

Long weekends made easy

CARIBBEAN

TRAVEL+LIFE

**DIVE
RIGHT
IN!**

Palm Island in
the Grenadines

P. 32

All-Inclusives

20 FAVORITE PLACES TO HAVE IT ALL!

inside

The Dominican Republic • 5 Must-Play Golf Courses
Trinidad's Man of Steel • How to Climb a Coconut Tree

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Best of the Caribbean

CT+L readers don't just like the Caribbean, they *love* it. And your 150,000 votes in our annual Best of the Caribbean Readers' Poll, endorsing the destinations, resorts, cruise lines and activities that have helped make your island fantasies reality, told us exactly how much. Check out your fellow readers' top picks over the past year – and take inspiration for your own Caribbean dreams in the months to come.



Best Destination • Friendliest Destination • Best Snorkling

Cayman Islands

What's not to love about this trio of idyllic tropical isles that boasts some of the region's best beaches, world-class dining, spectacular dive and snorkel sites and a famously friendly population eager to share it all with visitors? Whether you're sipping the original mudslide on the sandy shores of Grand Cayman's Rum Point, marveling at the underwater wonders around Cayman Brac, or enjoying the sun-drenched solitude of Little Cayman, these islands are your go-to Caribbean getaway.

Best Destination

OVERALL WINNER

Cayman Islands

FIRST RUNNER UP

Aruba

SECOND RUNNER UP

British Virgin Islands

Best Destination for Adventure

WINNER

Puerto Rico

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Belize

Jamaica

Best Destination for Snorkeling

WINNER

Cayman Islands

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Belize

British Virgin Islands

Best Island to Live On

WINNER

Tortola, BVI

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Aruba

St. John, USVI

Sexiest Destination

WINNER

Antigua

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Cancun

St. Barts

Friendliest Destination

WINNER

Cayman

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Aruba

Jamaica

Best Beach for Skinny Dipping

WINNER

Couples Tower Isle's Private Island, Ocho Rios, Jamaica

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Cupecoy Beach, St. Maarten

Hawksbill Beach, Antigua

Best Romantic Resort

WINNER

Jade Mountain, St. Lucia

HONORABLE MENTIONS

The Caves, Jamaica
Peter Island, BVI

Best Small Hotel (up to 75 rooms)

WINNER

Somerset on Grace Bay, Turks and Caicos

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Cotton Tree, Grand Cayman

Jamaica Inn, Jamaica

Best Eco Resort

WINNER

Maho Bay Camps and Concordia Eco Resort, St. John USVI

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Hamanasi, Belize
Jungle Bay Resort & Spa, Dominica

Best Luxury Resort

WINNER

Jade Mountain, St. Lucia

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Amanyara, Turks and Caicos

Peter Island, BVI

Best Mega Resort

WINNER

Atlantis, Paradise Island Bahamas

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Sonesta Maho Beach Resort and Casino

Sugar Bay Resort and Spa, St. Thomas

Best Villa Company

WINNER

St. Barth Properties

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Destination St. John Luxury Retreats

Best Family Resort

WINNER

Atlantis, Paradise Island Bahamas

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Beaches Turks and Caicos

Westin Casurina Resort & Spa, Grand Cayman

Best All-Inclusive Resort

WINNER

Beaches Turks and Caicos

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Sandals Emerald Bay, Exumas Bahamas

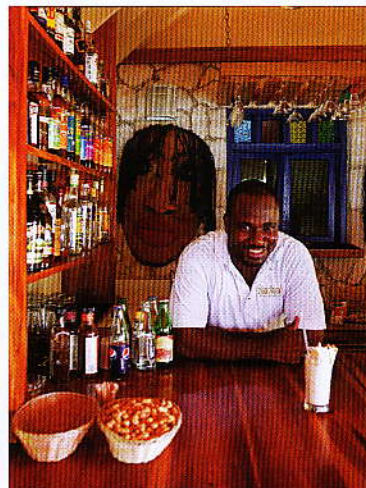
Boutique: The Caves

JAMAICA

MOONSHADOW IS OUR PAD FOR THE WEEK. IT'S A FESTIVELY PAINTED and rustically decorated wooden cottage with a cute kitchenette, a naughty outdoor shower and a balcony off the upstairs bedroom that soars over the Caribbean like the crow's-nest on a pirate ship. It's one of only a dozen one- and two-bedroom cottages at this most unusual waterfront all-inclusive hotel, and it has a distinct energy to it. Not a ghostly kind of energy, but a character-in-the-adventure vibe, the kind that prompts you to write a gushing love letter to it in the guest book by the front door and mention it by name in conversation, rather than just saying "my room."

Upstairs bedrooms, to quote the management, are "naturally ventilated," which means no air conditioning, vaulted ceilings and louvered windows all around. Let's just say it's a good way to get to know your fellow Cavers, who may be blushing at breakfast. And what a breakfast it is. Nobody does the morning meal quite like Jamaicans, and the kitchen at the Caves doesn't disappoint. Ackee and saltfish, callaloo and bammy, and a pile of sweet local fruits with fanciful names like naseberry and custard apple. Superb. Eat up; they don't serve this stuff at Denny's.

The Caves, just down the coast from Negril's famous Rick's Cafe, is named for the immense grottoes that open up below the limestone cliffs atop which it is perched. There's no beach here, but there is some of the world's most astonishing water. It's warm and transparent and bristling with fishies of all sorts. And at key spots along the clifftop, cutouts in the stone wall reveal small platforms from which the brave can leap into space and — 30, 40, 50 feet later — plunge into the sea. Be one of those people. March back to Moonshadow, don your swimsuit and stride confidently to the nearest chink in the wall. Now: *One ... two ... three!* From \$445, 800-688-7678; islandoutpost.com — MATT PHENIX



MORE

Rendezvous, St. Lucia

With a 150-year-old giant saman tree as its dramatic centerpiece, this 100-room couples-only charmer fronts lovely Malabar Beach — two miles of white sand on the island's northwest corner. From \$218, 800-544-2883; theromanticholiday.com

Montpelier Plantation, Nevis

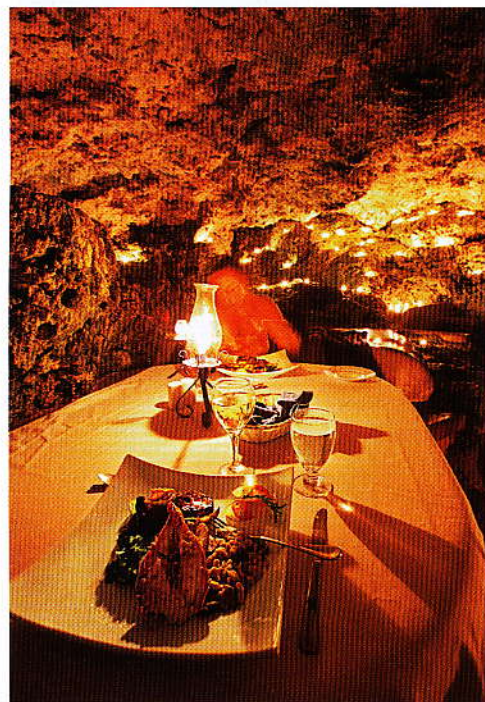
The site where Adm. Horatio Nelson and Fanny Nisbet wed in 1787, this 19-room Relais & Chateaux retreat sits on a verdant 60-acre estate 750 feet above its private cabana-studded beach. From \$345, 888-334-7609; montpeliernevis.com

Cocos Hotel, Antigua

Twenty-six wooden cottages (with showers open to the sea) cling to a rocky outcrop on the island's west coast. There are white-sand beaches to the left and right, as well as a spa, restaurant and beach bar to keep you relaxed, well-fed and pleasantly pickled. From \$430, 268-460-2626; cocoshotel.com

Hidden Beach Resort, Mexico

Nudists have no place to put their wallets, so the all-inclusive concept couldn't be a better companion to the clothing-free concept. Just south of Playa del Carmen, this secluded beachfront hotel welcomes tan-line-averse adults with 42 rooms outfitted with plasma TVs and Wi-Fi, au naturel on-site dining options and (clothed) access to the neighboring El Dorado Seaside Suites. From \$247, 866-527-4762; hiddenbeachresort.com



CT+L
ALL-
INCLUSIVE
GUIDE



Claiming your spot in the sun is a morning ritual at the Caves. Opposite: Dine in one of the Caves' namesake grottoes before retiring to your own little love nest.