



Spirit Away

the Inspirational travel magazine



exotic resorts in dreamy locations

Welcome...

Welcome to the latest issue of our regular travel magazine where we hope to entice you with a varied selection of worldwide holiday ideas and destinations. So, why not treat yourself, partner, family or a group of friends to a well-earned break.

We are delighted to showcase the ever popular island of Barbados in a special 7-page feature. Some of the very finest hotels and restaurants in the Caribbean are to be found along its famous platinum coast making it the ideal, luxury beach destination. But the island's appeal is far broader than that offering both the familiar and exotic, with Anglican churches and cricket greens in every village amid a tropical landscape and the alluring prospect of a chilled rum punch cocktail!

Turning to the Indian Ocean, an equally appealing winter sun and beach destination, this issue showcases the wonderful Raffles Seychelles, which will be a lot easier to get to with the introduction of a twice-weekly non-stop BA flight from the UK from March 2018. Meanwhile, Shangri-La's southern Maldives island resort is also reviewed having introduced an excellent all-inclusive package.

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Destination spa holidays are increasingly popular, but for a truly rejuvenating experience, the clinically developed Spa Nescens programme is now to be found at two of Switzerland's finest hotels.

If the visual spectacle of natural world documentaries have inspired you on the small screen then why not experience the big picture by joining a Tauck World Discovery tour, where the real adventure is enriched by collaboration with leading natural world filmmakers.

Whether you are looking for a beach getaway, a city break, an adventure or just news on some of the world's finest hotels and resorts we are sure this issue will inspire you. So sit back, have a read, then give us a call to discuss your travel plans.

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To Infinity & Beyond in 2018 at Silversands Grenada



Inspired by the natural beauty of Grenada, the "Spice Island", an exciting new luxury development (a member of Leading Hotels of the World) is attracting considerable interest. Silversands Grenada, a low impact, minimalist styled beachside retreat with adjoining stand-alone villas marks the first major resort to be built on the famous Grande Anse Beach in more than 25 years.

Five 4-bedroom beach villas and four 3-bedroom hillside villas, each with private pool, together with 44 suites have been designed to create a series of indoor and outdoor spaces to take advantage of the stunning weather, gorgeous vista views, and spectacular beachfront. The resort also includes a central, 100-metre infinity pool, a full service spa, Thai cuisine, Beach Club restaurant and a lounge bar with a Rum and Cigar club.

Raise a glass to wine harvest season at Mont Rochelle in South Africa



Mont Rochelle Hotel & Mountain Vineyard invites budding vintners to experience the rich winemaking traditions that go into the estate's produce; from picking the fruits fresh from the vine to the best part, wine tasting! Harvest takes place at the beginning of March, which is one of the warmest months in South Africa, so it's the perfect time to head outdoors and explore the winelands and Cape Province.

Mont Rochelle, part of Virgin Limited Edition, is a stunning 26-bedroom hotel and vineyard just under an hour's drive from Cape Town in the town of Franschhoek, considered to be South Africa's food and wine capital. Visit between 1st April and 30th September and stay 3 nights for the price of 2.

"W" hits the slopes for the first time in the chic mountain resort of Verbier



Winner of the prestigious 2016 "World Ski Awards" for World's Best Ski Hotel, W Verbier invites you to cross the line into an extraordinary world where winters are white hot and summers always keep things cool. As W Hotels' first alpine escape and only hotel in Verbier, get set for slopeside style centred around Place Blanche, the new heart of Verbier. Action packed days mirror energy fuelled nights at this stunning Verbier ski resort, one of only five hotels in Verbier with ski in/ski out access.

Daring design meets a sophisticated scene. With 123 rooms & suites and 4 W Residences, each with signature W beds and balcony, many with panoramic vistas, W Verbier is a fabulous retreat in the heart of the Swiss Alps.

The Canny Traveller

Helping the Northern Caribbean recover

Background to Autumn 2017

2017 has seen the most active "Hurricane" season in many years and the impact has been severe for much of the North-eastern Caribbean including Cuba, Puerto Rico, Turks & Caicos, The Virgin Islands and several Leeward Islands.

Let's get the islands back on their feet again

The magic of the Caribbean is invariably associated with the big smiles and warm welcome of its islanders. If you love the Caribbean then this will resonate and you will understand the need to rebuild those blown away tropical havens as quickly as possible. There are many mainstream charities like the Red Cross, Oxfam and other disaster relief organisations, who have ongoing global programmes, but possibly the most important long term strategy is to assist with the restoration of the lifeblood tourist industry, on which so many Caribbeans rely.

A focused charity for recovery

The Caribbean Tourism Recovery Fund is focused on restoring and improving tourism resources and infrastructure to maximise destination appeal and get people back to work. A staggering 2.4 million Caribbeans work and rely on tourism so it is in all our interests to get this powerhouse industry back at full capacity. If you would like to know more about this Caribbean-focused charity please visit www.tourismcares.org/caribbean



Timeless Venice

A living monument to a glorious past



Restored to Glory

The Gritti Palace, A Luxury Collection Hotel

The Gritti Palace is an icon of grace, elegance and opulence in a city sinking under the weight of hotels boasting such charms. Since its magnificent 15 month, multi-million pound restoration, this historic palace, sat on the Grand Canal, offers amongst the very highest levels of luxury accommodation and service in this historic city.

The rooms and suites at The Gritti Palace vary from small but elegant deluxe rooms, to the grandiose Hemingway Presidential Suite with its private balcony on the Grand Canal. All the options have king sized beds, jewel-like furnishings in an eclectic Venetian style, marble bathrooms, and cosmetics from Acqua di Parma.

Front Line Jewel

Hotel Danieli, A Luxury Collection Hotel

Three former palaces make up the Hotel Danieli, ensuring guests are swept up in a grand, aristocratic, Italian embrace. With panoramic views overlooking the lagoon and with St. Mark's Square literally around the corner, you are in the historic front line.

The hotel's 210 rooms offer a rich choice from elegant doubles and lagoon views, with classic Venetian styling, to opulent suites awash with marble, baroque flourishes and choice antiques. The roof-top restaurant and outdoor terrace has to be one of the finest places to dine in the city with views sweeping from the Giudecca to the Lido and beyond, all lit up and under moonlight.



A work of art on a colossal scale, the city of Venice has captivated countless generations of painters, poets and musicians. Today, the floating city is a place for admiring the art and architecture of its majestic palaces and churches, taking waterborne journeys along its grand and tributary canals, and taking to foot to chance upon secluded piazzas and characterful alleyways. Venice is a timeless adventure and rightly deserves its position as one the world's most alluring destinations.

It is a city that offers a wealth of restaurants, bars and most importantly, hotels that sing the song of the "Serenissima", however there are many that aspire to reach the high notes, but we hope that the recommendations of this piece will offer suitable inspirations across the four seasons!

Did you know

Venice is actually a collection of 116 islands.

There are 417 footbridges spanning 177 canals.

There are 127 squares (piazza).

There are about 400 gondoliers.

Venice has over 200 churches as well as 450 palaces (palazzi) built in a mixture of styles, Gothic, Byzantine, Baroque etc.

Feeding pigeons is not allowed!

Private Island Retreat

JW Marriott Venice Resort & Spa, Isola delle Rose



If space and exclusivity are high on your priorities, then the JW Marriott Venice Resort & Spa will appeal to those looking to take in the sights of Venice, but wanting a private island resort to escape to.

This 5-star luxury hotel boasts a breathtaking location on Isola delle Rose, a private, 40-acre island estate to the south, yet just a short boat ride from St. Mark's Square. All manner of guests will appreciate the impressive facilities, a sense of space you will not find in the bustling heart of Venice, and as can be the case when you look onto the city from the right direction, spectacular views across Venice Lagoon to the historic city framed by the Trentino Alps to the north.

With spacious accommodations, all of which have undergone a recent redesign by celebrated architect Matteo Thun, guests can enjoy an array of restaurants and bars, including Dopolavoro Dining Room, a Michelin-starred fine dining experience, or luxuriate in a rejuvenating massage at GOCO Spa, one of Venice's premier wellness destinations.

Grand Canal Experience

The Westin Europa & Regina



Ideally positioned on the banks of the Grand Canal, The Westin Europa & Regina is in the heart of the city's artistic and theatre districts, in a secluded setting just off the fashionable Calle XXII Marzo with its many designer boutiques and St Mark's Square just a short stroll away.

Comprising five palaces dating from the 17th to 19th century, the hotel boast beautifully appointed and elegant guest rooms with marble bathrooms, some with balconies and terraces, and some offering stunning views of the Grand Canal. Dine in style at the side of the Grand Canal with gastronomic dishes that infuse traditional recipes with an innovative approach, all accompanied by unparalleled views of the Santa Maria Della Salute Basilica.



The Art of Staying Young

Prolonging youthfulness with Spa Nescens at two of Switzerland's finest Spa hotels

It's a proven fact that our life expectancy is constantly increasing and we all want to maintain our appearance as long as possible, along with our general fitness and our youthfulness. Because a long life is great, provided one can continue living the life one loves.

For this reason, the Spa Nescens draws on the scientific and medical expertise of the Nescens brand stemming from the Centre for the Prevention of Aging at the

Clinique de Genolier (Switzerland) created over 15 years ago by Professor Jacques Proust, a pioneer in the realm of the biology of aging and anti-aging medicine.

The Spa Nescens offers the very best, whether you wish to free yourself from stress in order to regain a deep-seated sense of well-being, recapture your dynamism, improve your body shape or slow down the effects of time, the ultimate aim being to live better, for as long as possible.

Spa Nescens in Switzerland

La Réserve Genève Hotel, Spa & Villas Geneva, Switzerland

La Réserve Genève is a city-resort hotel cocooned in a ten-acre park on the shores of Lake Geneva. Famed French designer Jacques Garcia drew inspiration from the hotel name, Réserve, to create dramatic, transporting interiors that feel a world away from the buzzing of the city. The shimmering lake is accessed from a private dock, and guests can book a trip on the hotel's own Venetian motoscafo for picturesque lake tours.

In addition to the Nescens Spa the hotel offers a gastronomic feast with a selection of 5 restaurants including one michelin star Chinese cuisine at Tsé Fung.

Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa Interlaken, Switzerland

The Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa sits at the foot of the snow-capped Jungfrau massif in Interlaken, in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. This country hotel melds old world sophistication with a sleek, modern appeal. Located within a tranquil and beautiful area, The Victoria-Jungfrau is set to be one of the most exciting 2018 Spa destinations thanks to the newly opened better-aging Nescens Spa.

Dine in style at the hotels' French and Italian restaurants for the finest Mediterranean fare, or for a healthy accompaniment to treatment eat wisely at the Spa Bistro.



Nescens Boot Camp in Provence at La Réserve Ramatuelle, France

Amid exceptionally beautiful scenery set between the sea and the mountains, the Nescens Boot Camp at La Réserve Ramatuelle Hotel, Spa & Villas offers you an idyllic "Riviera" programme combining Nordic Walking, spa treatments (as pictured above) and the benefits of a light and healthy Mediterranean cuisine.



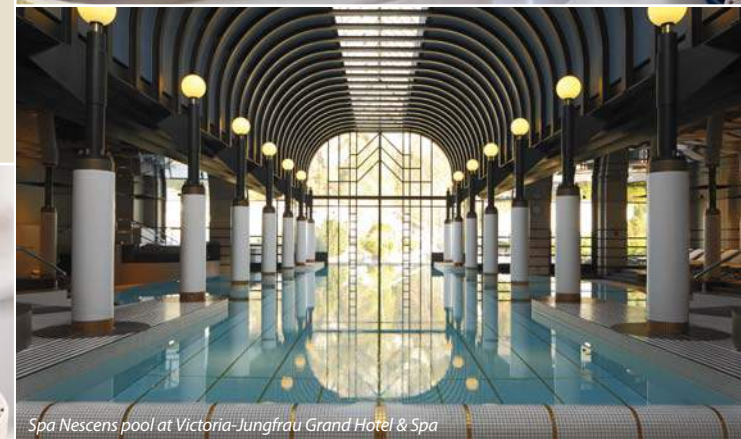
nescens⁺
swiss anti-aging science
| SPA



The main pool and view across the lake at La Réserve Genève Hotel, Spa & Villas



Healthy cuisine at Café Lauren restaurant, La Réserve Genève Hotel, Spa & Villas



Spa Nescens pool at Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa



Arriving at Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa



Wild Alaska

Earth Journeys in the spectacular wilderness with Tauck



You will have seen it on TV, now experience it in real life with “Earth Journeys” created by Tauck in collaboration with leading filmmakers. From frozen worlds to tropical jungles, shallow seas to African plains; our planet is filled with unforgettable adventures in the most magical natural realms.

Join like-minded adventurers as Tauck take you on a journey to discover what inspires the world’s greatest nature filmmakers, offering you a backstage pass to experience, in person, places, people, animals and stories relating to a major natural history series. This enhanced, touring experience will reveal nature’s most incredible stories enhanced by professional content, including hands-on use of field equipment to see how these filmmakers reveal nature’s secrets, bespoke videos created for each destination, and educational touches. All to bring you a fresh perspective on our planet.

For instance, Travel to wild Alaska between July and September 2018 on a small group tour of about 30

Tauck guests! This ten-day adventure takes you away from the well-travelled routes of the Inside Passage to less-visited places of spectacular beauty and one-of-a-kind experiences.

Take a flight over the vast glacier-clad landscapes and peaks of Denali (America’s highest mountain), cruise the Kenai Fjord, known for its resident sea lions, dolphins, whales, bald eagles and dramatic vistas. Watch brown bears on Crescent Lake in salmon season, where the brown bears are close and numerous. Visit a kennel that raises champion sled dogs and participate in a wilderness hike with an expert naturalist guide who will impart invaluable knowledge and insights, meeting wildlife (like bison, elk, bears, and caribou) up close at a refuge for displaced and orphaned animals.

During the course of the tour guests can expect first hand involvement with the ingenious gadgets and equipment used by professional wildlife photographers and filmmakers that may include camera traps.

There will also be multiple-night stays at outstanding wilderness lodges (with all the comforts of home), including Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge (where the dining room offers panoramic views of Denali and the Alaskan Range); Seward Windsong Lodge, set in a wooded glacier valley beside the Resurrection River; and Knik River Lodge, a colony of first-class cabins (and a gourmet restaurant) surrounded by the snowcapped peaks of the Chugach Mountains.

To enjoy this tour, you should be in good health and able to walk reasonable distances, often over unpaved and uneven surfaces. Some of the most memorable sightseeing can only be accomplished on foot.

TAUCK
WORLD DISCOVERY

Tauck’s “Wild Alaska” Earth Journey includes:

- Exclusive on-tour films produced by leading filmmakers deepen your experience
- Field equipment gadgets may include camera traps
- Small groups averaging 30 Tauck guests
- Flightseeing by private charter inside dramatic, ice-capped Denali National Park
- Bear watching from boats on Crescent Lake in Lake Clark National Park
- Private cruise through glacier-carved Kenai Fjord
- Close-up views of Alaskan wildlife at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Centre
- Naturalist guided hikes and walks
- Learn about the world of the sled dog and the Iditarod at a breeding and training centre
- Accommodation includes multiple nights at three wilderness lodges
- Airport transfers upon arrival and departure as noted
- 18 meals, service charges, gratuities to local guides, service charges, admission fees, taxes and portage





One bedroom Garden View Villa

Raffles Seychelles

The Garden of Eden has just got a lot easier to get to...

Surrounded by pristine white sandy beaches and crystal clear waters, Raffles Seychelles is a luxury villa resort located amid lush tropical greenery and dramatic granite rock formations on the north-eastern corner of Praslin, the second largest island of the Seychelles islands, and home to natural wonders such as Anse Lazio, one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. The resort is ideally situated for exploring this “must see” island and trips to both Curieuse Island and La Digue are popular island hopping excursions.

Offering some of the most spacious accommodation in the Seychelles, each of the 86 hillside and beachfront villas include a private plunge pool and outdoor pavilion to soak up the breathtaking views. Additionally, there's a butler service available to all guests, as well as other luxuries such as limousine transfers. You can even arrive and leave in style with a helicopter transfer to Mahe international airport. Most of the villas have one bedroom, but there are also 4 two-bedroom villas that would be ideal for family bookings.

The resort is the ideal place to indulge in luxury with the legendary Raffles service, with six restaurants and bars delivering bespoke gastronomic experiences with cuisine ranging from pan-Asian specialties, to Creole dishes, and contemporary Mediterranean delights. Enjoy a wide range of leisure activities, explore the islands or just unwind at **the award-winning Raffles Spa**. For those planning a family break, The Sugar Palm Club is a dedicated kids club designed for toddlers, children and teenagers, with complimentary access.

The **HOT** ticket direct to the Seychelles



From March 24, 2018 customers will be able to fly direct from Heathrow Terminal 5 to the Seychelles, making British Airways the only airline offering a non-stop service from the UK. The 10-hour flights will take to the skies twice-a-week from March to October and will be operated by the airline's newest fleet of aircraft, the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner. With flights taking off on Wednesdays and Saturdays, the route timetable is perfectly positioned for honeymooners and holidaymakers keen to immerse themselves in island-life for longer and book 10 night trips and extend their break.

Book early to avoid disappointment.



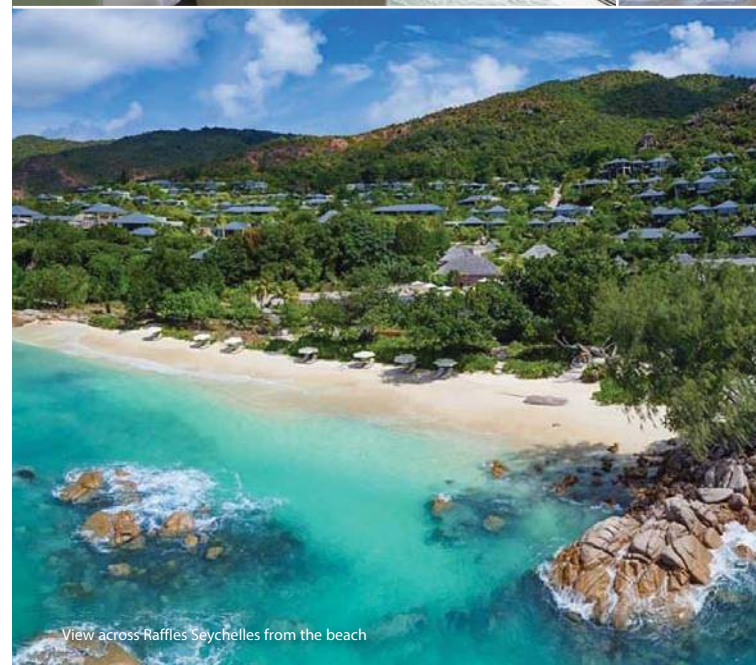
Anse Lazio, one of the world's most beautiful beaches, and a short distance from Raffles Seychelles



One bedroom Panoramic Pool Villa



A warm greeting awaits...



View across Raffles Seychelles from the beach



Aerial of the main pool

All Inclusive Luxuries

at **Shangri-La's Villingili Resort & Spa** in the Maldives



Within the Addu Atoll, just on the south side of the equator, lies one of the Maldives best kept secrets. Amid 17,000 coconut trees, surrounded by sapphire waters, home to a challenging 9-hole golf course and fringed with two kilometres of white sands is the dreamy location of Shangri-La's Villingili Resort & Spa.

Both the land based and overwater villas feature extensive views of the surrounding ocean plus either private infinity pools or easy access to the sea. The well appointed accommodation incorporate luxurious bathrooms with a signature large oval bathtub for luxuriating soaks. Modern conveniences such as a 40-inch LCD television, iPod docking station and complimentary internet access all come as standard while 24-hour in villa dining is on hand.

Shangri-La is known for featuring first class dining at all of its resorts, a tradition that is certainly continued here. Dr. Ali's celebrates three styles of eastern cuisine from the Indian Ocean, South China Sea and Arabian Gulf. All day dining is offered at Javvu, where steaks and seafood with Mediterranean twists can be savoured.

A paradise island getaway is the perfect time to enjoy some serious pampering. CHI, The Spa is a secluded sanctuary offering treatments that will leave you feeling completely restored. While adults relax in the spa, children will find hours of fun in Village, The Cool Zone.

A Clever Way to Fly

As the resort is located at the southern end of the Maldives a highly recommended air routing from the UK is with SriLankan Airlines via Colombo, where an onward flight takes you to Gan International Airport, which is just a short 5-minute boat ride transfer from the resort.



A Perfect Package

Guests staying at Shangri-La's Villingili Resort & Spa can take advantage of the superb Luxury All Inclusive package. Benefits include a daily breakfast buffet; lunch and dinner for two at Javvu Restaurant; an unlimited selection of white wine, red wine, beer, spirits and selected cocktails in restaurants and bars; soft drinks from the minibar restocked daily; unlimited non-motorised watersports; 20% off motorised watersports; 50% off spa treatments at CHI, The Spa; a one-time laundry bag per stay, washed folded and packed; a fruit basket replenished daily, plus unlimited Wi-Fi.



RELAIS & CHATEAUX® *Caribbean*

The familiar badge of Relais & Châteaux hangs at the entrance of just 475 establishments worldwide. For the discerning traveller it is one of the most trusted indicators of luxury accommodation and gastronomic excellence. Quite rightly, membership is coveted by hoteliers and restaurateurs. In the Caribbean there are only five members of this association.



Eden Roc at Cap Cana

The Jewel of Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic

Eden Roc at Cap Cana is a beautifully landscaped resort that mixes the elegance and sophistication of the French Riviera, with an ample twist of Caribbean colour in an idyllic beach-fronted location.

Nestled at the heart of the prestigious Cap Cana Estate on the eastern tip of the Dominican Republic, this boutique resort features spacious cottage-style suites and magnificent villas, all with private pools, personal golf carts for getting around, a private beach club, the extensive Solaya Spa, Koko Kids Club and access to world-class golf, marina, an equestrian centre with polo club and an ecological activity park.

As you would expect from a member of Relais & Châteaux, guests can expect a gastronomic treat at Eden Roc with a choice of three excellent restaurants. Haute Chef Gianluca Re Fraschini and his team serve up some stunning dishes at the fine dining Mediterraneo, together with more casual lunchtime and evening fare at La Palapa and also a uniquely eclectic menu at Blue Bar & Grill, the first Robatayaki and Nikkei cuisine in the Dominican Republic.



Calabash

Easy living on the Spice Island of Grenada

Having been voted the top Caribbean Hotel for 2017 TripAdvisor Traveller's Choice Awards it should come as no surprise that Calabash Luxury Boutique Hotel should complete the year by obtaining the much regarded Relais & Châteaux membership, a rare honour in the Caribbean!

This "easy-vibe", family-owned retreat is located adjacent to one of Grenada's best beaches, L'Anse Aux Épinés and comprises just 30 exclusively-designed suites, arranged in a horseshoe shape amid 8 acres of tropical gardens with a distinctive home-from-home feel. There are also five estate homes that offer more substantial accommodation to suit groups and families. Facilities include a full-service spa, yoga, snorkeling, sailing, tennis, a kids concierge and a variety of watersports.

This is a place to enjoy good living from the moment you wake up. The unique choice of having breakfast on your private balcony or patio, or on the beach, assures you that you are in for a special treat. Lunch is also a delight at The Beach Club where guests can choose from freshly caught fish dishes or a range of delicious tapas. In the evening, dinner at Gary Rhodes' on-site restaurant includes mouth-watering dishes complemented by an al fresco atmosphere enriched by the tinkling of the ivories at the Piano Bar. If you do feel the inclination to stray out of the hotel, the island of Grenada is a treasure trove of colourful bars and restaurants.



BARBADOS®

...the most British of Caribbean islands

A former British colony, Barbados is the most 'British' of all the Caribbean islands. Her friendly people may have just celebrated 50 years of independence, but many a colonial tradition thrives like driving on the "wrong" side of the road, red post boxes, the taking of afternoon tea, a genteel chukka or two of polo and of course ...cricket!

A perfect location in the southern Caribbean

The most westerly of the Windward islands, Barbados is a tropical paradise, with beautiful white sandy beaches, azure waters, and of course great weather. Below the waterline there is superb diving, with vibrant coral reefs home to many species of marine life and several shipwrecks. The western, sheltered coast, with its shallow and calm waters is home to some of the most spectacular and luxurious hotels and villas in the entire Caribbean occupying prime position along the aptly named "Platinum" coast.



This glittering series of sandy bays stretches from the northern suburbs of the capital, Bridgetown, all the way to picturesque Speightstown in the northwest.

Colourful legacy of the plantations

Outside Bridgetown, the island is dotted with sleepy villages and some beautiful botanical gardens as well as the plantation houses of the centuries old sugar cane industry. The pretty chattel houses, which originated on the many plantations across the island, have become an architectural feature, strikingly painted in primary colours and pastel shades, with intricate fretwork around the windows.

An island for sports and outdoor activities

Barbados is sports mad. From January to March and again in October and November, there is high-class cricket to watch. Golf is popular and keen players will be drawn to prestigious courses like Sandy Lane, Royal Westmoreland or Apes Hill. The best horseback-riding is across the central highlands and down to the east coast, and as you would expect, there's a wide array of watersports to enjoy including paddle surfing on the west, kite surfing on the south and surfing on the wild rollers that sweep onto the rugged, east coast.

A people who like to party

There is a vibrant year-round festival calendar celebrating food, the island's favourite beverage "Rum", agriculture, surfing, music, golf, car racing, and culture. The Crop Over Festival from late June to early August is notably one of the biggest Caribbean festivals. Four spectacular sun-drenched weeks filled with exciting events, dancing, live music, and of course, legendary Barbadian rum! For the people of Barbados, it's a cultural celebration that has hallmarked the end of the sugar cane growing season for over 300 years. For visitors, it's a unique opportunity to become truly immersed in the dynamic culture of the island culminating in carnival style *Kadooment* on the Monday at the end of July/beginning of August.

...no wonder people want to come back

What is most enduring about Barbados is the loyalty of its visitors, many of whom return year after year to their favourite haunts, some of which we feature in the course of this special feature.



Colonial Elegance

Refined sophistication of the Coral Reef Club

Owned by the O'Hara family and member of 'Small Luxury Hotels of the World', the Coral Reef Club is one of the most exclusive hotels in the Caribbean. Set in 12 acres of lush tropical gardens and overlooking a picturesque bay, this colonial-style resort is now one of the most sophisticated and elegant on the West Coast.

All the rooms, cottages and suites have private patios or balconies and are stylishly furnished; the Luxury Cottages have a separate living room, a wrap-around terrace and private plunge pool. The five Plantation Suites are beautifully furnished equalling, if not surpassing, any other hotel rooms on the island; they have a sitting room, bedroom with four-poster or canopied bed, dressing room, magnificent bathroom, wrap-around terrace with private plunge pool and ocean views.

Suite Dreams

at The Sandpiper



The Sandpiper, together with sister hotel Coral Reef Club, are the only family owned and managed luxury resorts on Barbados. Located on a long white sandy bay in St James, this intimate retreat features 50 beautifully furnished garden rooms and one or two bedroom suites, all with private terraces. However, the "pieces de resistance" are the three stunning Treetop and Beach House Suites. Designed by top British interior designers Helen Green Designs, each suite has its own private sundeck with plunge pool and an oversized wrap-around terrace with covered dining for up to six people.

The Sandpiper's delightful restaurant is rated as one of the top dining venues in Barbados. Executive Chef, Christophe Poupardin and his team prepare incredible cuisine with a unique Caribbean flair. A more informal setting is 'Harold's Bar' (the maestro is pictured left!) known locally as a timeless "Bajan" treasure. The bamboo fronted bar is famous for its location right on the beach, a perfect spot for guests to unwind and enjoy a cocktail and lunch.



An Island for All Tastes

Lobster tales and other foodie fantasies from the Bajan pantry

The "culinary capital of the Caribbean," Barbados is especially appealing to a growing band of gastronomes, who have learned that great restaurants alone, whether beach shacks or more sophisticated dining is sufficient reason to keep on visiting Barbados!

From fine dining in a spectacular beachfront restaurant to the sizzling delights of a streetside fish fry at Oistins, the island will never cease to surprise. Bajan street food comes highly recommended. When internationally renowned American chef, Marcus Samuelsson describes a lowly fish sandwich from Cuz, (a tiny fish shack on the south coast), as "King of all fish burgers," its praise indeed!

Barbados has a vibrant food scene with many restaurants having contemporary menus based on local produce and freshly caught local fish with an emphasis on fresh and quality ingredients. There have been other ethnic influences resulting in some of the best sushi at Nishi in historic Holetown and excellent curries drawing from the West Indian heritage with other influences from all over the world utilising a roll call of enticing ingredients.

With the introduction of the Barbados Food and Rum Festival held in November, involving the best local chefs and also featuring Michelin star awarded Chefs Jean-Georges Vongerichten and Tom Aiken, Barbados is fast becoming known for its appeal to the most seasoned foodies, who continue to flock here to feast on fine food and beverages in exquisite, internationally acclaimed restaurants.

The Cliff and Cliff Beach Club

Set atop a dramatic cliff overlooking the sea below, The Cliff Restaurant is the number one restaurant destination for that very special dinner or celebration. Voted one of the top 50 restaurants in the World, its newer sister restaurant next door, the more casual Cliff Beach Club is set to achieve similar accolades with its quirky, cool style and equally breath taking sea view.

Fish Pot

At the northern end of the west coast it is "worth the drive" to enjoy the fresh, delicious seafood served up at the Fish Pot. Set within a charming 18th century fort directly on the water's edge, the service and the surfside view also comes highly recommended!

Lone Star

Lone Star in St. James is a "fantastic seaside" place with a buzzy yet laid back atmosphere and where celebrities are never far away!

The Tides

Newly renovated and boasting a chic new design, The Tides now features a stunning air-conditioned glass room overlooking the sea, a luxurious lounge and bar, or you can choose to eat their famed cuisine in the open-air setting.

Ju Ju's Beach Bar

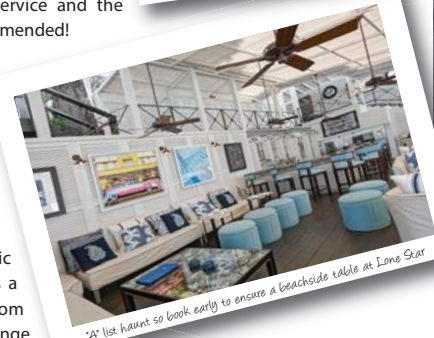
Located just north of the Fairmont Royal Pavilion and south of the Lone Star Restaurant, Ju Ju's is directly off the main road, on the beach. There is no sign. Look for the lime green house and the sign that says "Dive Barbados" and follow the pathway to the left of the green house down to the beach. Simple, delicious and seriously popular!



Twilight at The Cliff



A tall tail at the Fish Pot



A list haven so book early to ensure a beachside table at Lone Star



Beachside at The Tides



Ju Ju's Beach Baris the place to watch sunset

Daphne's

Beautifully located on the west coast of Barbados, beachfront Daphne's acclaimed Chef, Michele Blasi, brings inspiration blended from his birthplace in Milan, Italy with training around the world masterfully melding it with Barbados' freshest seafood and local produce. The result is a dining experience you will never forget. Signature dishes include linguine with lobster!



Barefoot Beach Retreat

An indulgent adults-only, hideaway in the very best beachfront location

Sophisticated yet informal, elegant yet comfortable, The House by Elegant Hotels is one of Barbados' most unique hotels. This intimate, adult only, hideaway recently reopened following an extensive and exciting refurbishment and offers newly redesigned public spaces and brand new boutique spa. Blending chic design and minimalist grace with a Caribbean twist The House was the first hotel on the island to introduce a friendly, personal ambassador service.

Situated on a stunning beach, guests at The House enjoy daily Champagne breakfasts, complimentary jet-lag massage, afternoon tea and evening canapes. For an unforgettable experience, the award winning Daphne's restaurant is just footsteps away. To aid your enjoyment of the superb stretch of sandy beach complimentary non motorised watersports are included as well as beach ambassador service providing scented cold towels, refreshments and sorbets throughout the day.

A Winning Combination

A slice of English country house style, a helping of haute cuisine and a colourful dash of Caribbean colour at Cobblers Cove

The elegance and charm of an English countryside retreat combine with the tropical beauty and character of Barbados at Cobblers Cove. Many guests return year after year to bask in its secluded setting and tranquil ambience.

Cobblers Cove's heritage as a sugar planter's former weekend home is reflected in its traditional colonial architecture, which perfectly blends with a design style that mixes modern flourishes with classic luxury. Within its lush tropical gardens are 40 spacious and beautifully designed suites, each tailored to individual relaxation and feature either a private balcony or terrace. The two top suites, Camelot and Colleton have their own rooftop terrace and plunge pool. It is easy to see why Cobblers Cove is a member of the prestigious Relais & Châteaux association.

Camelot

The ocean-front dining at Cobblers Cove Camelot Restaurant is spectacular in both views and flavours. Bajan-born Executive Chef Jason Joseph's innovative menus are inspired by the fusion of local, seasonal and international cuisine.



Stylish Marina Lifestyle

Port Ferdinand Luxury Resort & Residences is a fabulous choice for families and groups

Escape to Port Ferdinand for a stay in the luxurious resort's one to three-bedroom holiday homes. Designed with your utmost comfort in mind and boasting over-sized balconies opening out to beautiful marina views, guests are treated to world-class amenities and a fantastic concierge service. Exploring Barbados's historical sites and beautiful beaches is a must, but with especially curated activities to enjoy at the resort including cocktail parties, beach bonfires and outdoor movies, the exciting offerings are endless.

Port Ferdinand's array of amenities include the best of Barbados' water sports, access to beautiful white sand beaches, pure relaxation at The Sandbox Tree Spa, a daily house keeping service, a fully equipped fitness centre and on-site yacht berthing and services. Waterfront dining options range from casual and convenient at The Quarterdeck Poolside Bar & Pizzeria to gourmet cuisine at the fine dining restaurant.



Flexibility and Privacy

Villa style living with all the benefits of a luxury resort



Set on a peaceful beach fringed by tropical gardens, Saint Peter's Bay is a unique Caribbean property. Luxurious and spacious villa-style residences are perfect for couples, wellness retreats, and weddings, offering a stylish home away from home with two, three or five bedrooms and a dedicated concierge team. A private chef is easily arranged to prepare mouth-watering meals in the comfort of your residence, giving you the ultimate flexibility and privacy, and the incredible selection of curated activities includes turtle visits to watch babies taking their first steps towards the sea.

Understated & Easy Going

at the Colony Club by Elegant Hotels

Set in seven acres of lush tropical gardens, the Colony Club is a restored former English Club that blends old world Barbados charm with modern standards. Located on the finest stretch of the Platinum coast, the resort is ideal for couples, honeymooners and families seeking an exclusive yet understated retreat with great service and many activities included.

Foodies will delight at Colony Club's offerings. From fishing trips where a chef will cook your catch of the day to seasonally-inspired meals with the freshest local ingredients, complimentary tours of the gardens with cookery demonstrations, and not forgetting the hotel's excellent restaurant, Laguna.

Colony Club offers great value for families during the summer season as all children stay for free between 1st June - 22nd October when sharing with their parents. Children under 13 years of age are not permitted at Colony Club in February.



A Gem Shines Brightly

at the newly renovated Treasure Beach by Elegant Hotels

Treasure Beach has long been a favourite for those seeking an intimate and peaceful hideaway on the west coast of Barbados. Set in a horse shoe shape around a freshwater pool, just steps from the glorious white sands of Paynes Bay Beach, the emphasis at this adult-only boutique property is on relaxation, seclusion and great food. As the newest member of Elegant Hotels, Treasure Beach has just benefited from a \$10 million renovation project, ensuring that the hotel will shine even brighter in 2018 with a distinct styling that will appeal to art lovers. Guests will also appreciate some of the property's complimentary inclusions like daily Sundowner Hour, an art gallery tour and a chef's table dinner per stay.

The adults only boutique hotel consists of 35 redesigned one-bedroom suites. It is definitely one of the west coast's favourite choices for those seeking a romantic and special place to stay with easy going yet extraordinarily attentive staff and fabulous culinary experiences! Make sure to book early if you want one of the beachfront Luxury Ocean View One Bedroom Suites, as they are very popular, offering a fabulous private plunge pool on each terrace. Treasure Beach is also a perfect choice for a tropical island wedding venue.



A Fresh Look

The Fairmont Royal Pavilion undergoes an extensive renovation

Set in 11 acres of tropical gardens on a beautiful half mile crescent bay of golden sand where turtles still come to nest, and where all guest rooms overlook the sea, The Fairmont Royal Pavilion is one of the iconic properties of the Platinum Coast. Autumn 2017 marks the completion of an extensive renovation to the hotel lobby and all the guestrooms that will both refresh and enhance the hotel's Plantation heritage and stunning oceanfront location.

The casual open-air bistro Taboras provides great food, a casual relaxed atmosphere and breathtaking ocean views, serving an elaborate breakfast, sumptuous lunch and complimentary Afternoon Tea. The exquisite open-air Palm Terrace is a more formal but intimate restaurant, with Moorish arches and swaying palms and is one of the most picturesque settings on the island.

The Children's Programme caters for all ages offering tennis, complimentary non motorised water sports and daily swim with the turtles. Families are welcome at Fairmont Royal Pavilion from mid March to late October.



Exploring Barbados

Some places of interest and a useful guide to the location of the featured hotels

- Port Ferdinand Luxury Resort & Villas
- Cobblers Cove Hotel
- St Peter's Bay Resort
- Fairmont Royal Pavilion
- The Colony Club by Elegant Hotels
- Coral Reef Club
- The Sandpiper
- Treasure Beach by Elegant Hotels
- The House by Elegant Hotels



A Princely Retreat

Escape this winter to **Shangri-La's Al Husn Resort & Spa** in the Sultanate of Oman

Reached by a relatively short flight (7^{1/2} hours), and offering almost guaranteed blue skies, Oman is perfect for some winter sun. Relax on pristinely maintained beaches, explore beautiful mountain and desert landscapes, and discover a genteel people with a rich, Arabian heritage.

Beautifully designed with elegance and style, Al Husn is one of the finest hotels on the Arabian Peninsula. Formerly part of Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa, Al Husn is now a separate property with the perk of continued access to the resort's extensive facilities right on its doorstep. The perfect retreat for a romantic Arabian escape, this hotel is ideal for spending lazy days by the tranquil infinity pool or on the private beach with its commanding views, accessible only by guests staying at Al Husn.

Choose to enjoy the enticing flavours of Moroccan, Lebanese and Omani cuisine at Shahrazad or international dishes at the luxurious Sultanah, both of which are located on site at Al Husn. Or make the most of the resort and choose from several restaurants and bars at Al Waha and Al Bandar.

Each of the rooms and suites have been thoughtfully decorated in a traditional Arabian style and feature paintings by local Omani artists. Deluxe Rooms have a furnished terrace or balcony overlooking the courtyard and pool area. If you enjoy waking up to a view of the sea, choose a Deluxe Seaview Room.



Turtle Talk

Oman is one of the world's most important areas for sea turtles as five species visit the waters of Oman, and four of these nest on its beaches throughout the year.

At Shangri-La's Oman resorts, two species regularly nest on the beaches; the endangered Green Turtle and the most frequent visitor, the critically endangered Hawksbill Turtle. The resort's dedicated Turtle Ranger, Mohammed Al Hassani, grew up in Qantab, a small fishing village just along the coast from the resorts. He has been taking care of turtles for many years and now patrols the beaches at night to ensure that mother turtles are able to nest in peace and their hatchlings make it to the sea.

Both children and adults will be fascinated by the work of conservation that takes place, and can learn first hand as well as watch the spectacle of egg laying and hatching.



Spirited Moments

Tuscany *by Nicola*

Tuscany is one of the most spectacular regions of Italy with plenty of rustic charm, fabulous food and not to mention luxury hotels. I was lucky enough to visit three of the best on a weekend away over the summer.

An oasis of peace and tranquillity, Relais La Corte Dei Papi is a beautiful country house, renovated with love by the Papi family. Ideal for relaxing and enjoying the comforts of a luxurious country retreat immersed in scenic Tuscan countryside.

Villa La Massa, is a splendid mansion and part of the Leading Hotels of the World. The 16th Century estate sits on the banks of the Arno River, surrounded by lemon trees and olive groves and just a few kilometres outside Florence.

Castello Del Nero is a magnificent 12th century castle with stunning views over the countryside, whilst enjoying close proximity to Florence, Siena and Pisa. The castle is a treasure trove of original features, centuries-old frescoes, family crests and vaulted ceilings. The hotel also offers a Michelin starred restaurant and an ESPA spa, where I was lucky enough to spend the afternoon.

To find out more about holidays in Tuscany please call Nicola on 020 8460 6760 or 07885 990505 or email: nicola@spiritawaytravel.co.uk



San Clemente Palace Kempinski *by Melanie*

This is a very special hotel with beautiful grounds and facilities and a perfect destination to be able to visit the historic sights of Venice. The hotel stands on a private island and runs a shuttle boat every half hour to within minutes of St Mark's square. Breakfast is served in the tranquil courtyard restaurant, Insieme and the Acquerello restaurant is located at the churchyard with a large terrace facing the lagoon, perfect for a relaxing dinner. This is one of very few hotels in Venice with a pool and so was perfect when I visited with my daughters in August when temperatures were high. The spa and tennis court offer lovely options for a relaxing afternoon.



Club Med Mauritius *by Melanie*

Having sampled Club Med ski and some of the other Clubs, I decided to head to the Indian Ocean to experience Mauritius. I am pleased to say that La Plantation D'Albion Club Med has all the fun activities and amazing food in a beautiful beach front setting. The resort has the combination of a large family pool and a stunning Zenn pool. The food quality in the buffet Distillerie restaurant and the a la carte The Phare restaurant, made it very hard to choose between them. My days were filled with tennis and golf lessons, sailing, snorkelling, paddle boarding, pilates or just relaxing on the beach or around the pool. There was such a fun atmosphere in the evening with a variety of different shows. I also visited the high quality Albion Villas which are ideal for families and groups. They are impressive and offer seclusion but are close enough to the main resort.

To find out more about Venice or Club Med, please call Melanie on 01732 860503 or 07785 706623 or email: melanie@spiritawaytravel.co.uk



My Provence *by Caroline*

This year has not seen me travelling to any far flung exotic destinations, however this does not mean I have been shirking my duty as I have discovered some fantastic hotels in Europe. As you know my first love is France and we do spend a considerable part of the year in Provence. One of our very favourite hotels is Crillon le Brave where a leisurely lunch on the terrace with a bottle of the very palest rose and views over Mont Ventoux takes a lot of beating. The hotel itself is fabulous – each room is very different and for a long weekend it is just perfect. I have also travelled to the Italian Lakes, Tuscany and Umbria this year.

To find out more about Italy or Provence, please call Caroline on 01883 722656 or 07775 736697 or email: caroline@spiritawaytravel.co.uk