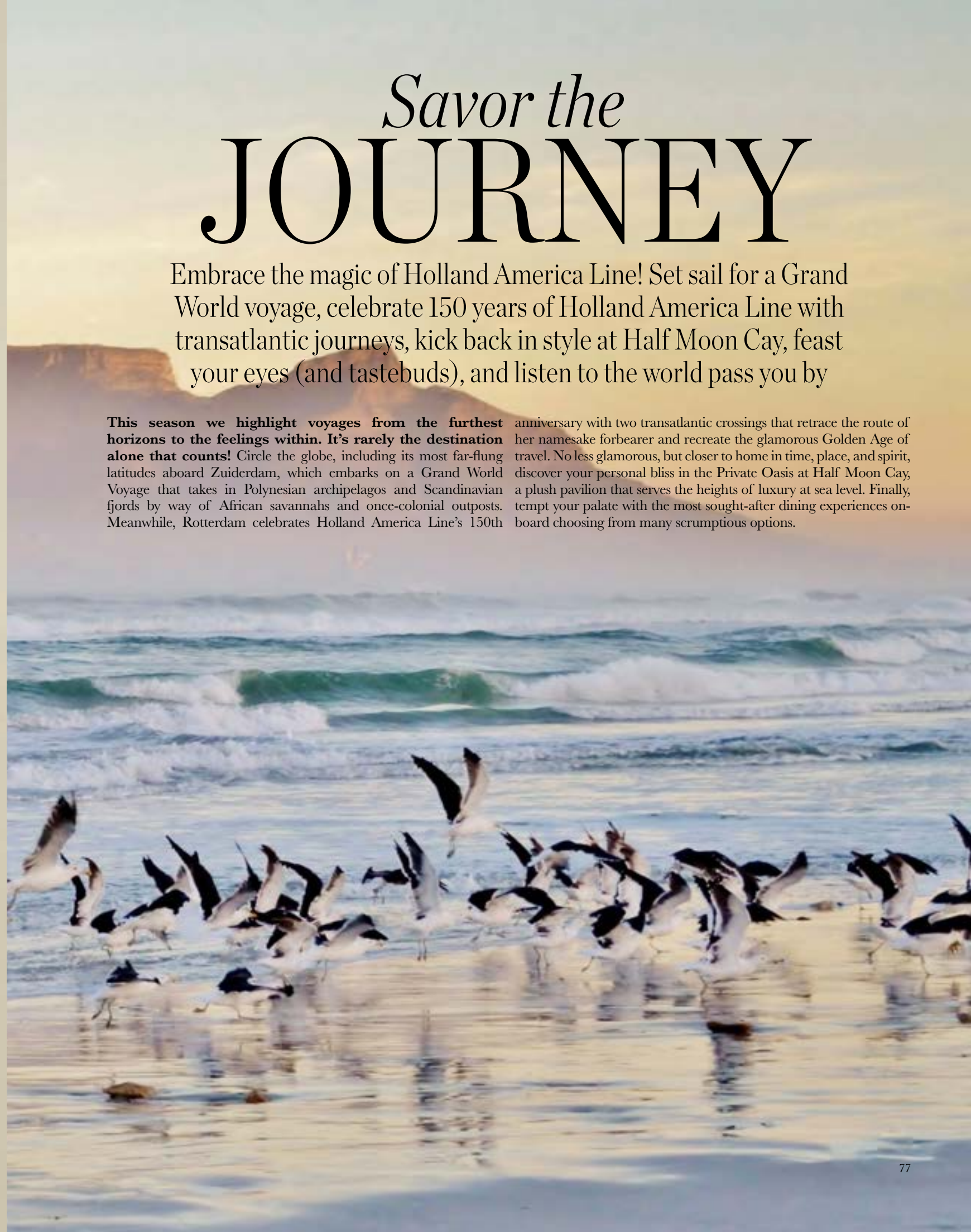


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THE SHOPS  
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# Savor the JOURNEY

Embrace the magic of Holland America Line! Set sail for a Grand World voyage, celebrate 150 years of Holland America Line with transatlantic journeys, kick back in style at Half Moon Cay, feast your eyes (and tastebuds), and listen to the world pass you by

**This season we highlight voyages from the furthest horizons to the feelings within. It's rarely the destination alone that counts!** Circle the globe, including its most far-flung latitudes aboard *Zuiderdam*, which embarks on a Grand World Voyage that takes in Polynesian archipelagos and Scandinavian fjords by way of African savannahs and once-colonial outposts. Meanwhile, Rotterdam celebrates Holland America Line's 150th anniversary with two transatlantic crossings that retrace the route of her namesake forbearer and recreate the glamorous Golden Age of travel. No less glamorous, but closer to home in time, place, and spirit, discover your personal bliss in the Private Oasis at Half Moon Cay, a plush pavilion that serves the heights of luxury at sea level. Finally, tempt your palate with the most sought-after dining experiences on-board choosing from many scrumptious options.





# Around the World, WE GO!

Set sail for global adventure with the exceptional around-the-world Grand World Voyage, the cruise of a lifetime

By Misha Pinkhasov

**Since Ferdinand Magellan first sailed around the world 500 years ago, circumnavigating the globe has been a wish-list item on par with skydiving and conquering Kilimanjaro.**

It wasn't until about 400 years later that ocean liners got in on the act, making the achievement attainable to...well, maybe not just anyone, but certainly many more than have the gumption to prepare provisions for an extended stay at sea.

The sporty-yet-stately Statendam IV made Holland America Line's first World Voyage in 1958 before passing the torch to the legendary new flagship, Rotterdam V, which circled the globe with 29 uninterrupted voyages between 1960 and its retirement in 1997 (and still welcomes overnight travelers, albeit now as a waterborne hotel in its eponymous original home port). Today, it is the impressive, 1,000-foot-long, 2,000 passenger Zuiderdam that takes you to savor the world on 128-day voyages from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, every January 3rd.

Next year's Grand World Voyage almost circumnavigates the world twice with an itinerary that wanders widely, from deep mid-summer in the Southern Hemisphere to sampling sub-Arctic springtime in the North.

Setting out from home, Zuiderdam lazes briefly in the baby-blue Caribbean, visiting Falmouth, Jamaica, one of the Caribbean's best-preserved Georgian towns, and Puerto Limon, Costa Rica, famous for rainforest tours and whitewater rafting, before making haste for the Panama Canal—yet another seagoing rite of passage. From Fuerte Amador, circle back to see the historic engineering action lockside, or take in the new, Frank Gehry-designed Biomuseo, or the bustle of Panama City.

The South Seas adventure begins in earnest when Pollywogs attend the Court of Neptune and receive certificates for "Crossing the Line" into the Southern hemisphere. Here, French Polynesia awaits



*"The Grand World Voyage boasts an exceptional itinerary that will carry passengers from deep mid-summer in the Southern Hemisphere to sub-Arctic springtime in the North."*



with soaring peaks, lush jungle, white sand, and coral reefs where black pearls are born. Crossing the international date line, you might lose a day but you'll gain on the multicultural metropolises of Auckland and Wellington, New Zealand, and Sydney, Australia, as well as Tasmania's old-growth forests and South Australia's wild, rugged coast.

You'll cross the vast Indian Ocean to French-speaking Mauritius, brimming with waterfall pools, tortoises, and tea plantations, and Réunion, wafting of cinnamon, clove, vanilla spice, and perfume-oil plantations. In Maputo, Mozambique, redolent with Portuguese influence, tour the historic center or head into the South African savannah and the big game safaris of Kruger National Park for several days before you rejoin the ship in Durban to round the continent's tip at Cape Town.

And as the Austral summer turns cold, turn north to follow the flamingos up Namibia's coast past German-accented Lüderitz and the looming dunes of Walvis Bay, to glittering Luanda, Abidjian, and Dakar. Finally, bid Africa "Here's looking at you" in cinematic Casablanca and ever-evocative Tangier, with Spain within your sight.

In Malaga, Cadiz, and Lisbon, Moorish influences lingering from centuries past highlight just how closely world cultures intertwine through the reciprocal ebb and flow of centuries of colonialism and conquest. Then witness the slow shift from Mediterranean influences to Atlantic, Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Gaelic as you journey across the Bay of Biscay, English Channel, and North Sea as far as Bergen, Norway—with France, England, Belgium and the Netherlands along the way—before rounding the north coast of Scotland to Ireland and...home. With one last stop: the Azores, which tantalized Columbus into believing the other side of the globe lay just beyond the horizon.



SAILING 150 YEARS

# A Celebration of HISTORY

Two transatlantic crossings celebrate 150 years of the storied Holland America Line in star-studded style

By Misha Pinkhasov

**With a century-and-a-half under its keel, Holland America Line is one of the longest-operating travel companies in the world.** Through the Gilded Age to the mid-20th Century, migrants, movie stars, and moguls turned to its stately liners and famous flagships—whose successors still bear their legendary names like Rotterdam, Statendam, and Nieuw Amsterdam—to speed between Old World and New in style and safety. To commemorate its 150th anniversary, Holland America Line is planning special events and activities, including two commemorative transatlantic crossings to recapture the spirit of ocean travel’s golden era.

“Holland America Line has touched the lives of millions of people throughout the years,” said Gus Antorcha, President of Holland

America Line, “whether by bringing them to a new life in America or providing a once-in-a-lifetime vacation. We have some really special experiences planned over the next several months to honor our heritage.”

On Oct. 15, 2022, Rotterdam VII departed from Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 150 years to the day from the departure of the first Rotterdam’s maiden voyage, which took place even before the company was incorporated. The 15-night cruise recreated that first sailing, visiting Plymouth, England, and Le Havre (Paris), France, then crossing the Atlantic Ocean to New York City for a rare overnight call on October 26 with a special ceremony aboard, including a memorable stage performance to mark the historic

night. Finally the ship heads to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, its home port for the fall-winter season.

The 150th anniversary voyage proved so popular among Holland America Line fans that the company added a second crossing, retracing the company’s first voyage in reverse. Departing Fort Lauderdale on April 3, 2023, the 16-night itinerary takes Rotterdam once again to New York City to make an overnight call, giving guests extra time to experience the attractions that make the Big Apple come to life, including the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the Empire State Building, Broadway, and more. Then spend eight leisurely days crossing the Atlantic, calling at Plymouth and Le Havre, and arriving in Rotterdam on April 18 for an overnight full of festivities.

“As we got deeper into planning the events surrounding our 150th, we knew that the best place to celebrate the date of our founding was in the city of Rotterdam where it all started,” said Mr. Antorcha. “These voyages that mark our first departure and our anniversary are going to be incredibly memorable as we retrace our first sailing from the 1870s, but on a modern, luxury cruise ship. We anticipate the April cruise to be as popular as the October sailing.”

Both crossings have celebratory experiences in store, including commemorative historic menus in the main and specialty dining rooms, and cocktails offering a taste of the brand’s history, as well as live music with special performances by guest artists, presentations reliving the history and roots of Holland America Line, and an Olympics-style event with classic cruise sporting activities and games. Limited-edition, specially designed 150th anniversary retail items will be available in the on-board shops.



An excited crowd welcomes a ship at a Java seaport in the 1940s.

*“Both crossings have celebratory experiences in store, including historic menus in the main and specialty dining rooms and cocktails that nod to the brand’s fabled history.”*



**The Bahamas' Half Moon Cay, Holland America Line's private island, is also its number-one-rated port on Caribbean cruises.** Your ship rides serenely at anchor, the stately centerpiece for your seascape photos taken from a perfect, crescent of white-sand beach. Here you can snorkel with tropical fish, swim with manta rays, ride horses and stalk seabirds, or ski, sail and soar above the swimming-pool waters...or just kick back in one of the beach chairs, cabanas, or two-story villas at the water's edge.

But one option stands out, literally, from the crowd: a thatched pavilion presiding over a small precipice on the beach's south point lets you see it all (but not be seen) from the Private Oasis. Behind an attended gate, a 100-foot walkway leads to 1,620 square feet of open and shaded decks, teak loungers, an eight-person hot tub, ocean slide, changing rooms with indoor and outdoor showers, plus dining, bar, and barbecue areas for you and up to 24 guests, all adorned with multi-colored Bahamian tapestries, and attended by your own butler, chef, bartender, and lifeguard.

Start the morning with an on-board greeting from the butler, who takes you to the tender for your trip ashore. There, a stocked wet bar and refrigerator lets you slip right into the island spirit(s) over Mojitos, Beach Cruisers and Rum Runners or frozen tropical classics like Piña Colodas, Strawberry Daiquiris, and Margaritas, soft drinks, bottled water, juices, beers, wines, and mocktails. And you won't go hungry with options from fresh fruit, pastries, and snacks in the early morning to assorted salads, burgers, hot dogs,

spare ribs, barbecued chicken, or fresh Teriyaki-glazed Mahi Mahi for lunch, and brownies and cookies to sate your sweet tooth throughout the day.

To up the ante, upgrade your stay in the Private Oasis with the Royal Palm Package. This includes even more delicious Caribbean fare with seafood, pasta, potato and chop salads; grilled shrimp, Caribbean-style barbecue steaks, blackened grilled fish, tropical spears, and banana coconut cake added to your barbecue. You'll also be able to truly relax in paradise with a Greenhouse Spa masseuse available.

Or go all-out with the Ultimate Oasis Upgrade: pop as many corks as you want of unlimited Dom Perignon Champagne, snack on Caviar with iced vodka, king crab legs, and jumbo shrimp, conch and pasta salads, and tuna ceviche. But save room for the main course of grilled scallops, lobster, and beef tenderloin served at a table set with white linen, fine china, silverware, and candles. And more staff will make sure your stay is one of a kind, with a Pinnacle Grill Manager, a Chef de Partie, and an assistant cook to make sure all the food is to your liking, two waiters and an assistant to make sure you don't have to lift a finger, plus an assistant bartender, housekeeper, and masseuse. And don't forget to capture the moment with a group photo.

But beware: there's only one Private Oasis, so book early to make sure it's available!

*"Snorkel with tropical fish, swim with manta rays, ride horses, ski, sail, and soar high above the waters...or just relax beside the water's edge."*



## Island OASIS

Kick back in paradise with an endless horizon and a cool cocktail in hand at the Private Oasis at Half Moon Cay

By Misha Pinkhasov





# *Spirited* HORIZONS

HAL introduces exclusive De Lijn Gin in honor of its 150th anniversary

**Gin has been an anchor in Holland America Line's history dating back to the company's inception,** and to celebrate that 150-year tradition they are debuting a new exclusive label of the spirit on-board.

Affectionately named De Lijn in a nod to Holland America Line's roots, the bottle is adorned with a label with the name in Dutch orange, accented with line drawings of brilliant blue juniper berries in a style HAL has coined Modern Delft—an homage to the iconic blue and white of Dutch Delftware.

De Lijn Gin is made with a blend of Dutch-inspired botanicals, including orange and rose, along with elderberry, lemon verbena, lemon, raspberry, and juniper. Each botanical is cold-distilled separately for distinct and consistent flavors. The result is a premium gin, made in America, inspired by the Netherlands, and specially crafted for Holland America Line.

"Gin often carries characteristics of its geography, and we wanted to produce a blend that not only captured our Dutch heritage, but also used botanicals in a modern way to make it unique to our brand," said Anthony Stice, Vice President of Dining and Beverage Operations.

"We call it a 'Nieuw' Western Gin, our take on the fast-growing New Western Dry Gin category. We selected a bright and floral profile, finishing it slightly over-proofed, making it ideal for mixing cocktails. This is Holland America Line's first produced spirit, and we're excited to see our guests' reactions."

To celebrate the introduction of De Lijn Gin, Holland America Line will feature the spirit in three new 150th anniversary cocktails:

**Dutch 150** A twist on a French 75 with De Lijn Gin, lemon juice and sparkling wine.

**150th Martini** A classic martini with De Lijn Gin and Noilly Prat Dry Vermouth.

**De Lijn Gin and Tonic** An exclusive drink prepared tableside in the Pinnacle Grill. In addition to De Lijn Gin and Fever Tree Premium Indian Tonic, the cocktail blends an assortment of seasonal botanicals such as juniper berries, peppercorns, verbena, star anise, mint and expressed citrus.

De Lijn Gin will be available in all bars and lounges fleetwide as a gin of choice, or in one of the special cocktails starting this month. Bottles also will be available for purchase in the shipboard shops.

1909  
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# *The World is* **YOUR OYSTER**

Set sail for exceptional dining aboard  
Holland America Line that will carry you from casual  
classics to high-flying epicurean fireworks

By Jason Oliver Nixon



**Holland America Line puts a premium on creating dining experiences that truly surprise and delight.**

Whether you seek a hamburger and fries by the pool or osso bucco Milanese with a tantalizing saffron risotto paired with a bottle of super Tuscan, Holland America Line's epicurean journey truly delivers on its gustatory promise. A team of world-class celebrity chefs—including David Burke and Jacques Torres, among others—oversees onboard dining and constantly charts new courses and highlights experiences that mix the classic and cutting edge. Layer in a passion for sustainability, too, as Holland America Line is the only cruise line with Alaskan seafood certified sustainable by the Responsible Fisheries Management, and the mix is electric. Now that's form and function.

On the relaxed, easy-breezy dining front there are options aplenty, from the bustling Lido Market to the American staple Dive-In and New York Pizza. Head to Lido Market for breakfast through lunch and dinner to late-night snacks and its curated sections for every sensibility—from the overflowing Breadboard to bountiful salads; comfort-centric dishes; far-flung delights; the Roasting Pan (oh, the hand-carved meats!); and the Sweet Spot for the ever-popular ice cream confections. At Dive-In, a superlative burger served atop the perfect brioche bun might tempt (the trade-marked secret sauce is heaven) or perhaps you crave a Nathan's Famous hot dog paired with crispy French fries. And, of course, there are vegetarian-friendly options such as the juicy portabella mushroom stack. Meanwhile, the poolside New York Pizza is a crowd favorite thanks to its colorful assortment of thin-crust pies topped with the highest quality ingredients.

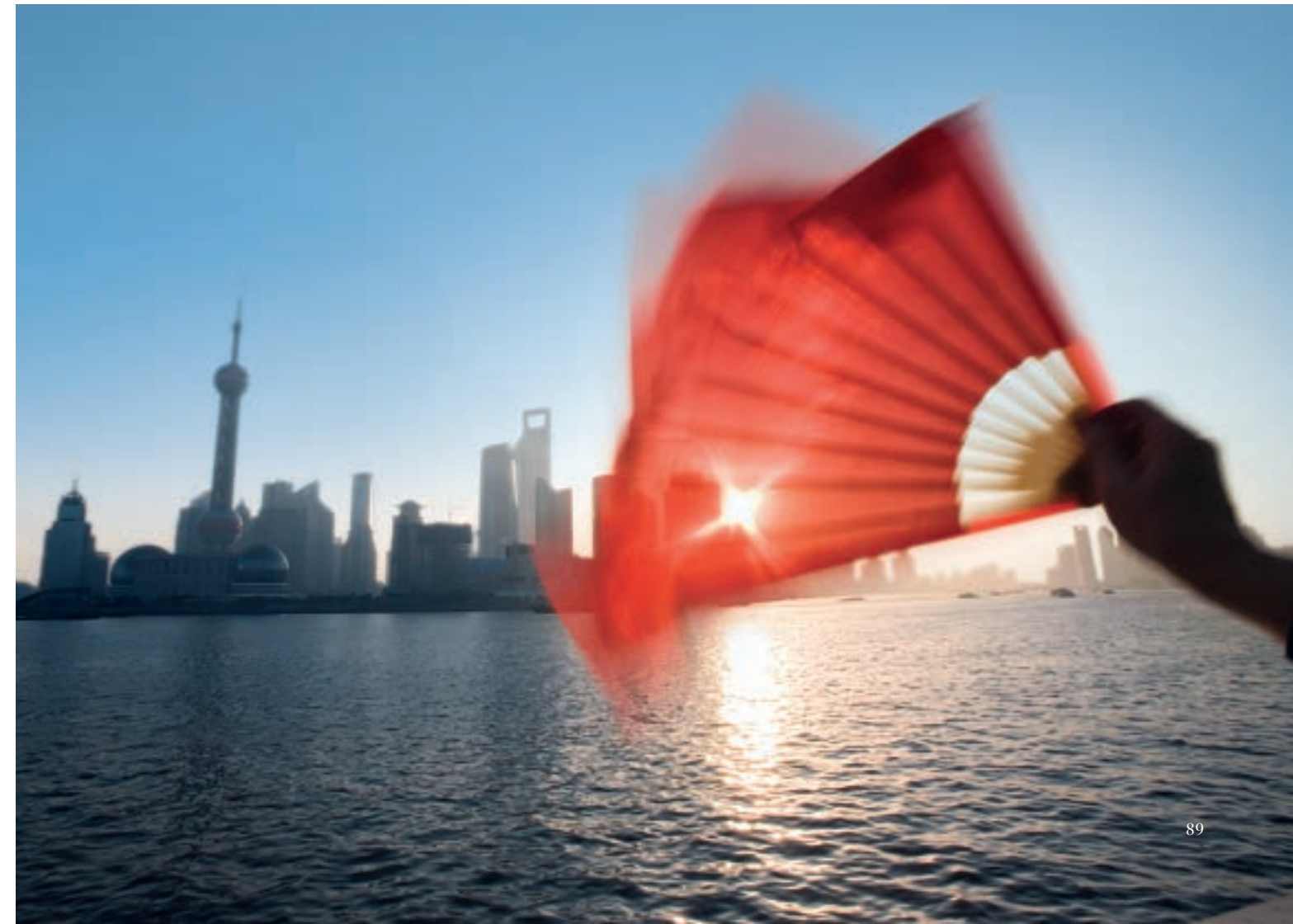
For a more formal epicurean experience, Holland America Line is the stuff of legend. At the Dining Room, you might choose to dine upon a boneless lamb loin en croute or any of the exceptional vegetarian dishes. At the Pinnacle Grill, the quintessential steakhouse at sea, a meal might begin with the lobster bisque sumptuously topped with crème-fraîche followed by a petite filet mignon (pair it with the lobster bearnaise—trust us!). A selection of world-class wines and knockout cocktails completes the Pinnacle perfection. Rounding out the dream-making dining triumvirate, Canaletto will transport you to Italy for “una notte fantastica,” courtesy of dishes such as braised chicken cacciatore al forno, branzino ai ferri, or garlic shrimp ravioli. And, of course, you cannot pass up the tiramisu or cannoli alla Siciliana.

And don't forget about Holland America Line's legendary Culinary Cruises, too, that pair celebrity chefs and wine experts with lavish dinners and tastings. Mix and mingle with other epicurean-minded travelers as you set sail for exceptional destinations such as Alaska, the Atlantic Coast, Mexico, the Caribbean, and more.

Welcome to the Holland America Line. So many choices. Bon appetit!



*“The Holland America Culinary Council includes the world's top chefs, who craft culinary masterstrokes that deliver global culinary excellence paired with world-class wines and innovative cocktails.”*



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# The ISLAND GUIDE

It's time to get out and experience the  
many adventures that await

By Jason Oliver Nixon



# NASSAU

So Close and Yet So Far



**Downtown Nassau is the perfect spot to wander and just get lost.** Candy-colored British colonial architecture and formal memorials (watch for the aforementioned statue of Queen Vic in all her majesty) pair perfectly with buzzing markets where you can pick up loads of treasures for the folks back home. Settle into a charming café like Bon Vivants or Café Matisse (try the shrimp ceviche with mango, sweet peppers, and avocado mousse) and relax. Or head over the bridge to Paradise Island and live large at Atlantis, be daring and go down the slide, or tuck into a chic cocktail at the Ocean Club, a Four Seasons Resort. You might also wish to visit one of the new super resorts such as Baha Mar with its trio of far-flung

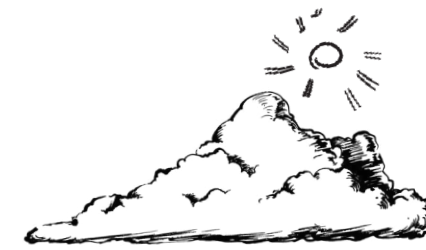
hotels and eateries overseen by the likes of Marcus Samuelsson and Daniel Boulud. Better yet, hail a cab and enjoy a conch salad at a charming roadside eatery such as Dino's, packed with unpretentious charm. "We have been coming to Nassau for years and love how easy it is," says a well-heeled fellow cruise-goer. "There are great hotels that have sprung up in recent years such as the Baha Mar with the Rosewood and SLS, and downtown has some really relaxed, fun eateries. The statue of Queen Victoria in front of Government House always makes me smile—it's so incongruous and unexpected. The Island House, a new boutique-styled hotel on the western side of the island, is one

of my favorite resorts anywhere. And you can always island hop between Nassau and, say, Big Major Cay where you can swim with the pigs. My kids love it!"

The capital of the Bahamas and the island chain's largest city, Nassau, retains vestiges of its British colonial past paired with cutting-edge resorts that spill onto crystalline beaches and turquoise-hued waters. Think glorious scuba diving. Technicolor sunsets. Colorful Bahamian cuisine packed with sea-plucked flavors. Fabulous formal gardens and crisp linen suits. Markets aplenty, overflowing with everything from just-caught fish to handwoven straw crafts. Forts. Fishing. Distilleries. Pirates. And so much more.

## Island INSIDER

**John Cox** is a Bahamian artist whose mixed-media paintings and assemblages use familiar objects to reference distant places and ideas. In addition to his artwork, Cox has played a major role in Bahamian art culture as an educator, curator, and cultural activist, helping to grow and redefine art in the Bahamas. Cox is currently the Executive Director of Arts and Culture at the Baha Mar resort. Here, his Nassau top five.



02

### The Current at the Baha Mar Gallery & Art Center

If you're looking for an authentic Bahamian art experience with a host of beautifully and sensitively curated exhibitions, dynamic retail, and hands-on art classes, you will enjoy what the Current has to offer.



01

### Cricket Club Restaurant & Pub

The perfect combination of Bahamian and English food in the most authentic setting overlooking the cricket pitch. If you're lucky you might get to see teams playing or practicing what was once a major sport on the Bahamas pre-independence.



03

### Eastern Road Lookout

Just a point on a road that looks east into what seems like the eternal horizon. It's hypnotic and the drive from town passes by examples of the best colonial/Bahamian architecture along the Eastern Road.



04

### Tern Gallery

A wonderful gallery curated to perfection by a gifted team led by Amanda Coulson, showcasing a select stable of some of the most dynamic contemporary Bahamian artists.



05

### National Art Gallery of the Bahamas

The combination of history, culture, and architecture mixes with the highest-level curated exhibitions and projects.

# COZUMEL

Welcome to the Island Life



## Insider COZUMEL

Global Editor at Large **Jason Oliver Nixon** offers his five favorite finds on this magical, unexpected island. “Cozumel has attracted me to its wonderful shores on numerous occasions. I love that you can really turn off in pristine nature or kick back with a cool glass of Sancerre at a chic beach club or dine out in style without any pretension. Cozumel is a truly special place that often gets overlooked in favor of islands with more flash.”



### 01

#### Punta Sur

Book a private Jeep tour of the sprawling Punta Sur ecological park situated at the southern tip of the island. There’s a lighthouse, stunning beaches, mangrove swamps, observation tower, and plenty of wildlife— from crocodiles to innumerable species of birds.

### 02

#### Journey West

The west side of Cozumel houses the majority of the hotels and beach clubs, but the eastern side of the island offers wonderfully remote beaches peppered with local dive bars such as Rasta’s (try the coconut shrimp). Hire a taxi to carry you east then find the perfect spot, plunk down, and turn off. Just ask the driver to come back to collect you at a certain time.



### 03

#### Shop then Wind Down

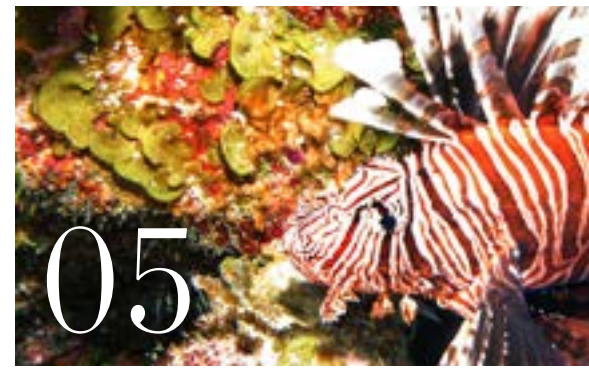
Stock up on colorful treasures for the folks back home at atmospheric, theatrical shop Los Cinco Soles. You’ll find everything from Mexican silver to handicrafts—from Talavera pottery to folk art sculptures, black clay pottery, and rainbow-hued textiles. Their “Mexicatessen” offers traditional Mexican cooking essentials—from chocolates to coffee and cooking sauces. After shopping, wind down with a potent margarita at Pancho’s Backyard restaurant situated in the store’s verdant patio.



### 04

#### Dine by the Water

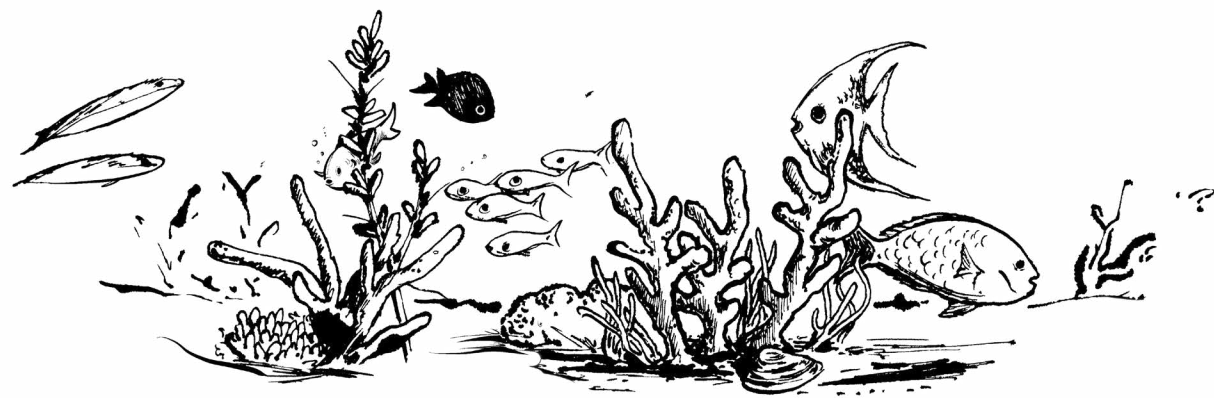
Head to Buccanos Beach Club and make a day (and evening!) of it. Settle in on a comfortable chaise and enjoy a spirited breakfast and lunch with a good book. There’s also a spot-on spa so schedule a seaside massage before snorkeling. Or simply relax poolside with a kicky cucumber martini. In the evening, the spot transforms into magical Buccanos at Night, a stunning restaurant that highlights everything from sushi and lobster tempura tacos to achiote-rubbed shrimp.



### 05

#### Experience the Reef

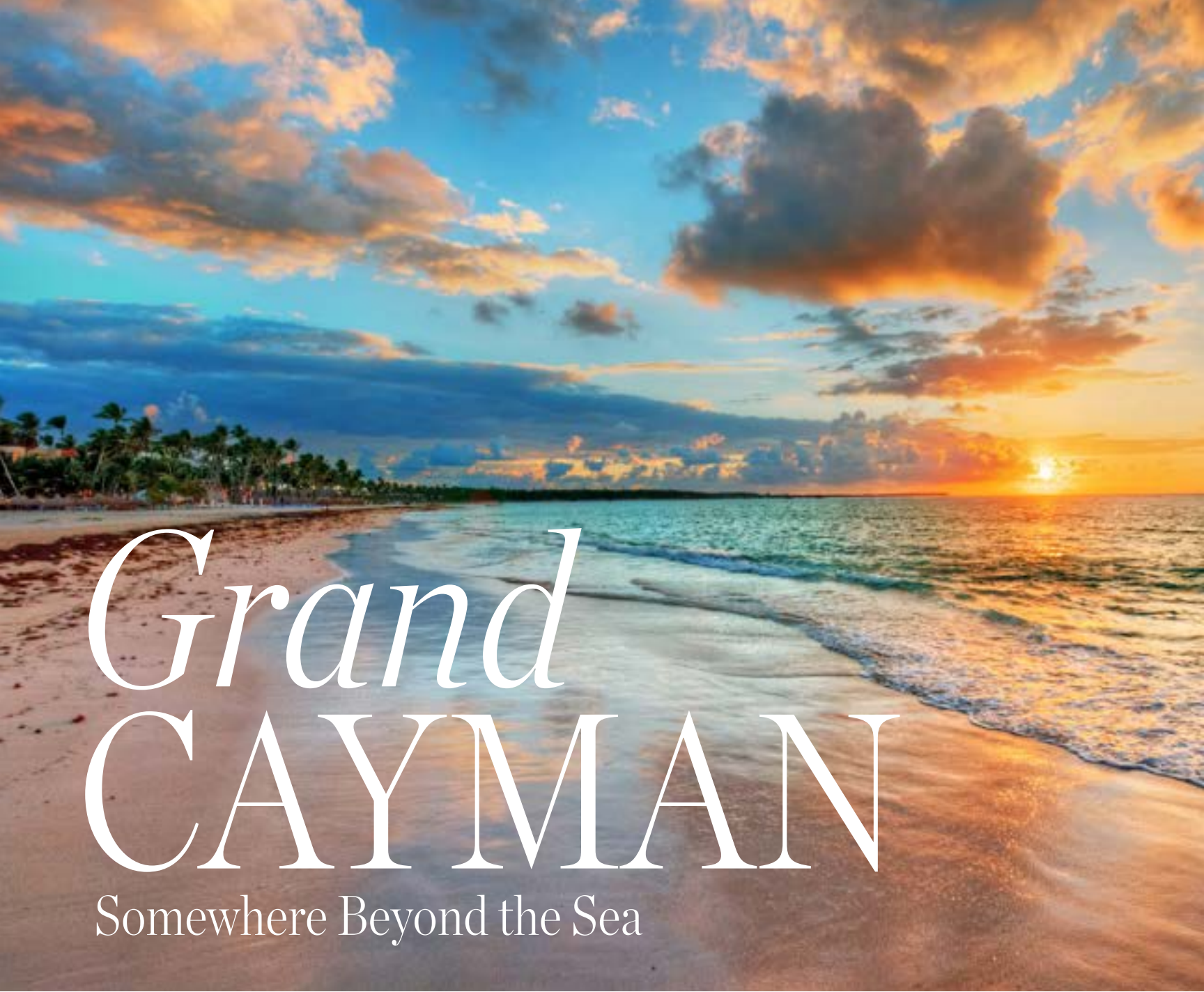
Cozumel is famed for its diving, thanks to the extensive reef system that circles the island. There are dive sites for all abilities: Beginners might try Columbia Shallows while more experienced divers gravitate to Santa Rosa Wall or Colombia Wall with its cave, tunnel, and cavern systems. Watch for the gorgeously colored Blue Tang fish as you explore!



Cozumel’s bustling downtown, San Miguel de Cozumel, sits on the island’s northwest coast and offers ferry services that ply the waters between the isle and the mainland. Wander San Miguel’s colorful streets: It’s a great walking town with parks, galleries, bakeries, and more, and there are spot-on sunset views to be had from the waterfront. Stop for Mexican handicrafts at Los Cinco Soles and enjoy a spirited lunch of street tacos paired with a potent margarita. The Mayan Cacao Company offers a hands-on workshop teaching how

the Maya made chocolate. And be sure to get out of town, too! Explore the island’s unspoiled nature with a Jeep tour, head to a beach club, or try your hand at snorkeling. If you’re a diver, book an excursion to visit one of the island’s famous dive sites. There’s also sport fishing, Jet Ski rentals, and numerous other outdoor activities. If you have an evening, too, plan to dine at always-popular Buccanos with its magical setting or sample Mayan cooking at Ix-Kool (try the ceviche with jicama and a habanero kick or the citrus-kissed cochinita pibil).

Ah, the antithesis of over-the-top Cancun just up the coast, laidback Cozumel is often referred to as the most beautiful island in Mexico. Picture miles of pristine beaches and vast swathes of wild, protected parklands that allow you to really turn off and get away from it all. There are wonderful beach clubs. There are snorkeling, diving, and boating options aplenty. And terrific restaurants—from casual street fare to high concept—round out the Cozumel mix. And did we mention the jewel-like, sparkling waters that surround this unspoiled gem...



# Grand CAYMAN

Somewhere Beyond the Sea

**George Town is the island's urban hub and offers wonderful shops and restaurants.** Should you wish to venture further afield, Grand Cayman is a British Overseas Territory so traveling around the island by taxi might be the best option (i.e., they drive on the left and there are roundabouts aplenty). Once you reach your on-island destination, do nothing for a spell. Truly. Sit under a palm tree beside the diamond-like waters and turn off. Your mental health will thank you. But if you need some action, there's plenty to be had. Rum Point beach, a 50-minute drive from the cruise terminal, can get busy, but it's a great place to depart for a tour of the Stingray City sandbar. Plus, the beach has a restaurant, changing rooms, and showers, so it's a great place to take the kids. Hold

a turtle at the Cayman Turtle Centre or take in the abundant starfish crawling about at Starfish Point. Seven Mile Beach is a stunner, but there are plenty of less-developed beaches—such as Smith Cove with its rock formations and stellar sunset vistas—on the island to enjoy. The diving is excellent with exotic-sounding names such as Devil's Grotto and Eden Rock. Photo ops abound at Cayman Crystal Cave. And don't miss the blow holes on the island's East End that shoot water some 20 feet up into the air. "I love the beautiful turquoise beaches," a stylish diner at San Si Wu Noodle Co. on Grand Cayman tells us. "But the food keeps me coming back. The restaurant experience here is really off the charts and keeps getting

better and better. I attended the Cayman Cookout food festival at The Ritz-Carlton a few years back and have never seen so many famous chefs in one room." A bustling downtown in the form of charming George Town with its terrific shopping options. Perfect beaches. Turquoise-hued waters. Stingrays and starfish. Turtles. Caves. Stunning resorts. An appreciation for the beauty of nature. A wonderfully friendly populace. Dive sites aplenty (think bronze mermaids and a submerged submarine rescue ship!). A bioluminescent bay. Myriad cultures coming together swimmingly. A stunning culinary scene. Mix it all together, shake, shake, and pour. Welcome to Grand Cayman, a small slice of heaven situated south of Cuba and west of Jamaica.

## Insider GRAND CAYMAN

Superstar chef **Eric Ripert** has conquered the culinary world with eateries such as Manhattan's much-vaunted Le Bernardin, which always appears on lists of the world's top restaurants. You've probably spotted Ripert on television and read his many books. Now, sample his inspired cooking on Grand Cayman at Blue by Eric Ripert, housed within The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman resort.



01

### Seven Mile Beach

Seven Mile Beach. One of the most beautiful and pristine beaches in the world with seven miles of white sand and glistening waves. I like to take a meditative morning walk here or smoke a cigar and watch a Grand Cayman sunset.



03

### Cracked Conch

This dish is an island classic and cannot be missed! If you visit during conch season (November through March), you may find it in many of the island's restaurants and in other presentations as well. Conch ceviche and stew are also great to try.



02

### Stingray City

My favorite activity on the island and just a quick boat trip away in Grand Cayman. The world-famous sandbar is popular for a reason, as it's truly an unforgettable experience. You can swim and interact with majestic stingrays, and I've made friends with many of these beautiful sea creatures over the years. It's seven years of good luck if you kiss one.



04

### Cayman Cookout

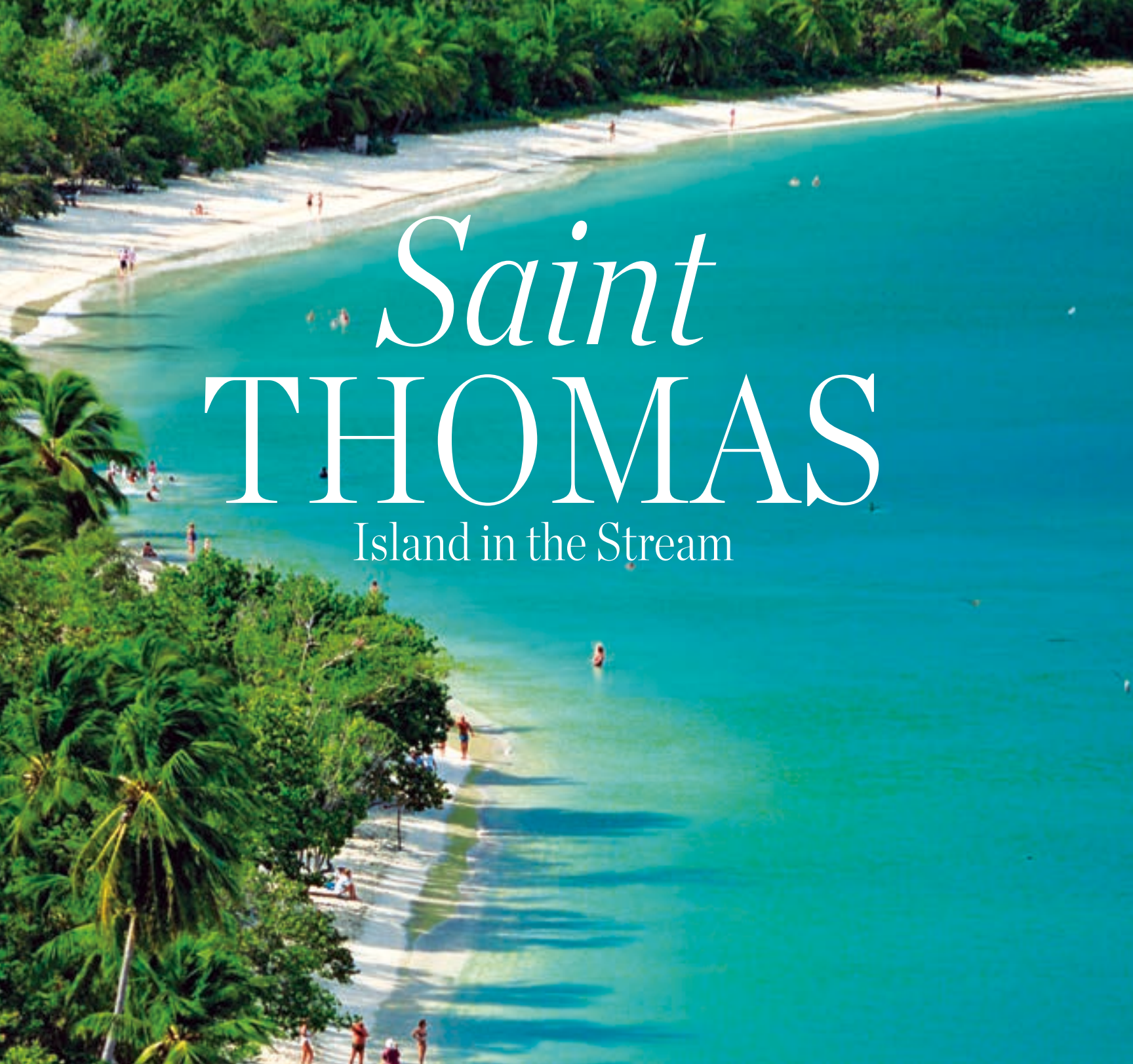
My favorite time of the year to visit is the annual food and wine festival that I host at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman. We have a great party on the beach right after the holidays in January, during MLK, Jr., holiday weekend.



05

### Fish Market in George Town

A great location in the heart of town where local fishermen bring back the catch of the day every morning for sale. You can find a great selection of fresh fish in this rustic market, set up by the fishermen right by the water.



# Saint THOMAS

Island in the Stream

## Insider ST. THOMAS

**Gwenn and Mark Snider**, the owners of Lovango Resort + Beach Club, suggest their favorite five St. Thomas hotspots.

### 01

#### The Easterly

Tucked away in Red Hook, with small plates and delicious cocktails, this is a favorite of ours when we have some time between catching the ferry back to Lovango or before we grab a flight back to our New England properties (The Nantucket Hotel and The Winnetu Oceanside Resort, Martha's Vineyard). [Theeasterlystthomas.com](http://Theeasterlystthomas.com)



### 02

#### Magen's Bay Beach

Absolutely a top beach to visit when on St. Thomas. Stunning with calm waters to swim and snorkel in and there is a lot of shade to enjoy! Only a 15-minute drive from Red Hook. If you have time to visit after staying at the Lovango Resort + Beach Club, this is a great way to soak in your last hours of the Caribbean before heading to the airport.



**Charlotte Amalie is the bustling main town on St. Thomas**, and there are wonderful vestiges of history to explore—from the 99 Steps installed by the Danish, who once owned this island, to charming byways full of duty-free selections. St. Thomas is one of the most popular cruising destinations in the Caribbean so you will truly find something for everyone. Culture. Dining. Boating. Eco excursions. Sybaritic bays with fishing boats bobbing about. High-energy marinas filled with shops

and restaurants. Try your hand at the Sea Trek Helmet Diving at Coral World Ocean Park. Hail a cab and head to much-lauded Magen's Bay, perhaps visit Red Hook with its myriad eateries, dine at the Ritz or the Old Stone Farmhouse, or simply order a cool cocktail and watch the world wander by under the tropical sun.

One of the three glittering main islands in the United States Virgin Islands chain, St. Thomas marries gorgeous vistas,

sparkling waters, and world-class resorts—no passport required! Layer in spectacular cooking (from Creole fare to cutting-edge fusion), a stunning history, charming bays, boating opportunities aplenty, and heaps of shopping, and the mix is magnificent.

But, oh, the unparalleled beaches on St. Thomas truly make this island a wonderland. Think perfect sand. Crystalline waters. Heavenly vistas. And a relaxed beach bar right where you'd want one.

### 03

#### Three Palms

We discovered this new restaurant located in the American Yacht Harbor in Red Hook, and we love it. Very serene and quaint and the view from the deck looking over the marina does not disappoint. This is a great option for groups who have many different dining preferences.

### 04

#### Hull Bay

On the north side of St. Thomas is a small French community where fishing boats bob about and the beach is serene and quiet. So, bring your favorite beach read and settle in for a day of relaxation—maybe with a little visit from some pelicans seeking their meal of the day.

### 05

#### Camille Pissarro Gallery

Camille Pissarro was one of the famous French impressionist painters of the 19th century and (who knew?) was born on St. Thomas in 1830. The museum is home to his birthplace and offers a delightful cultural experience.



# Saint MARTIN

One Island Two Ways



**Go Dutch; Colorful Philipsburg is the beating heart of the island's Dutch side** and offers a wonderful selection of colorful shops that feature everything from far-flung jewels to the perfect island-plucked gifts for the folks back home.

Palm-lined Front Street is the main drag in Philipsburg and follows the curve of the bay. Walk from one end to the other and take in historic sites such as the Pasanggrahan boutique hotel, which once served as the royal guest house for Dutch royalty, or pop into a casino to try your hand with lady luck. Explore the island in an electric buggy rental then end the evening with a Tango Caribbean dinner cruise. Stop in at one of the local eateries to sample Johnny cakes, conch, or the national dish of callaloo, a hearty soup packed with greens, pork, onions, and more. Finish off the day in nearby Maho with its varied restaurant

scene and pulsing nightlife culture that will carry you into the morning hours in high-octane style.

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. Hail a cab in Philipsburg, and head to the French side of the island for a

completely different experience that is more relaxed and less commercial. Wander the streets of Marigot and grab a French pastry before visiting the harbor-facing market, a great source for island-centric gifts. Equally, book a table for lunch in the culinary hub of Grand Case and settle in for oysters and grilled fish while facing the sea. In fact, St. Martin is often referred to as the culinary capital of the Caribbean and boasts an impressive number of restaurants per square mile. Wind down at a charming beach on the French side and sip a cool glass of a Provençal rosé overlooking jewel-like islands on the horizon.

Have that cab take you around the island. It's inexpensive and chances are you can get them to pick you up after, say, your languid lunch on the beach in Grand Case to carry you back to the cruise port.

## Insider ST. MARTIN

**Eléonore Astier-Petin**, the general manager of ultra-luxe La Samanna, a Belmond Hotel, St. Martin, offers her five top island picks.



### 01

#### Favorite Hike

Le Sentier des Froussards. Starting off from Anse Marcel, this trail takes you around Red Rock rainforest, a protected area. Wildlife is abundant with lots of endemic species of plants, lizards, and a wide diversity of birds. The panorama is fantastic and the trail even takes you to the deserted beach of Petites Cayes for a refreshing swim.



### 03

#### Favorite Bar

Rainbow Café at Grand Case. A bohemian chic atmosphere in the vibrant fisherman village of Grand Case. The rooftop lounge is the perfect place to unwind with friends while enjoying cocktails and tapas. Sunset hour over the Anguilla Channel makes this bar the perfect spot to kick off your evening

### 02

#### Favorite Beach

Baie Longue at La Samanna. Which other strand could I possibly name? Apart from being La Samanna's beach, this is probably the most beautiful place on St. Martin. This golden sand beach really gives justice to its name, being a long stretch of fine sand, Baie Longue allows for beautiful walks with your loved one or alone in absolute peace and tranquility. Advice? Sunsets from Baie Longue Bar are legendary, but make sure to wake up early and catch the sunrise. The corner right by the cliff becomes magical in the early hours with its crystalline turquoise waters. *Belmond.com*



### 04

#### Favorite Shop

La Maison in Marigot. There is always something to buy at La Maison, whether you come for a massive design piece for your home or to find a little gift for a friend! The best lifestyle store in town, hands-down.



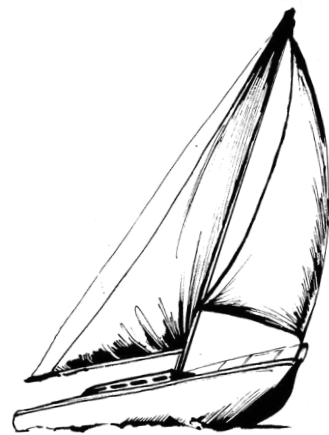
### 05

#### Favorite Nightclub

Mykonos at Maho. The only open-air nightclub in Sint Maarten, Mykonos overlooks Maho Beach, famous for its plane watching. The waterfront venue has been famous for being possibly the most extravagant club in the Caribbean for decades.

# Saint KITTS

Island of Smiles



**Historic Basseterre is the capital of St. Kitts/Nevis and dates back to the 17th century** when it was founded as a French colony. Walk this picture-perfect city of 14,000 residents and stop to sample the fresh fruit or purchase the wonderful crafts being sold by local vendors. There are numerous restaurants and shops looking onto Independence Square, the center of town, that make for the perfect place to sip a late-morning coffee at the Gallery Cafe. Book a walking tour of the city and learn about the impressive history that has carried Basseterre through the centuries. And be sure to get out of town: You can get anywhere on the island in 45 minutes or less—whether the Brimstone Hill Fortress or

The Strip (aka, an atmospheric collection of beach bars and clubs)—and the best way to travel is by taxi which are plentiful.

The dual island nation of St. Kitts and Nevis has a certain cloud-shrouded, hyper-green mystique. Picture vertiginous peaks, such as Mount Liamuiga, a volcano that is carpeted in lush rainforest vegetation and topped by a crater lake. From the volcano's summit, take in the magnificent vistas towards surrounding islands that include Saba, St. Barts, St. Martin, Nevis, and Antigua. And, yes, that was the sound of vervet monkeys chattering away in the trees above you. Far below beside the crystalline sea, St. Kitts offers crowd-free beaches, incredible diving,

thanks to spectacular coral reefs, golf, relaxed dining (think conch fritters and salt fish and dumplings on the local-eats list), and health and wellness options. Layer-in warmth and generosity, courtesy of the smiling locals, and you will truly feel welcomed. Explore the former sugar plantations, such as the Wingfield Estate, that were once the world's largest cultivators of sugarcane, sip a rum-loaded Pirate's Punch cocktail or three at the Shipwreck Bar & Grill, or kick back on the beach at the Park Hyatt and take in a postcard-perfect sunset. And do mind the mongoose family that just scampered across the road. P.S. The average annual temperature ranges from 77-82 degrees Fahrenheit. Now that's bliss.



## 01

### Cockleshell Beach

A favorite beach, Cockleshell boasts beautiful turquoise waters and a mix of black and white sand, making it a picturesque setting for a beach day. On Fridays, stop by Reggae Beach Bar & Grill for lobster night.



## 03

### Favorite View

Timothy Hill is an iconic attraction and no trip to St. Kitts is complete without a visit. This famed lookout boasts panoramic views of both the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean.



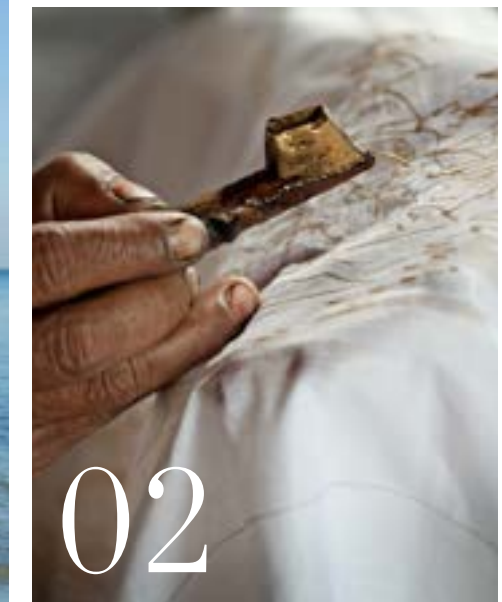
## 04

### Rum Punch

A favorite drink, rum punch is hands-down one of the most popular drinks on the island with most bars following the tried-and-true recipe: one of sour, two of sweet, three of strong, four of weak. You're guaranteed to have a strong yet flavorful drink every time.

## Insider ST. KITTS

The wonderfully chic **Park Hyatt St. Kitts concierge team** suggests the five following island favorites.



## 02

### Boutique Best

A favorite shop, Caribelle Batik at Romney Manor is a beloved island boutique. Everything is handcrafted and no two items are the same. You'll always walk away with a one-of-a-kind Caribbean treasure.



## 05

### Favorite Restaurant

Fisherman's Village at the Park Hyatt offers fresh, ocean-to-table dining in a casual open-air setting overlooking the ocean. The Caribbean coconut curry prawn is a guest favorite, and you can't leave without trying the churros!

# ARUBA

## One Happy Island



**Oranjestad is the capital of Aruba and bustles with shopping, restaurants, and museums.** Spend an hour exploring this colorful city then head out of town. Taxis are widely available and are a great way to get around the 20-miles-long and six-miles-wide (at its widest point) island. Plan to live in a swimsuit and comfortable top paired with flip-flops and water shoes (the island is largely igneous, so you don't want to tear up your feet on the rocks). While the days are hot and arid, the temperature cools off at night so pack a light jacket or sweater. The island's official currency is the Aruban florin but American dollars are accepted everywhere. It's a great island for families as there are myriad activities for the kids—besides the stellar beaches—including the fact that it is rated as one of the safest islands in the Caribbean. Hello,

butterfly farms, donkey sanctuaries, caves, natural pools, and national parks that cover almost 20% of the island. So dive into this island that claims to be one of the happiest places in the world.

"I love the beaches on the island—they are magical," says a recent visitor to Aruba. "I literally had to be pulled away from the stunning waters and endless stretches of glittering sand."

A Dutch outpost sparkling in the southern Caribbean off Venezuela, Aruba beckons for endless fun under the sun, but it offers so much more than languid days spent upon the shore. The restaurant scene shines. Try your hand at the official languages of Dutch and Papiamentu—but not to worry, everyone

speaks English. There are great hotels—The Ritz-Carlton and the Boardwalk Boutique Hotel. There's culture. Kid-friendly activities. Thanks to the island's arid climate, little runoff spills into the ocean, so expect unparalleled visibility as you splash about the cerulean-hued waters. Cactus abounds as do cactus "hedges." And then there's that funny divi divi tree that always points to the southwest, thanks to the island's trade winds. Attribute those pesky trade winds for the siren song that lures windsurfers and kiteboarders from around the globe to the wind-whipped waters. And keep your eyes open for leatherback turtles that are among the species that lay their eggs on the island's coast. And try a typical Aruban dish such as curry goat, keri keri, and pan bati with their African, French, Dutch, and other far-flung influences.

### Insider ARUBA

Twin sisters **Kimberly and Stephanie Rooijackers** are Aruba natives and run the wonderful, relaxed-chic Boardwalk Boutique Hotel Aruba. Here, the dynamic duo's five favorite island finds.



#### 01

##### By the Grill

Yemanja Woodfired Grill is our personal, all-time favorite restaurant in Aruba. This medium-size restaurant in downtown Oranjestad offers a cozy terrace as well as indoor seating. Specialties include wood-fire grilled meats and seafood, along with an extensive vegan menu. A must-try vegan specialty is their superfood salad. Other favorite dishes include the triple tail fish and tenderloin with truffle sauce, the carpaccio, the tuna tartare, and basically all desserts.



#### 03

##### Follow the Locals

Located in the sleepy fishing town of Savaneta, Zeerovers is a fisherman's wharf, promising a heavy dose of local flavor. A counter near the entrance sells fresh-caught fish to-go at local prices. Patrons can also have the fish prepared on the premises and then enjoy it on the waterside deck among locals playing dominoes, discussing the latest town news over a few ice-cold Balashi brews.

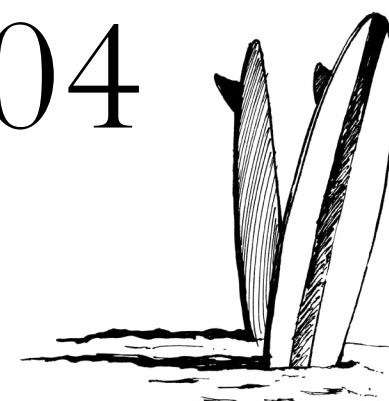
#### 02

##### Peru Front & Center

Lima Bistro is a culinary must-try where Peruvian-born top chef Teddy Bouroncle honors his roots with flavorful bites and specialty cocktails. Overlooking the marina at Harbour House (Paardenbaai) and cruise dock in downtown Oranjestad, Lima boasts a dreamy waterfront setting and a high-style interior. Peruvian classics include fresh ceviche, lomo saltado, and pisco sour cocktails.



#### 04



##### Kite & Windsurfing

The best spot to learn kiteboarding or windsurfing is right across from the Boardwalk on the Fisherman's Huts beach. Vela Aruba offers classes for both beginner and intermediate kiteboarders and windsurfers at their kite and windsurf center. Multiple day packages including lessons and material are available.



##### Salty Hikes

The rugged northern coast of Aruba is refreshingly different from the white sandy beaches of Palm Beach. A great way to explore this lesser discovered area is on a hiking adventure with Salty Hikes. They take you on a scenic hike trail to a hidden natural bridge and various rock formations.

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# San JUAN

Old World Meets New

**“It’s the best of the Old World meets the New,” says one frequent visitor to San Juan.** “I can visit a fort that dates to the 16th century then have a spa treatment in a world-class resort, dine under the stars with cooking courtesy of a top-rated chef, and finish off the day by dancing until dawn fueled by a stash of knockout piña coladas. Which, by the way, were invented here.” Hop in a cab at the port and head to Old San Juan to absorb the historic vibes by walking and then walking some more. Whether it’s history, culture, old-school dining, or cocktails, you’ll find all of that within the candy-colored

lanes that fill this atmospheric neighborhood. Forts. Museums. Throwback eateries. Layer the shock of the new into the centuries-old fabric in the form of boutique hotels, of-the-moment eateries, and cutting-edge, DJ-fueled nightlife and the storyline truly intrigues and entices. Go jet-snorkeling, or explore the El Yunque waterfalls. Or head to a world-class resort on the nearby Condado with a good book and order a cool cocktail and soak up some sun as palms sway in the balmy breezes. After all, Puerto Rico isn’t called the “isla del encanto,” the enchanted isle, for nothing. San Juan is a study in contrasts—from the

fabled, centuries-old El Morro fort that hunkers above the old city to the cutting-edge resorts that line glittering Condado Beach. Mix in cobblestoned streets with centuries of stunning, pastel-hued architecture, knockout cooking, top-tier museums and cathedrals, wonderful snorkeling and day trips, a friendly, relaxed vibe, easy access to national parks, a pulsing nightlife, and, well, you might just fall in love. The second-oldest European-founded city in the Americas, San Juan celebrated the 500th anniversary of its founding in 2022, and this remixed, remodeled old lady is ready for her closeup. Viva Boricua!



# Insider SAN JUAN

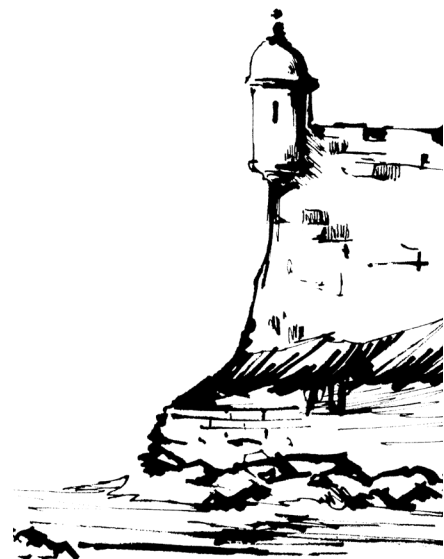
**Chef Juan José Cuevas** of the highly regarded 1919 restaurant in the Condado Vanderbilt Hotel suggests the following must-visits in San Juan.



**01 Well-Fed**  
My two favorite restaurants, Marmalade and Vianda, are both eateries with great farm-to-table programs. Vianda is a modern restaurant with local flavors while Marmalade is more contemporary and highlights gluten-free and vegan options.



**03 Shopping for Menswear**  
My favorite shop is Boronea, a wonderful local men's clothing store. The selection is versatile; outfits for a beach picnic with friends or an upscale night out. *Boronea.us*



**04 Explore & Walk**  
I enjoy long walks in Old San Juan. I love the history and art scene and of course barhopping at places like La Factoría and a new bar called Singular.



**02 Vacía Talega**  
A favorite beach is Vacía Talega, located between Piñones and Loíza. I love to go during the week as it is a great place to relax after a busy weekend at 1919.



**05 Cocktail Adventures**  
My favorite place for a cocktail is the Casa de Montecristo lounge located in Old San Juan. Settle in for a cigar paired with a whiskey from their impressive collection.

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# Isn't Life GRAND?

On Grand Cayman, you might just want to mix and mingle with the natives. And by natives we mean the blue iguana, the island's largest indigenous land animal

By Jason Oliver Nixon

Grand Cayman has many stories to tell. Incredible beaches. Vibrant coral reefs. Top-tier resorts. A high-flying culinary reputation. And sunsets that are pure Technicolor splendor. But chances are you haven't heard of the island's blue iguana, a vibrantly hued, stately creature that can grow to a length of five feet and a weight of 25+ pounds. Only found on Grand Cayman, the iguanas once numbered in the tens of thousands, but the population was decimated over time due to habitat loss, attacks by invasive species (think dogs and rats), and collisions with cars. Once on the brink of extinction and listed as a critically endangered species by the International Union for the

Conservation of Nature, the blue iguana is back. And in a big way thanks to the Blue Iguana Conservation, a group that was founded in 1990 to grow the island's population from a pitiful 30 creatures to a total of 1,000. Happily, the 1,000-iguana milestone was reached by 2018, and the group now drives an initiative to sustainably conserve these majestic herbivores. To get up close and personal with a blue iguana for yourself, take part in a self-guided nature walk at the Blue Iguana Conservation facility where you can see juveniles and adults in action. You might even be inspired to symbolically adopt a blue iguana for one year. To learn more, visit [nationaltrust.org.ky](http://nationaltrust.org.ky).



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