

COASTAL LIVING[®]

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The Resort Issue

BEST NEW BEACH HOTELS



CLASSIC
SEASIDE
GETAWAYS
WITH
STYLE

CAPRI,
ITALY

23 Sunny Caribbean Escapes

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1970s Caribbean Fever

ST. BARTS—a tiny, mountainous island with nearly two dozen perfect white beaches—took over as the go-to Caribbean resort for style-setters when Jamaica's political unrest quashed its tourism trade. Rémy de Haenen, an eccentric French aviator, arrived in 1938 and built the Eden Rock guesthouse in 1953 atop a rocky promontory above beach-fringed St. Jean Bay. Greta Garbo and Howard Hughes were early guests; the Rockefellers and Rothschilds arrived soon after and liked the island so much they built their own homes. In the 1970s, the grass airstrip was finally paved over, and tourist visits spiked, propelled by the island's growing reputation as the St. Tropez of the Caribbean. Onassis parked his mega yacht, the 325-foot *Christina O.*, in Gustavia harbor. French restaurants rivaled Paris's finest, and parties were lavish, decadent affairs.

Another speck of an island was gaining momentum as an elite enclave. In 1968, Scotsman Colin Tennant bought Mustique—a hilly, barren, three-mile-long island in the northern Grenadines—and gave one of the first plots to Princess Margaret, Queen Elizabeth II's party-loving sister, who ended up spending most of her time there without her then-husband, who dubbed it "Mustake." Margaret loll'd about in embellished caftans, head scarves, and giant sunglasses; Tennant wore cotton suits woven on the island, or Indian-style cotton kurtas and his signature flat straw hat. Photographers Robert Mapplethorpe, Slim Aarons, and Patrick Lichfield

all spent time on Mustique, documenting lazy beach days and riotous gatherings, including Tennant's 50th birthday celebration in 1976, to which Bianca Jagger arrived on a litter carried by near-nude men painted gold.

Mustique's allure would fade in the coming years—the famed and fashionable are a fickle breed, and they continued their migrations



High Tide
Princess
Margaret on
Mustique

as the decades rolled by. But the elements that make up the wardrobe of escape—those smart stripes and buoyant prints, those breezy linens and cool cottons—endure, forever fresh and, somehow, forever young.

Mag Luken Noonan is the author of The Coat Route: Craft, Luxury and Obsession on the Trail of a \$50,000 Coat (Spiegel & Grau), a globe-trotting exploration of high-end bespoke tailoring. She lives in New Hampshire.

WHERE TO PLAY NOW

St. Barts

St. Barts continues to be the go-to Caribbean island for Francophiles and foodies. For 2017, new hotels and renovated classics give travelers even more options—some subtle, some flat-out sexy, all sublime.



THE CLASSIC, REBORN

Eden Rock

St. Jean

The island's first and most lauded hotel just upped the dial with the new glassed-in, one-bedroom, hilltop Christopher Columbus Suite, with sweeping panoramic views across St. Jean Bay and a private dining terrace. Guest room rates start at \$690; 855/333-6763 or edenrockhotel.com.



THE NEW KID

Le Barthelemy Hotel & Spa

Beau de Grand Cul de Sac

On the beach and fronting a turquoise lagoon, this tranquil hotel (new in October 2016) that both caters to wellness and celebrates romance has 40 rooms with private screened terraces and six suites with plunge pools equipped with underwater sound systems. Rates start at \$648; 844/933-2278 or lebarthelemyhotel.com.