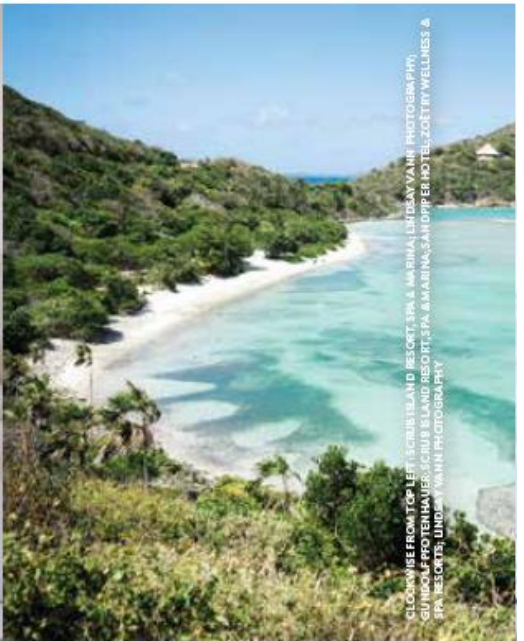




Whether you're planning a super sexy **honeymoon**, an **adults-only** getaway, or a **sleep in late**, the Caribbean is primed and get ready to reconnect at these **romantic retreats**

Rom

Clockwise from top left: Lounging at Scrub Island Resort, BVI. Sangria in St. John. Dining à deux at Turtle Inn, Belize. Sandals Resort, Saint Lucia. Sunset on Scrub Island. Sofia's Beach House at Turtle Inn. Smooching on St. John. A secret beach on Scrub



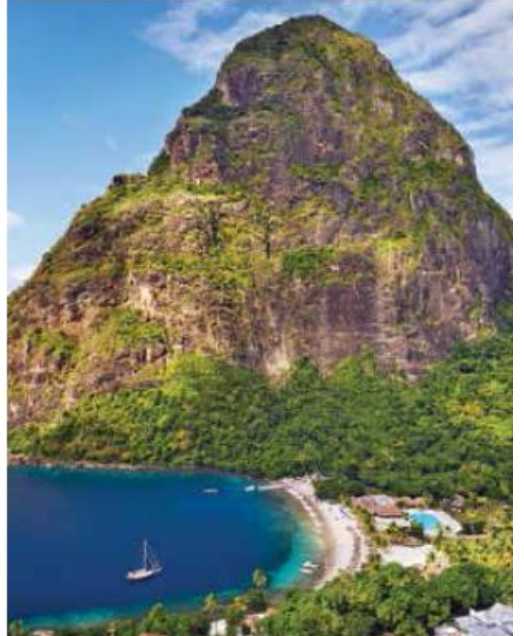
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SCRUB ISLAND RESORT, SPA & MARINA, LINDSAY VAHR PHOTOGRAPHY; GUNDOLF PROTEHAUER; SCRUB ISLAND RESORT, SPA & MARINA, SANDRIPPEL PHOTO; TURTLE INN & SPA RESORTS, LINDSAY VAHR PHOTOGRAPHY



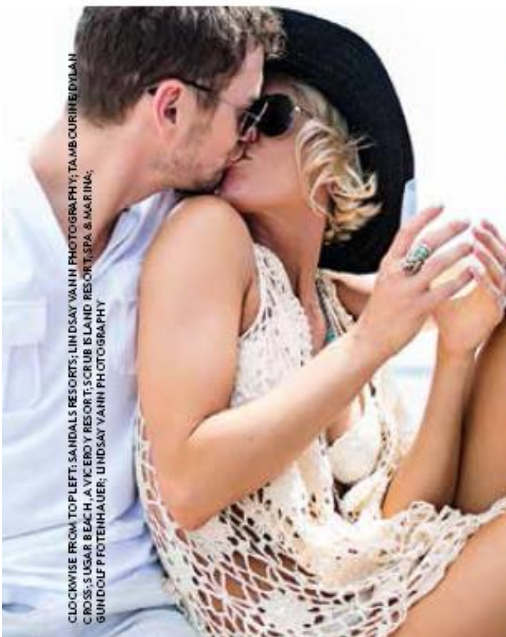
anniversary celebration or simply a chance to get away for **love**. Pack your slinkiest skivvies, switch off your phone, with spas, dining and adventures built especially **for two**.

BY **CARRIE BELL**

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has perfected the adults-only concept. Wet and wild in St. John. Eats at Zemi Beach House, Anguilla. Sugar Beach, a Viceroy Island. Plush bedding at Sandpiper Hotel, Barbados. Private dining at Zoetry Agua Punta Cana. About town in St. John.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SANDALS RESORTS; LINDSAY YAHN PHOTOGRAPHY; TAMBUKURIN/DYLAN CROSS; SUGAR BEACH, A VICEROY RESORT; SCRUB ISLAND RESORT; SPA & MARINA; GUNDOLF FOTENHAUER; LINDSAY YAHN PHOTOGRAPHY



Get Away From it All

CARIBBEAN HOSPITALITY PROS TAKE FIVE ROMANCE-TRAVEL FALLACIES TO TASK, FREEING YOU TO PRACTICE YOUR FROM HERE TO ETERNITY KISS ON A ROMANTIC RENDEZVOUS IN PARADISE.

MYTH #1 ADULTS-ONLY IS THE ONLY WAY TO GO

“No matter which type of resort you visit, there are many ways to find your own slice of romantic paradise,” says Markus Laahanen, general manager of **Zemi Beach House** in Anguilla. “Even where children are welcome, couples can find secluded spots — like Zemi’s suites with private plunge pools — or book experiences for two, like a sandbar picnic or a couples spa treatment.” You can also look for resorts with adults-only floors and pools. If littles are coming with, use the kids club to get some alone time. *Zemi Beach House* from \$369.

MYTH #2 PRIVATE ISLANDS ARE RESERVED FOR THE 1 PERCENT

With their built-in seclusion and exclusivity, private-island resorts exude romance. “People often

think an experience like this is unobtainable, but a one-of-a-kind private-island vacation with high-quality amenities and unlimited activities is within reach,” assures Nancy Williams, director of sales at **Scrub Island Resort, Spa & Marina** in the BVI, where Marriott Rewards members can use hotel points to book. “Guests can snorkel at iconic natural attractions and escape from the normal crowded, ‘cookie-cutter’ vacation, all for a reasonable price.” *Scrub Island Resort* from \$308.

MYTH #3 YOU’LL ONLY TOAST YOUR LOVE WITH RUM

Yes, you’ll consume your fair share of daiquiris, but rum is far from the only spirit served in the Caribbean. Many hotels have upped their craft-beer, wine and cocktail game, occasionally offering exclusive sips. In Saint Lucia, **Capella Marigot Bay Resort** teamed up with

SCRUB ISLAND RESORT, SPA & MARINA

SPAS AT SUNSET

Things get extra-steamy at hotels with p.m. pampering.

NEVIS

Turn the spa garden at **Four Seasons Resort Nevis** into your private Eden. Sip included champers while soaking in a volcanic-stone whirlpool. *Two hours from \$250 per couple.*

ANTIGUA

Curtain Bluff’s spa-takeover package includes an overnight stay on the terrace. Bask in an outdoor dinner and rubdown before slipping between the sheets. *From \$5,000.*



Clockwise from left: Lunch with a view at Scrub Island Resort, BVI. Get horizontal on a suite balcony at Sandpiper Hotel, Barbados. Zemi Beach House, Anguilla, tempts with creative cuisine like soup shots, as well as the serene Thai House Spa, featuring holistic treatments inspired by the ancient Taino people (2).

Antillia Brewing Co. and chocolatier Cocoa Carib to create Moon Bay Chocolate Stout. Patrón and the **Condado Vanderbilt** hotel in Puerto Rico created a namesake añejo tequila and custom bottle. In Belize, **Turtle Inn** offers tastings at the wine “aquarium,” the largest collection of vintages in Central America, with 1,200-plus bottles.

MYTH #4 TAKE A RAIN CHECK ON A STORM-SEASON TRYST ▶ Nobody wants it to rain on their love parade, but the Caribbean doesn’t have to be a no-fly zone from May to November. If you want to steal away rain or shine, invest in travel insurance and bank on statistics. The odds of a hurricane are slim, especially if you avoid the August/September peak, and you’ll likely experience only standard afternoon liquid sunshine. Plus, May and June boast some of the best scuba/

snorkeling visibility. Wayne D. Capaldi, managing director of **Sandpiper Hotel**, points out that Barbados, which hasn’t seen a full-blown hit since 1955, puts its best foot forward then. “During summer, the climate is ideal, and tides tend to be lower, resulting in wider beaches for long walks.” *Sandpiper Hotel* from \$490.

MYTH #5 SUNSET IS THE SEXIEST TIME OF DAY ▶ “We like to think that love does not set with the sun,” says Bernardo Bertucci, owner of **Laluna** in Grenada. “Couples can start the day off with breakfast in bed, connect with a massage in the spa or talk until sunrise in a hammock. Part of the fun is surprising guests with unexpected, unforgettable gestures.” We’d add crowd-beating dawn hikes, (nearly) nude night swimming or an all-day sail to secluded coves. *Laluna* from \$395.

PUERTO RICO

On full-moon evenings at **El Conquistador Resort**, 50-minute massages harness lunar energy by the infinity pool. The treatment also comes with daytime spa access. \$180 per person.

BERMUDA

Grotto Bay Beach Resort’s subterranean Natura Spa normally closes at 8, but the staff will grant requests for twilight treatments in the floating cabanas. *Salt Glow Scrub* from \$120 per person.

MEXICO

Slide into **Barcelo Maya Beach** spa’s salted flotation tanks that sit side by side below a dome ceiling that simulates the night sky. An hour nap in here equals five in a bed. From \$60 per person.

HOWTO

You Rang?

EXPERT HINTS FOR GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR PRIVATE HOST.

1 BE OUR GUEST Resort butlers, says Mehdi Scally, a private host at Belmont La Samanna in St. Martin, often start service before you even set foot on property. “As soon as we get the reservation, we get in touch with guests to start planning ahead of time.” They stock in-room fridges with favorites, make reservations for restaurants and excursions, toss petals on the bed and run a bath for your arrival.

2 AT YOUR SERVICE

They’ll greet guests in their home away for check-in with “a fruit platter and champagne so guests can start relaxing from the moment they walk in.” Butlers often host a resort orientation, so you know exactly where to drop the tots off for kids club in time to make morning meditation.



3 BECK AND CALL Don’t waste valuable time unpacking or packing. “On request, we make the arrangements with housekeeping” to deal with luggage, so you can handle the hammock and happy-hour situation.

4 AS YOU WISH

Butlers can ratchet up the romance, lighting candles around your plunge pool and scheduling the chef to re-create your first-date meal on the terrace. “We can arrange for flowers, musicians, chocolate, strawberries — anything our guests wish.”



5 RIGHT THIS WAY Pampering pros are also locals who know the best spots. Sometimes they’ll even act as a personal escort. Scally adds his own little touch by taking his charges on hikes “to show them the beauty of the island.”