

# PRIVATE AIR

---

## LUXURY HOMES


Volume 5 | Issue 2

BARRETT-JACKSON  
THE KING OF COLLECTOR CAR  
AUCTIONS CELEBRATES 45 YEARS

ENTERTAINING THE OPTION  
OF ENTERTAINMENT STOCKS

THE SCIENCE BEHIND  
LUXURY KITCHENS

RITZ-CARLTON CREATES  
DECADENCE IN THE DESERT  
WITH RANCHO MIRAGE



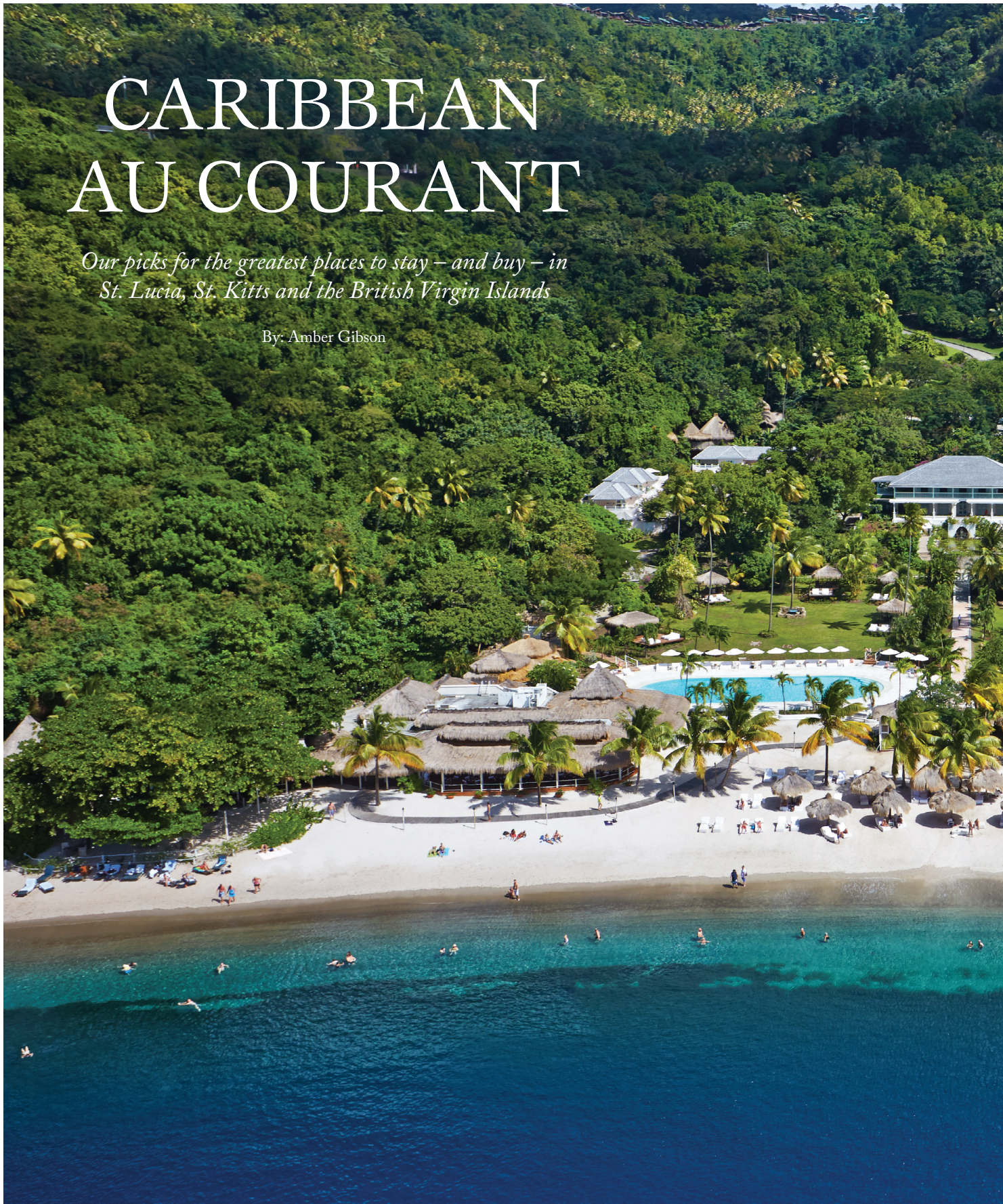
HOMAGE to  
HISTORY and  
HARMONY in  
SOUTHAMPTON,  
NEW YORK



# CARIBBEAN AU COURANT

*Our picks for the greatest places to stay – and buy – in  
St. Lucia, St. Kitts and the British Virgin Islands*

By: Amber Gibson















## Saint Lucia

This small island in the West Indies is considered by many to be the most beautiful in the Caribbean, with lush rainforests covering a mountainous landscape, including the Caribbean's only drive-in volcano. Hiking, bird watching, zip-lining, sailing and scuba diving are all popular activities and visitors love to mingle with the locals at Friday night fish fry street parties.

Sugar Beach is tucked between the Piton Mountains on the shores of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The resort was rebranded from Jalousie to Sugar Beach in 2012, and includes 86 guest rooms and bungalows along with 38 off-plan residences ranging from \$3.75 – \$15 million, all managed by Los Angeles-based Viceroy Hotel Group. Current owners are strategic about their own use of their villas during the high season from Christmas to Easter and are already seeing a nice return on investment. All hotel facilities are available to residence owners including the marine reserve for snorkeling and diving, yacht charters, 24-hour chauffeured shuttle service, and two separate white sand beaches. Conservation is a key value in construction, so surrounding vegetation is seamlessly incorporated into the design of new residences.

The Rainforest Spa is a prime example of the eco-friendly construction, with each of nine treatment cabanas perched in various trees, and all well-equipped with ceiling fans and air conditioning. To reach reception, you'll traverse a long, winding covered wooden walkway built atop the original aqueduct for the sugar mill that once stood here. Treatments are divine, and there's no need to play

spa music. You'll drift away to a very real chorus of chirping birds and tree frogs.

Every guest room at Sugar Beach includes butler service, but book a beachfront bungalow for an extra luxurious experience. Here, a private courtyard includes both a Jacuzzi and outdoor shower and your own hammock beckons in the breeze. Fresh hibiscus blooms are scattered like tropical fairy dust across the pristine white rooms each day, and your butler may surprise you with thoughtful floral messages, or a snack of plantains and coconut water. Relax entirely to the sound of crashing waves while stargazing after a decadent dinner at the Great Room. French chefs ensure that the dining is top notch and the excellent selection of French wines complements fresh Caribbean crudo, coconut shrimp, and local spiny lobster.

For visitors looking for an intensive health and wellness program, The BodyHoliday can be a great option. Book at least a month in advance to create a customized fitness and nutrition program with the new BodyScience clinic. Pre-arrival DNA and blood tests harmonize Western science with Eastern ayurvedic philosophies and treatments to de-stress and manage weight. Specific programs focus on healthy aging, digestive health, and detoxification. This is a more crowded, bustling resort than Sugar Beach, but the friendly atmosphere is contagious. Juices, smoothies and colorful salads all made with local, organic produce at the beachfront deli make healthy eating both convenient and delicious.











## St. Kitts

No longer is St. Kitts playing second fiddle to Nevis. With Christophe Harbour's diverse real estate offerings and superyacht marina on the island's southeastern peninsula, this resort community may soon be the Caribbean's new yachting hotspot. Homesites are available right on the ocean for those looking to dock their vessels outside their home while turnkey two-bedroom villas are another option available from \$865,000 - \$1.2 million with 1,632 square-feet of living space. A residence club with fractional ownership is a third option, with fractions priced at \$450,000 - just enough to qualify for the island's Citizenship by Investment program. Ultimately, the family-owned Christophe Harbour Development Company aims to develop up to 2,000 properties over the next 20 years.

The team, led by CEO Buddy Darby, is behind South Carolina's Kiawah Island and Darby brings the same easygoing attitude and eye for detail to this project. Much of St. Kitts remains undeveloped, and Kiawah Partners is dedicated to preserving the island's unique ecosystems, including oceanic rainforest and coral reefs, while building impressive amenities like a Tom Fazio championship golf course, debuting in 2017.

You'll be tempted to spend all your time in your private infinity pool, but a hike along Sugarloaf Trail will reveal a rich world of flora and fauna, including hummingbirds, kestrel, goats, frangipani and the red, peeling "tourist" tree or

gumbo-limbo. Enjoy a rum cocktail and burger at the Salt Plage beach bar, or settle in for an elegant evening of dining on fresh seafood and local produce at The Pavilion, where a young chef from California is preparing some of the best food I've had in the Caribbean.

The Park Hyatt, opening later this year, comprises 134 rooms, including suites with rooftop private pools with views of Nevis across The Narrows - the strait separating the two islands. Historically, St. Kitts was the wealthiest British Caribbean colony thanks to its numerous sugar plantations. Although the island stopped growing cane sugar at the end of 2005, old estate houses and sugar mills still dot the landscape and the expansive spa pays homage to the island's sugar mill past. For guests seeking a more active exploration of St. Kitts, Park Hyatt will offer different experiential journeys exploring the island's natural environment, history, wellness and adventure, along with a robust kids Club that's more summer camp than babysitting service.

A partnership with private jet terminal YU Lounge allows members and charter guests to go from tarmac to topside in 30 minutes. Porsche Cayenne airport transfers take you to what looks like somebody's well-furnished living room, where you hand over your passport and customs form and enjoy champagne and gourmet snacks while a porter retrieves your bags. It's only fitting that the arrival and departure process is as luxurious as your stay.











## British Virgin Islands

This is the calmer, more upscale alternative to the U.S. Virgin Islands. There are more than 60 islands to explore in this archipelago, but Peter Island is undoubtedly the crown jewel. There's nothing on this private oasis except for Peter Island Resort & Spa, owned by the Van Andel family from Michigan.

Guests stepping off the ferry are greeted with a refreshing cold towel and rum cocktail chock full of freshly grated ginger to soothe queasy stomachs. Thoughtful touches like these and exceedingly friendly service make every guest feel instantly at home, whether it's your first visit or twentieth. There are just 52 rooms and three villas on the 1,800-acre island and 83 per cent of the land is left completely untouched, inhabited by wild goats and iguanas. Seclusion never leads to boredom here though – there's far too much to explore, both on land and at sea. Book a romantic, private afternoon at Honeymoon Beach, go beachcombing at Big Reef Bay or try snorkeling at White Bay. Take a leisurely walk or jog around the verdant island, with playful white and yellow butterflies flitting about to keep you company.

Most evenings there's live music at dinner, and guest services manager, Collin, will even serenade diners with pop music ballads. The lavish Saturday evening gala buffet at Tradewinds is not to be missed and the resort has the most extensive wine list in the BVI. A new general manager and new chefs are taking the dining to ambitious new heights, incorporating more local ingredients and

flavors into the menu and starting a garden center this year. A few classics will remain though – like Jean Kelly's coconut-crusted French toast for breakfast.

The 10,000 square foot spa is tucked away on a secluded beachfront and specializes in ayurvedic therapies, developed by Sabari, an Indian-trained naturopath. After a consultation to determine your *dosha*, he will prescribe the best treatments to detoxify and revitalize the body and mind. For example, a turmeric and yogurt body wrap to cleanse and moisturize or a hot oil *abhyanga* massage to calm the mind and increase circulation. Sabari even blends his own *dosha*-specific oils and leads yoga classes open to all guests each Sunday morning.

For a more rustic vacation, Cooper Island Beach Club is a great option. The vibe at this eco-friendly island is totally casual and with as many as 30 sailboats and yachts mooring in the bay each evening, the restaurant and bar are always lively, even if there are only 10 rooms at the club for overnight guests. Rooms are straightforward, without many frills, but clean and well-furnished in driftwood tones with tile floors. Sustainability is a core value, with more than three-quarters of the energy used provided by solar power. Beware of insects – there were more mosquitos here than anywhere else I visited. Even if you aren't staying the night, sail over to try rum flights and cocktails at the legendary rum bar. Richard Branson visits often with friends and family. ✈

