

caribbean

living

TRAVEL beyond the beach



Summer

+

Travel

Display until September 29, 2024
\$6.95 US caribbeanlivingmagazine.com



True Gems are Rare to Find. As They Should Be.

ROUND HILL'S PRIVATE VILLA EXPERIENCE



Surrender to the unparalleled luxury of Round Hill's private villas, discreetly tucked amidst the Caribbean's most secluded island paradise.

EXCLUSIVE VILLA PACKAGES FOR A LIMITED TIME



Ultimate Villa Retreat:

Elevate your stay in our two to four-bedroom villas. Enjoy your fourth night free, \$100 spa and dining credit, daily in-villa breakfast, VIP welcome basket, and complimentary airport transfers from MBJ.



Bespoke Villa Indulgence:

Elevate your stay in our five to six-bedroom signature and estate villas. Enjoy your third night free, \$500 spa and dining credit per room, daily in-villa breakfast, VIP welcome basket, and complimentary airport transfers from MBJ.

Limited Time Offer: Book by May 1st, 2024 for stays until September 3rd, 2024.

Terms and blackout dates apply.



Discover Your Luxury Escape at [roundhill.com](https://www.roundhill.com)

Reservations: 1-800-972-2159 | reservations@roundhill.com



CONTENTS



12-18



St. Maarten is
A LOT!

26-30



32-39

New and Noteworthy

3-4

Check in & Chill Out Chill Time in Amaco

5-10

St. Kitts

20-25

REGIONAL SALES DIRECTOR:

Sales@CaribbeanLivingMagazine.com

www.CaribbeanLivingMagazine.com

Caribbean Living Magazine (Volume 17, Issue 2; ISSN 1941-1936)
Published Quarterly by Caribbean Living Magazine, Inc., 14359 Miramar Parkway #435, Miramar, Florida 33027. ©2024 by Caribbean Living Magazine, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Publisher assumes no liability for the representations contained herein.

Caribbean Living Magazine is not responsible for the return or care of unsolicited material. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the prior written consent of Caribbean Living Magazine, Inc. Printed in the USA

Image Cover Credit:

S Hotel
Jamaica



@cltravel
on Instagram



@caribbeanliving
on Twitter



Like us by visiting:
facebook.com/caribbeanliving

CONTRIBUTORS



**ANDREW
INNERARITY**

Director of Photography

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



**AVA
ROSALES**

Features Editor

I am the Caribbean.



**DAVID
BLAIR**

Editor-at-Large

Travel and photography are my passions. I'm discovering the Caribbean one coconut at a time.



**DYLAN
BENOIT**

Contributor

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



**MICHAEL
SOBEL**

Contributor

Time passes like wind on my cheeks. However, with each new travel experience, there is a rebirth. New personal growth and new friends no matter what stage of life.

- Michael Sobel



**SERGIO
OLIVARES**

Creative Direction

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

NEW

Noteworthy

BY AVA ROSALES



TURKS & CAICOS

The Strand awaits your arrival. Pack nothing more than your resort chic wear, a pair of athletic shoes, swimwear, sandals and an expectation of luxe pampering at the newest exclusive residential rentals on the island. Whether you select your own suite or a one- or two-bedroom villa in its entirety, or the private single family home residence with four to six bedrooms, all guests enjoy the amenities at The Club at The Strand. With that said, you will want for nothing, especially when it comes to the Estate Residences with coastline in the front and a yacht slip in the rear. Pre-arrival, tailored services can include groceries shopped and stocked in your kitchen. Not to worry, there are invites also available to special culinary events where maybe you could add a dish or two to your own gastronomic toolbelt. Escape the kitchen and dine on property at The Delmar, an upscale Mykonos-inspired restaurant and bar complete with an authentic Parrilla-style grill, serving up the fresh catch of the day.

Remember those sneakers that you brought? Lace them up for an exhilarating game of tennis or pickle-ball – yep, that’s right, don’t miss the all-ages competition just waiting for you as spectator or competitor. The outdoor

adventures are not only on the court but atop and in the glistening waters that beckon an afternoon boat charter or a dip in the pristine sea. Perhaps your villa’s private pool may be the preference. There’s also The Spa at The Strand, a “Maestro in Residence” program and even a kid’s club, making for experiences that are rejuvenating, educational and cultural for any generation.

Positioning itself as one of the leading sustainable destinations, enjoy the amenities with the knowledge that you are staying at a resort that showcases a designated pollinator sanctuary with eco-friendly design elements throughout the community and solar integration that provides more than 75% of the community’s power. Whether you’re seeking a secluded, eco-conscious, active yet intimate respite for yourself or a companion or more; from sea to shore, this family-friendly or couples retreat is a welcoming destination for all. The remarkable 22 villas, 60 suites and 19 exclusive residences, all with breathtaking views, start availability in November 2024 with completion in 2025- the question is which one will be yours?... now taking reservations at The Strand.

www.thestrandtci.com

Check in & Chill out

Chill Time in Abaco



Bahamas Out Islands and the recently renovated Abaco Beach Resort are known for their brilliant blues, island hopping, and laid back vibes.

Abaco Beach Resort is the perfect hang spot for families and couples alike. Heck, chill time can mean many things to many people. What we will say is that if you like the water, the islands, the Bahamas, “me time”, family time, or the ability to soak in the best of a destination, look no further. At the Abaco Beach Resort you can do it all or nothing at all.

An uncrowded, pristine experience, which is what awaits in the Abacos and its premier property, Abaco Beach Resort -- a remarkable choice from which to take it all in. The resort and marina are owned by two Bahamians, Manny Alexiou and Andrew Sweeting, who have an affinity for boating and island hopping. You can feel their passion as you gaze out upon the marina from The Bistro where guests are immersed in a subtle nautical themed elegant fine dining experience. Think fresh local lobster, elevated of course. The boats bobbing in the marina at sunset can't help but draw the eye from the plate to the setting sun's palette.

The Abacos are known for their wild beauty, those azure waters, sandy beaches, emerald hills, six national parks, and some of the best boating in the Bahamas.

Located just 165-miles off the coast of Florida on Great Abaco in the 120-mile chain of islands and cays that comprise the islands of the Abacos, the Abaco Beach Resort recently completed a massive renovation and expansion. The resort renovated all of its 94 rooms, added deluxe accommodation options, created the fine dining Bistro and a new al fresco restaurant poolside, all while building the largest marina in the Bahamas. Don't call it a comeback, it's a fresh start.

“The new look is sleek, modern, and sizzles with a fresh energy,” said newly appointed General Managers Andrei & Antonia Mocanu. “It has breathed new life into this historic property.”





Here's a rundown of some of the new amenities

All accommodations at the 40-acre beachfront resort boast an ocean view and a patio or balcony to enjoy it from. In addition to rooms, the property offers one-bedroom oceanfront suites, and updated two-bedroom residences, and a three-bedroom penthouse. All are equipped with high-end Parachute linen from New York and Molton Brown amenities.

“Our Residence accommodations are perfect for multi-generational family travel and offer a more private, luxurious experience,” Andrei said.

Foodies will delight at the new dining venues unveiled in the resort's renovation. The casual Pool Bar and Terrace at Marinaville is open all day. Breakfast features classics like Eggs Benedict, while the lunch and dinner menus are packed with local fare like cracked conch and a decadent lobster burger. A variety of salads, pizzas, sandwiches and main courses like Surf & Turf with Bahamian lobster and filet are also on offer.

The Iconic Abaco Beach Resort welcomed renowned Executive Chef Rome'ha Forbes to lead its culinary team. A 20-year veteran in the culinary industry, Rome'ha started his stellar career at the age of 16 as an Apprentice Chef at the then Radisson Cable Beach Resort, Nassau, and has since traveled and worked throughout the Bahamas Archipelago perfecting his skills. Born in the tourism mecca of Nassau, Bahamas, Chef Rome'ha has served as Executive Chef for luxury boutique resorts including Grand Isle Resort, Exuma, and The Abaco Club on Winding Bay, Abaco.

Chef Rome'ha launched his inventive infused Caribbean and Bahamian delicacies at the discerning and quintessential Bistro gourmet restaurant and raised the bar with his authentic, there's that word again, menu creation at the acclaimed Alfresco style Terrace at Marinaville overlooking the Resort's state-of-the-art 200 slip marina.

“Chef Forbes' impressive culinary training and skills have allowed the resort to now offer some of the finest dining in the islands,” said Antonia.

The Boating and Fishing Mecca Details

Perhaps the biggest undertaking in the renovation was the creation of a modern 200-slip marina in Marsh Harbour. The marina can host pleasure boats, sport fishing boats and super yachts up to 200 ft. in length. Customs and

Immigration services are onsite. It's an impressive addition to a resort that was already known for its world-famous fishing tournaments.

Abaco Beach Resort will host four of the top billfish tournaments in the world in 2023. Skip's tournaments include the Blue Marlin Tournament, White Marlin Roundup, The Shootout, which pits production boats against custom craft, and the Custom Shootout, featuring 50 custom boat teams. It is the most elite collection of sport fishing boats in one location.

“We're thrilled to host not one, but four of the top sport fishing events in The Bahamas,” said Mocanu. “The tournaments bring the best in the sport to Abaco and an exciting atmosphere to the resort.”

Did Someone Say Island Hopping

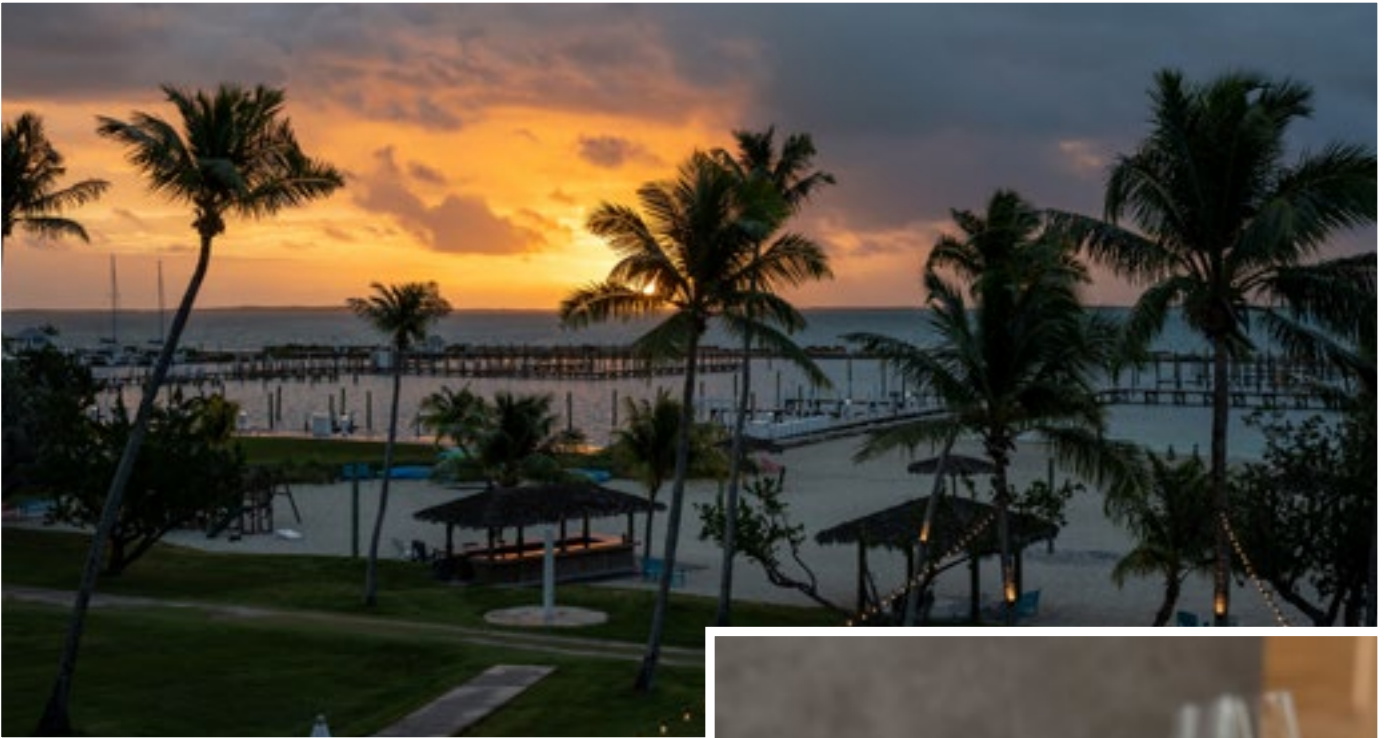
The charm of the Abaco's lies in the ability to easily hop between the many islands. Whether you are an experienced captain or not, both can make use of the very safe waterways between the islands. Remember those dreamy blue waters we mentioned earlier? This is where you can become one with the scenery, get wet if you'd like, or bop from beach bar to beach bar, or restaurant to the famous Tahiti Beach sandbar.

From the new marina, guests set sail to photograph the nearby candy-cane striped lighthouse of Hope Town on Elbow Cay and enjoy the sandy, coconut-tree lined Tahiti Beach. On Man O War Cay you can visit with shipbuilders, and at Pelican Cays National Park soak in the beauty of the shallow coral gardens.

Nature lovers should plan to explore Great Guana Cay known for its vast Elkhorn coral reefs, sea turtles, and migrating birds. Don't miss stopping in the local's favorite, Nipper's Beach Bar for a lively island party any time of day.

These are just a few stops you can take in at just under 100 miles of sheltered waterway known as the Sea of Abaco with many surrounding cays and islands to visit.





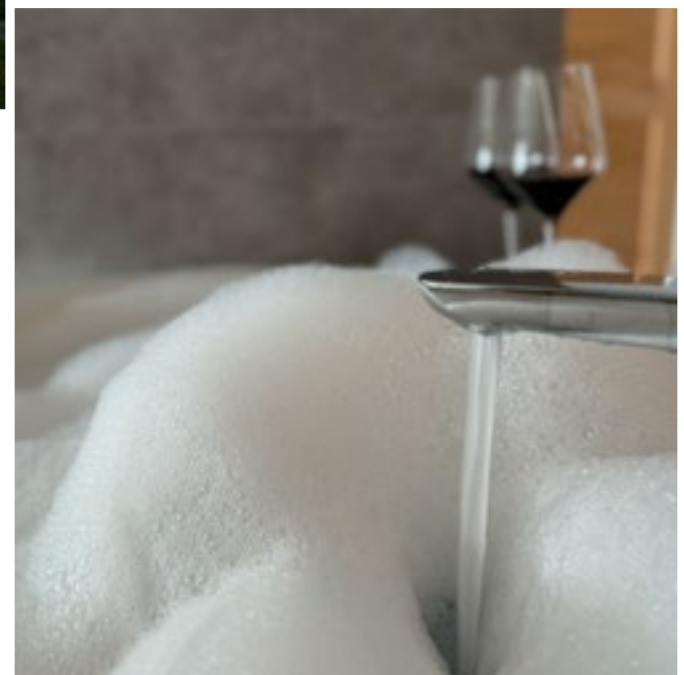
Down Time

While the Abacos provide plenty of outdoor adventures and cute towns to explore, no vacation to these laid-back islands would be complete without some down time to relax, rejuvenate and return home more balanced.

The Abaco Beach Resort offers a private white sand beach for guests to grab a chaise to lounge on, sunbathe, read, or enjoy sipping an island cocktail. We loved the oversized beach chess set that was under a thatched roof, right on the beach. We like relaxing while keeping our competitive edge sharp. When guests are ready to jump in the water, complimentary kayaks, paddle boards and snorkeling gear are available. The beach bar offers snacks & drinks and parents can rest assured the kids are having a great time with the Bahama Buddies Program for all kids 4-12 years. The program offers visiting children the opportunity to learn about island life from a resident child ambassador by spending an afternoon participating in authentic island activities and crafts.

For many, no vacation is complete without some spa pampering and at Abaco Beach Resort the masseuse comes to you, whether you want your massage in a beachside cabana or in the privacy of your room. We would say truly spoiled, but authentic seems the more appropriate word to leave you with. This is the palace for those seeking that barefoot Bahamian experience.

www.abacobeachresort.com



A New level of exclusivity,
an iconic heritage steeped in tradition,
and still somehow, a well-kept secret.



The best.

The most.

The first.

The new Premier Club and Suites at Casa de Campo sets a new standard of excellence and luxury for our most discerning guests. Highlighted with Caribbean warmth, exclusivity, personalized service, and privacy from the moment you arrive. Premier Club guests will enjoy a private bar and lounge area and will be greeted upon arrival for a personalized check-in.

Casa de Campo Spa & Wellness Center, an 18,000 square foot state-of-the-art destination Spa is now open and waiting to pamper you.

Discover more at casadecampo.com.do • res1@ccampo.com.do • 800-877-3643 / 809-523-8698



Jamaica Revisited

All Inclusive

Reimagined

At

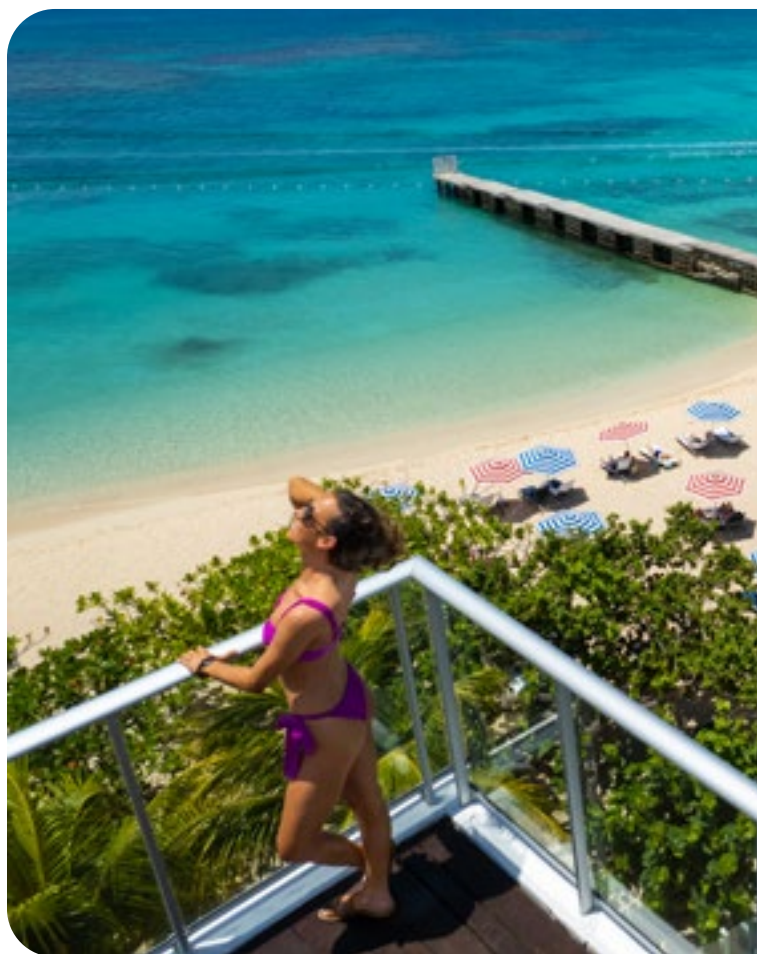
S Hotel

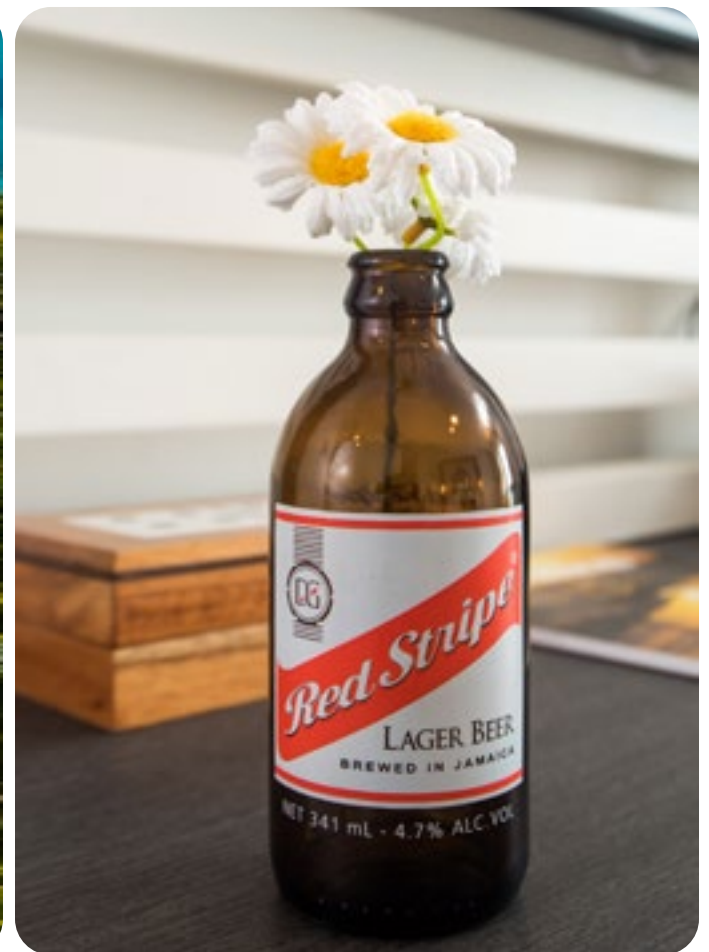
By Peta Phipps





Having been to some of the very best all inclusive resorts and non-all inclusive resorts around the globe, I must say that I tend to be extremely discerning. Visiting S Hotel this year came just at the right time. Needing a little R&R before delving back into the fray of a hectic travel month, I thought that slipping S Hotel in would be the perfect respite that I was seeking. The last time I visited, the hotel was in its pre-opening days. I remembered the vision of Christopher Issa, the owner, being conveyed to me as we walked (briskly) through the matte white walls that rose above the famed “Hip Strip” of Montego Bay. It was a bright idea to create the hotel’s foundation as a blank canvas. Once you visit you’ll see exactly why. It not only lets the guests have a perfect backdrop to the glistening Caribbean Sea but allows the artwork that is rampant throughout the property to pop and stand out. Uniquely Jamaican statuary and art pieces are everywhere. The sense of place is unmistakable and as a Jamaican, I smiled at every turn. National heroes, and iconic legends pointed the way to my next S Hotel moment. Sometimes literally pointing as in the Nanny of the Maroons, the first and foremost leader of the Windward Maroons of Jamaica, an autonomous community of self-emancipated, formerly enslaved people. Seeing her statue point me in the direction of the elevator was very fitting. I was there to emancipate myself from what Bob Marley could easily have been referring to as “mental slavery” where my every thought was filled with the next step at work. His statue, Mr. Robert-Nesta Marley was also moving us along. Guitar in hand, right leg off the ground, his dreads cascading down his denim-clad shoulder was motivation for us to get up, stand up, and head right for the Irie Baths. These cleverly crafted grotto pools in a dimly lit underground setting helped me ease my way into the day. The series of three pools, each having its own temperature is designed as a hydrotherapy experience for guests. Since you have to make a reservation just to secure a time slot to use the bath, there’s never a fear of overcrowding or feeling like a swimming pool. This is a very intimate and tranquil experience. The design is deliberate. The intention is to have you grounded in what surrounds this hotel. The beach upon which S hotel is built is called Doctor’s Cave Beach. The spring fed waters of this beach, just steps outside of these baths, have been known for their healing properties. You feel that sense of healing within these walls.







HISTORY –according to the beach club itself. “It began in 1906 when Dr. Alexander James McCatty generously donated his beach property to found a bathing club in Montego Bay. The Club got its name because it was used by Dr. McCatty and his friends, who were mainly from the medical profession and at that time, they entered the tiny beach through a cave. The cave, however, was destroyed by a hurricane in 1932. The water which is crystal clear has a temperature range, winter and summer, from 78 to 84 degrees Fahrenheit, 22 to 28 Celcius.

In the end of early 1920’s, Sir Herbert Barker, a famous British Osteopath, visited the beach and later published an article boosting it by declaring that the waters have curative powers and that he was restored to good health after bathing there. He said the waters could cure several ailments. This heightened the allure of the beach and Doctor’s Cave became famous overnight as foreigners,

many rich and famous, came to try the water. Hotels were built in the immediate vicinity and thus began the tourist trade. We are a lot more than just a great beach. We are located in the middle of Montego Bay’s ‘Hip Strip.’”

You are immersed in Jamaica at S Hotel. Luxury is not spared while offering guests a totally Jamaican experience. I know that phrase can conjure up numerous images for each person reading the story. As a Jamaican though, I can tell you what it means to me. It means you are experiencing the authentic Jamaica. There are certain tastes, smells, colors, and textures that I associate with my childhood, growing up in Jamaica. Those to me are the real Jamaica. A specific shade of green that is undeniably JA. The smell of the rain as it begins to drift over the mountain top and head your way. This is Jamaica. There’s a way of turning every song into a revised reggae hit–this is Jamaica. The taste of the food (beyond jerk) lets you know it’s really Jamaican.



Looking back on the first meeting and tour that I had of this hotel and it's infancy, I recall sitting in what is now called Rocksteady, with Mr. Issa and his team including Andres Cope. There was brainstorming going on, debates on whether to make the resort all inclusive or not, but the one common thread that kept stitching everything together was authentic luxury. Now, sitting in the very same space, the fine dining restaurant called Rocksteady that offers a feast for the senses, I see the manifestation of Mr. Issa's vision. This dining establishment offers classics with freshly sourced Jamaican ingredients. A white baby grand piano is being played while dinner is served in this reservations only establishment. The white leather seating, pristine against the black walls, proudly holding framed artwork by the famed Jamaican artist Michael Thompson. The natural coral stone pillars shooting up through the white ceiling are the same natural stone found in the Irie Baths and throughout

the hotel; local coral stone for the local feel. Remember that specific shade of green I mentioned? Hopefully you can see it in your mind's eye. It's the one from the flag, the same one when you see the Rasta colors for red, green, and gold. It's painted on pushcarts, wooden signs, zinc siding, and one of the great things about it is it gives me a sense of place. Scenes of classic Jamaica painted on zinc, lining the walls of this restaurant on the roof deck keep you grounded in the destination. Serving up authentic Jamaican classics, ackee and saltfish, jerk chicken, and oxtail and more, all with the innovative S twist in this artful space. This Rohan Blair-designed restaurant is a celebration of the island's musical heritage and showcases some of the country's most influential personalities. You really cannot get more Jamaican without hitting the streets. That's the luxury of this place. You need not do that. The essence of Jamaica is found here at S.

Bobbing in the clear warm waters of the Caribbean and looking back at the white structure against the blue sky we glance up and spot our suite. Taking in the hotel from this vantage point is just as glorious as being within its walls. From the tranquil sea, the brilliant red umbrellas on the pool deck pop. The glass-walled pool on the roof is an inviting exclamation mark from any angle but from below, the cube of floating water beckons. Answering the call and venturing up to the glass encased pool surrounded by a broad wood planked deck overlooking the Caribbean Sea, this pool is a glorious testament to Jamaica being called land of wood and water by its original inhabitants. At every turn and from every angle, S Hotel captures Jamaica.

What is island life without delving into island nightlife, you ask? The answer is Club S! This isn't your typical club dolled up and housed within the confines of your resort. This is the epitome of a Jamaican club. Guests of the hotel are invited to partake in a truly immersive Jamaican nightlife experience. When we asked the concierge where Club S located, he pointed out towards the guard gate and said, "It's just over there." Pointing towards the guard gate. When we approach the guard gate and asked about the club yet again, he politely motioned us toward what looked like the entry to a shopping plaza. In true Jamaican fashion, there was no big sign on the door, and there was a well-dressed gentleman standing at the ready to open the door for us. He had seen us come directly from the hotel and knew exactly what we were looking for, and what that was was a good night out. As the door swung open and the reggae tunes drew us in to what can only be described as a perfect replica of local Jamaican dance club, my jaw dropped, and turned to my husband, and said, "This is legit." The deliberate lean-to feel with plywood walls, made to look dusty, a single bar area, stacked speakers against one wall, two intimate upstairs areas to overlook the dancefloor make this one of the best Jamaican nightclubs I have encountered in decades. S puts its stamp on everything it touches and that indelible stamp is authentic luxury. Say it with me, authentic luxury! Not sure if you read this piece wondering just how I feel about the Small Luxury Hotel, but I love it here! Well done Christopher Issa and team.

The land of wood and water. Seen as you enter the lobby, enter your suite, swim, eat, and sway to the beat.

www.shotelmontegobay.com/





HOTEL
MONTEGO BAY



WWW.SHOTELMONTEGOBAY.COM



St. Kitts



Discover the thrill awaiting you in St. Kitts this season with the island’s “Summer of Fun”! Immerse yourself in the rhythmic beats of the vibrant 26th Annual St. Kitts Music Festival, indulge in the culinary excellence of St. Kitts and Nevis Restaurant Week, featuring local ingredients like papaya, and explore the island’s lush landscapes with opportunities for hiking through verdant rainforests and diving in crystal-clear waters. With expanded flight options from American and Delta Airlines, your journey to this serene paradise has never been easier.

Flight Expansion Details

St. Kitts welcomes increased connectivity with expanded American and Delta Airlines flight offerings. In anticipation of the highly anticipated St. Kitts Music Festival, American Airlines will boost service with two flights per day on select dates in June 2024, catering to festival-goers seeking to join the vibrant music and culture.

In addition to the expanded service from Miami, American Airlines will maintain flights from Charlotte and JFK airports throughout the summer until August 31, 2024, with service resuming on November 2, 2024, after a brief hiatus. This summer, larger aircraft will be deployed on St. Kitts’ routes, starting with daily flights from Miami and weekly Saturday flights from Charlotte.

Effective December 5, 2024, American Airlines will introduce two daily flights from Miami through March 31, 2025, providing increased accessibility to St. Kitts

Delta Airlines will also contribute to the enhanced airlift, operating a weekly Saturday flight from JFK Airport, starting December 21, 2024, through April 19, 2025, providing travelers with another convenient option to experience St. Kitts and the exhilarating Music Festival.

St. Kitts’ skies are buzzing with excitement as American and Delta Airlines pave the way for unforgettable adventures.

St. Kitts and Nevis Restaurant Week: A Culinary Extravaganza

Indulge in the culinary delights of St. Kitts and Nevis during the highly anticipated Restaurant Week, taking place from July 11 to July 21, 2024. This annual event celebrates the best of local cuisine and cooking, offering visitors and locals with specially curated menus inspired by a distinctive local ingredient. This year, the spotlight shines on the papaya, renowned for its luscious sweetness and vibrant taste profile.

Restaurant Week isn’t just about enjoying delicious meals; it’s also a time to celebrate local talent and culinary artistry. This year’s festivities will include Grill Fest, a thrilling competition between local grillers hosted at the picturesque Frigate Bay Lawn. Guests can witness the competition as grill masters showcase their skills and creativity, incorporating papaya into their dishes. Events include:



St. Kitts Tasting Showcase: Experience the unique dishes and culinary delights of Restaurant Week at the St. Kitts Tasting Showcase. This event invites guests to savor the best offerings from local restaurateurs.

Grill Fest: This event has all of the delicious dishes. As the island’s grill masters get to work, guests can stroll the grounds, enjoy live music, and savor sizzling delicacies served straight off the BBQ.

A Taste of Twilight: The Restaurant Week concludes with A Taste of Twilight, an evening event highlighting farm-to-table dining with innovative dishes centered around the featured ingredient. Adding to the excitement, special guest Nadege Fleurimond—a renowned chef, author, and culinary entrepreneur—will join the festivities. Chef Nadege will host, judge, and provide special presentations, bringing a touch of culinary expertise and excitement to the event.





26th Annual St. Kitts Music Festival: Unparalleled Musical Lineup

The countdown to the highly anticipated 26th Annual St. Kitts Music Festival intensifies with an extraordinary lineup of musical acts. One of the spotlight performers at this year's festival is the legendary Mary J. Blige, a nine-time Grammy-winning superstar celebrated for chart-toppers like "Family Affair" and "Be Without You." Joining her are international and local stars, including 450, Freddie Jackson, Adam O, Pumpa, Nadia Batson, Kerwin Du Bois, Asa Bantan, Busy Signal, Kabaka Pyramid, Capleton, Masicka, Remone Watson, Nicholas Brancker Band, Ton Rebel, and Brianna D.

The St. Kitts Music Festival will take place from June 22 to June 30, 2024, at the Warner Park Stadium, solidifying itself not only as the top music festival in the Caribbean but also among the best in the world for Soul, Soca, Jazz, R&B, Reggae and more. Festival-goers can expect a diverse musical lineup that bridges cultures and genres uniting A-list musicians, island visitors, and locals for a memorable celebration of culture and entertainment.

Incredible Festival Highlights and Activities

In addition to the stellar musical lineup, festival-goers can indulge in dozens of bonus events and activities throughout

the week. From beach parties and lunchtime concerts to exclusive boat rides, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Concluding the eventful week is the unforgettable White Sands Mardi Gras party at Carambola Beach Club on Sunday, June 30, from 4:00 pm to midnight. This iconic event promises to be a major highlight of the festival weekend, featuring a White Swimsuit Competition and performances by an array of local and international talent.

Whether it's awe-inspiring performances that raise the spirits or high-energy sets that keep attendees dancing all night, the St. Kitts Music Festival promises non-stop entertainment that will last deep into the night.

Beyond the Music: Explore St. Kitts' Hidden Gems

While the St. Kitts Music Festival serves as the centerpiece of summer entertainment, the island encourages travelers to discover more between festival events. St. Kitts boasts a treasure trove of experiences that await exploration, from hidden cultural gems to adrenaline-pumping adventures.

Caribelle Batik: No visit to St. Kitts is complete without exploring the Historic Romney Manor and its pristine gardens, featuring an over 300-year-old SAMAN tree.



The manor is now home to Caribelle Batik, where visitors witness the fascinating process of batik production. Caribelle Batik, established in 1976, has become the Caribbean's most sought-after batik textiles, distinctively designed and reflecting the essence of the island's heritage.

Diving: Scuba divers of all ages and abilities delight in St. Kitts' glorious underwater world, with many sites virtually unexplored. Bordered by the Caribbean and the Atlantic, the island offers a range of options, from near-shore reefs to subaquatic caves. Crystal-clear underwater visibility offers stunning views of walls, ledges, underhangs, coral towers, and sunken ships teeming with sea life.

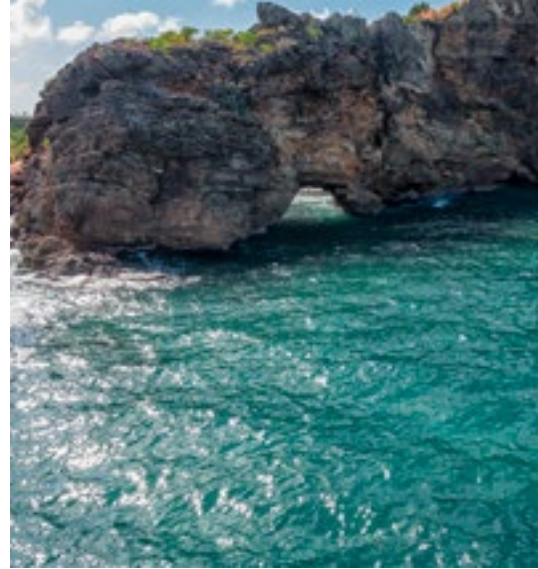
Hiking: Embark on captivating hiking trails that traverse dormant volcanoes, verdant rainforests, and challenging mountain trails. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned adventurer, exploring the island's secluded coves and picturesque waterfalls offers an unparalleled experience.

Kittitian RumMaster Program: Discover the essence of St. Kitts' cultural heritage with the Kittitian RumMaster Program, a three-hour tour perfect for both rum connoisseurs and novices. The excursion provides a unique opportunity to

learn from industry experts and enjoy hands-on experiences. **First Stop – Wingfield Estate:** Start the day at the Caribbean's oldest rum distillery, Wingfield Estate. Engage in the fascinating history of Old Road Rum and discover traditional production methods and diverse flavor profiles. Conclude your visit by labeling your own bottle of rum.

Second Stop – Spice Mill: Continue to the home of Hibiscus Spirits, where you'll learn the art of crafting spiced rum. Savor the unique flavors, particularly the locally grown and handpicked Roselle Hibiscus calyx, a key ingredient in Hibiscus Spirits.

Explore St. Kitts: Up to 2 Nights Free + \$100 Resort Credit
Discover the beauty of St. Kitts with this special offer. Guests can enjoy up to two complimentary nights and a \$100 resort credit when booking at participating resorts. Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture, pristine beaches, and lush landscapes of St. Kitts. This offer is available for bookings made by September 1, 2024, for travel between April 13, 2024, and September 3, 2024. Find additional information on the offer, please go to [visitst Kitts.com](https://www.visitst Kitts.com), and click "Plan Your Trip."



St. Maarten is

A LOT!



A visit to this double-barreled island nation means the opportunity to visit the Dutch side of the island, part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the northern side of the island, a part of the French Republic, without border patrol doing additional passport checks. Besides a flag and sign posted on the side of the road, there is no noticing you've changed countries. Walk, drive, jog, or swim between these two nations effortlessly. So why stay where? Why pick sides? These choices are personal and made for a myriad of reasons.

What we experienced while staying on the Dutch side and popping over to the French for dinner one evening was a lot. Determined to experience the influence of Europe in a Caribbean setting, we set out to see what this side of paradise was all about. A little bit of pre-arrival research said there were more than 120 nationalities living on the island. Our guide mentioned that there were about 140. Truly, does it matter when you get to those types of numbers? What it said to me was St. Maarten was going to be about a lot of things. From the highest peak on this side of the island is The Flying Dutchman, where the main attraction is the steepest zipline in the world, dropping about 1,050 feet. In this context, dropping should be read zipping! From this viewpoint, you see the island laid out below you. What you may not see is how the melding of

these 100-plus nationalities blend together. For that, we recommend taking to the streets.

To get a real taste of a destination, we find answers in the flavors. On this island, we ventured out to a lolo, a lolo is a small, traditional restaurant (about 300 square feet). What we discovered was a reflection of the number of multinational inhabitants we were told about. Stopping for Doubles, the most popular street food in Trinidad, staring out at the multitude of lolos, we saw the eclectic mixture that is the backbone of St. Maarten. Dutch, Afro-Caribbean, Indian, Chinese, Spanish cuisine, and more, are authentic and at your fingertips. We went on to explore Phillipsburg, St. Maarten's capital and heartbeat of the island. It's one of our favorite spots on the island. Strolling along Front Street is a pastime in itself. Shopping, shopping, shopping is the name of the game on Front Street. Some come for t-shirts, nick knacks, sarongs, and salad tongs. I come for the array of jewelry and the best duty-free prices I have come across on any island. The discounts are deep, and the abundance of designers is remarkable. It's a lot to take in, but well worth the time. We left with some great pieces at unbelievable prices. Not to sound like a television commercial about steals and deals, but, wow!



There's a lot to do and to take in on this side of the island. We went to a local school and took a Steel Pan Lesson with Mighty Dow. Here, again, we were shown the diversity of St. Maarten. Originating in Trinidad and Tobago, the steel pan is probably the Caribbean's most recognizable instrument. We were taught how to play the steel pan by the legend himself, Mighty Dow. He is a son of the soil; St. Maarten's famed steel pan artist - who founded Dow's Musical Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to preserving and showcasing the art of steel pan through lessons, workshops, events. If you can catch one of his lessons, it is highly recommended that you jump on the opportunity. This was a fun and interactive experience.

We learned to play "Hot Hot Hot", a globally recognized song written and first recorded by Montserratian musician Arrow. If he could teach us, you know he's pretty good. We were a handful, and a lot for him to handle. With music in our heads, and a pep in our step we chipped over to the We Culture Museum Experience, where we saw a lot of Carnival costumes and learned about the meaning behind some, and the evolution from fully covered to modest nudity. The vibrant history of Carnival at the world's first Caribbean Carnival experience - We Culture was a lot to take in and so much fun. The brand-new museum took us on a journey, cocktail in hand, with a 60-minute guided exploration of artwork, costumes and hands-on interactive activities



where we felt the magic of Carnival come alive. We even left with a memento that is most likely going to make an appearance this halloween. I'm putting this item away until then because finding something to match and wear on the bottom may be a challenge, unless we go the route of body paint. Stay tuned for the update on that.

On another adventure in St. Maarten, we took to the Caribbean Sea and saw a lot. Aquamania Adventures, a local shop with several locations on the island provides water excursions, from snorkeling trips and sunset sails, to day trips to neighboring islands as well as scuba diving trips. We took on snorkeling through the newest underwater

sculpture park. The Under Sint Maarten Sculpture Park is a breath-taking new attraction, in Divi Little Bay, St. Maarten. These sculptures were all made from molds of actual residents of the island. Swimming through this sculpture garden was a lot of fun. The Scantilly clad carnival dancers were probably my favorite, where we could see sea urchins attaching themselves and some very provocative and promiscuous ways. It's hard to laugh with a snorkel in your mouth, but somehow we all came up with smiles at the stories. There's a lot more to this underwater adventure, we recommend that you take it in on your next visit to St. Maarten.



Where we stayed, where we ate:

JW Marriott St. Maarten Beach Resort and Spa

Located on the quieter side of St. Maarten on Dawn Beach, for those who want an experience that's elevated and a touch on the quiet side. The hotel offers a range of luxurious suites, including some with a private, ocean-front plunge pool for an intimate getaway. The hotel offers a variety of onsite amenities. From a cooking school and daily activities like yoga, to a luxurious spa and three restaurants. The hotel's location is also ideal, on the Dutch side of the island, it's also easily accessible to the French side and some very cool areas such as Orient Bay. We had a fabulous and entertaining dinner there at L'Atelier. When you go, you cannot miss the owner. He reads the four foot menu to each table while holding it atop a wooden easel. His strong French accent and descriptive notes on each dish leave you drooling. His name is Alexander Deglise.

www.marriott.com
www.latelier-sxm.com



The Morgan Resort & Spa offers a more vibey, playful experience. If you are looking for this atmosphere either before or after a more tranquil escape at Dawn Bay, this is the spot. This hotel is walking distance to the well known Maho Beach, where planes take off and land just overhead, and easy access to nightlife. It has an oceanfront, insta-worthy infinity pool and live entertainment multiple nights a week.

www.themorganresort.com

St. Maarten...It's a lot!





Caribbean Living

IT'S AN ATTITUDE™

Jewelry

Clothing

Accessories

Attitude

*Shop our collections
on Instagram and Facebook*



@CaribbeanLivingStore



@Caribbean_Living_Store



A Classic

ROUND HILL JAMAICA





Out of the countless stories written about this legendary property, the common thread remains, its timeless elegance. Round Hill, those two little words have such resonance, globally. It can be quite intimidating to write about legends. Since 1953, the collection of luxury villas and exquisitely appointed ocean-view rooms and suites, has welcomed travelers of a certain caliber. Celebrity guests roam the property undisturbed from diving into their best vacation at this resort. Guests who don't happen to be movie stars, top athletes, royalty, television personalities, designers, your above average millionaires, or what have you, do quite well fitting right in at the property. It could be that the staff has seen it all and is so well trained and well versed in hospitality but no matter what Walk of Life, you are going to be well taken care of here. I've been coming to this Resort for over 22 years and with all the upgrades to the amenities and outfitting the property with things like refillable water bottles in each suite and water filling stations throughout the property, none of these modern-day necessities are garish or glaring. The sensibility of Round Hill remains the same. Seeing friendly faces and being welcomed home is a remarkable experience. Upon checking in this time someone at the front desk said, "Everything has changed." For the life of me I couldn't understand why they would say that. I like the old Round Hill. I like the classical elements that took me back in time and captured an era that appeared, in black and white images, to be simpler, and swankier than anything encountered these days. Inside I silently wept. The large circular mahogany entry table was the same. The polished wood reception desk looked unchanged, and when I was handed the key to my suite, the brass oval keychain with the pineapple logo was still the very same. Surely, she couldn't mean the refresh on the signature green and white striped awnings. Fabric always needs to be updated, so, I would not say the crisp new awnings were not a "change", but rather the sign of a well taken care of resort.





As we walked down the black and white checkered steps, our view of the beach opened up. The call of the sea gently lapping at the crescent-shaped beach was strong, but in keeping with the tradition of not swimming in the clothes we stepped off the plane in, we hustled to our oceanfront balcony room and changed. Along the short path to our room we passed the resident artisan Richard Straw Boss, a renowned local artisan who weaves some of the island's finest baskets and handbags right on the lawn at Round Hill. He's another staple with a warm, "Welcome back!" and a wave, we feel even more at home. The simple acts of genuine warmth and incomparable hospitality make a vacation at Round Hill unmistakable and unparalleled.

We used to take Cottage 18 on this property for many years and the ladies who were the staff of that villa had been

working there for decades. The former director of sales and marketing had also worked there for decades and knew us by name. These stalwarts are the gatekeepers to the most laid-back luxurious vacation one may ever take. Josef Forstmayr, the managing director, is beyond comparison. You can find him strolling the property, with a keen eye on the grounds and the guests, ensuring every detail is as it should be and the guest experience is on point. Matter of fact, he had inspected our room just before arrival and left a handwritten note welcoming us back. We actually saw him post the room inspection on Instagram, not knowing it was ours until we arrived. Talk about melding the classic standard of superior hospitality with the new technology. Round Hill will never cease to amaze on every level.







Talk about telling stories...the Ralph Lauren Bar, named after the designer who also happens to be one of the notable residents of Round Hill, has more stories to tell than any other nook on the property. Slip into a cozy corner for a classic cocktail while the pianist tickles the ivories and gaze at the black and white photographs in their original frames and you're immediately drawn into an era of swank and style. The swimming costumes, grinning faces, and the recognisable appearance of relaxed luxury jumps out at you. After reemerging from the captivated grasp of the past, you soon realize that you are indeed making the same indelible images and memories for future generations. Even if your images never hang on these hallowed walls, memories made at Round Hill become instant classics. The resort is crawling with nostalgia. The beach bar, built around a thriving almond tree, has been there since the

start and only gets better with age. Stewart tends to the bar as though it were a child of his and takes just as good a care of those who visit him for a libation or two. The rafts anchored just off shore are a great sunbathing and people watching spot. Here, there is not the type of people watching one might do in a busy city or in Hollywood on the hunt for stars. It's the sort where you make connections. The rafts are a sort of gathering spot to strike up conversation while chilling in the sea. I do not believe that has changed one bit since 1953. Lifelong friendships have been made on this golden sand beach. We can personally attest to that.

The spa holds the same warmth and charm as the rest of the resort. The Welcome Wharf, home to the spa is an 18th-century home, meticulously renovated on over ten acres of lawn that leads to an intimate private beach. This beach is



one of our favorite for collecting seaglass, a secret shared with only a few until now. Setting foot onto this adults-only area of the property is transformative. This, before ever having a treatment. We love grounding ourselves by kicking off our sandals and stepping on to the zoysia grass, dotted with fallen almonds from the shade trees strewn across the lawn. This coupled with the gentle sea breeze and the sound of rolling waves gently tumbling the rocks on this side of the resort are enough to make us melt into the next level of relaxation. We can't do that just yet, as treatments await. Although we elected to have our services in air conditioned rooms, the tranquility of our previous outdoor experience would not be disturbed. Our new emersion was waiting from the moment we stepped into the treatment rooms complemented with a cold glass of champagne and lovely chocolates. Can we say decadent indulgent relaxation? We

absolutely can. From the 18th century to the 21st century, some things never change. This former residence was built purposefully on this piece of land for all the attributes it has to offer today. A calming, grounding, station by the sea. We are thankful for that and for its enduring existence.

As a matter of fact, we are thankful for all of the elements that make up this classic. Come once and Round Hill will never leave your soul. Come back again and it will become a part of your life and lifestyle. Timeless elegance never goes out of style.

www.roundhill.com



CREDITS

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Page 4
The Strand

CHECK IN & CHILL OUT CHILL TIME IN AMACO

Pages 5-10
David Blair

JAMAICA REVISITED ALL INCLUSIVE REIMAGINED AT S HOTEL

Pages 12-18
S Hotel

ST. KITTS

Pages 20-25
St Kitts and Nevis Tourism

ST. MAARTEN IS A LOT

Pages 26-29
St. Maarten Tourist Bureau

Page 29
Under SXM

Page 30
JW Marriott St. Maarten Beach Resort and Spa

Page 30
The Morgan Resort & Spa

A CLASSIC ROUND HILL JAMAICA

Pages 32-39
Round Hill Hotel and Villas

full page

u see me

half page

Digital or print. Advertise with us. E: Publisher@CaribbeanLivingMagazine.com

SWANKY

R E T R E A T S

TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE OBVIOUS

A person with long, dark, wet hair is floating in the ocean, viewed from behind. Their arms are outstretched, and their hair is draped over their back. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue with some clouds. In the distance, there are some rocky islands or reefs.

Pick up a copy
or subscribe today!

www.SwankyRetreats.com