

THE LATEST: HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, SPAS, POOLS, GOLF & MORE!

CARIBBEAN

TRAVEL+LIFE

16 PERFECT HIDEAWAYS TO...

Rekindle romance

Surrender to the spa

Dive into adventure

Relax on the beach P.44

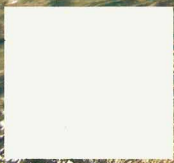


**MEXICO'S
SECRET RIVER**

**AFFORDABLE
GRAND CAYMAN**

**ST. LUCIA:
MORE TO LOVE**

**GRENADA'S
TIMELESS
ISLAND CHARM**





LATEST & GREATEST

THIS WINTER, YOUR FAVORITE CARIBBEAN DESTINATIONS WILL BE SHOWING OFF A BEVY OF NEW AND IMPROVED HOTELS, SPAS AND RESTAURANTS. HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO PLAN YOUR NEXT GREAT GETAWAY. **BY BECKY STRAUSS**

Below: It's been around since 1887, but Barbados' Crane Resort has a decidedly 21st-century sensibility, with private plunge pools that overlook spectacular vistas. Bottom: In Antigua, book one of Jumby Bay's 28 plush new suites and enjoy stunning sunsets on the 300-acre private-island resort. Opposite: 100 acres of exclusivity at Antigua's St. James's Club & Villas.



ANGUILLA

The luxe but low-key **CuisinArt Resort & Spa** (profiled on page 50) recently added a trio of three-bedroom beachfront villas, each featuring a courtyard, patio and pool. Set to open this month are three five-bedroom garden-view villas, which can be booked in a variety of configurations to suit the size of your group. **Deal alert:** Choose the resort's three-night Magnificent Villa Escape package (available through December 18) and you'll get a fourth night free; make a five-night reservation and get two more nights free. *From \$2,800* for a beachfront villa in low season (\$4,400 high); \$3,200 for a garden villa (\$5,300 high). 800-943-3210; cuisinartresort.com*

Viceroy Anguilla Resort & Residences

opens this month with 166 beachfront and blufftop villas and town homes set amid 35 acres. The resort fronts 3,200 feet of beach along Barnes and Meads bays, and each of the villas has a host of eclectic accents — driftwood lamps, petrified-wood tables, hammered metalwork from India, beaded artwork from Africa and fine textiles from all over the world. The resort also boasts a Pan-Asian inspired restaurant, three infinity pools and an 8,000-square-foot spa. *From \$495 in low season (\$995 high). 866-270-7798; viceroyanguilla.com*

ANTIGUA

Just in time for high season, the **Inn at English Harbour** puts the finishing touches on a \$1.5 million renovation. Each of the colonial-style inn's 28 rooms now features modern touches such as flat-screen TVs, iPod docking stations and Wi-Fi access; the beachfront bistro has been remodeled and expanded; and there's also a new spa. **Deal alert:** Visit during November and receive complimentary three-course dinners for your entire stay. *From \$450 in low season (\$600 high). 268-460-1014; theinn.gy*

Last summer, the all-inclusive **St. James's Club & Villas** added 50 waterfront Royal Suites to the resort, which dominates a 100-acre peninsula on Antigua's southern coast. The new 568-square-foot rooms feature sunken living rooms, wet bars, floor-to-ceiling windows, private balconies, and bathrooms with soaking tubs and his and hers showers. *From*

\$520 all-inclusive per room, per night in low season (\$625 high). 866-237-2071; stjamesclubantigua.com

Find out what a difference \$28 million can make when **Jumby Bay**, an exclusive, 300-acre private-island resort, opens its doors this month. There's Sense, a Rosewood Spa, as well as a new open-air restaurant that offers a full menu of cooking classes. All of the resort's 40 rooms have had a face-lift, and there are 28 new suites with stone floors, vaulted ceilings and mahogany furniture. *From \$950 in low season (\$1,395 high). 888-767-3966; jumbybayresort.com*

BAHAMAS

The recently shuttered Four Seasons resort on Great Exuma Island in the Bahamas will become **Sandals Emerald Bay** in January. The 500-acre property already features a championship Greg Norman golf course and deep-water marina; Sandals will add two new restaurants and a new pool, and each of the 190 oceanfront suites will offer butler service. *From \$648 all-inclusive per person in low season (\$735 high). 800-726-3257; sandals.com*

BARBADOS

The venerable **Crane Resort & Residences** has been around since 1887, but the hotel isn't resting on its laurels. This year it unveiled the new Crane Village inspired by 18th-century Bajan architecture. There's a reception and lounge area, plus a gym, conference facility, private theater, and a variety of shops, restaurants and bars. *From \$357 in low season (\$756 high). 246-423-6220; thecrane.com*

BELIZE

The only thing that remains of the old **Machaca Hill**, near Punta Gorda, is the foundation; everything from the main lodge to the treehouse casitas has received a luxe renovation, and there's also a new riverside dining area and hill-top spa. Public areas are adorned with local Maya artwork; rooms offer floor-to-ceiling views of the surrounding rainforest canopy; and the Jabulani Spa, inspired by traditional Maya design, features sustainably sourced Belizean hardwoods. Local becomes focal with spa treatments that incorporate natural Belizean ingredi-