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Courtesy of Cheval Blanc St-Barth Isle de France

SERENE SCENE: Poolside at the newly rebranded Cheval Blanc St-Barth Isle de France.

CLEAN *isle* UP ON HEAVEN

Where to eat, stay and play on divinely chic **St. Barts**

By JENNIFER CEASER

EVERY New Year's Eve, St. Barts becomes the Babylon of the Caribbean — with celebrities like Sean "Diddy" Combs, Rihanna and Leo DiCaprio (along with his model entourage) partying in lavish hillside villas and on gargantuan yachts. Now that the VIPs have (mostly) cleared out, this French territory has returned to its naturally chic state — and anyone can indulge (provided you have the funds). Here's where to go.

STAY

With a just-completed \$40 million, four-year renovation (and a slight name tweak), **Le Guanahani** emerges as one of the island's top resorts. A mix of 67 colorful cottages, the property — set on a private, 18-acre peninsula — boasts a Spa by Clarins, two restaurants, a thatched-roofed beach bar, a fitness center, tennis courts, two pools, two beaches and watersports galore. (From \$1,118; leguanahani.com)

The rebranded **Cheval Blanc St-Barth Isle de**

France is the newest in luxury conglomerate LVMH's portfolio — and though changes to the 40-key resort are subtle, they are welcomed. There's now a glamorous, modern taupe and pink palette throughout, a plethora of covetable bathroom amenities (including hair products by Paris' Leonor Greyl), a new fitness center and the Caribbean's only



Le Guanahani

BRIGHT STAR: The colorful, renovated Le Guanahani resort.

Guerlain spa. Some things, fortunately, haven't changed: the spectacular location, right on Flamands Bay, and Executive Chef Yann Vin-sot's excellent cuisine. (From \$1,020; chevalblanc.com)

lobster — choose your spiny friend straight from the tank. In Gustavia, try the scene-y ceviche hotspot **Bonito** (ilovebonito.com), which overlooks the harbor, and **L'Isola** (isolastbarth.com) for scrumptious pastas.

DINE

Some places never go out of style, like the legendary Eden Rock hotel's **On The Rocks** (edenrock-hotel.com), dramatically perched atop a giant boulder.

Jean-Georges Vongerichten, with

Executive Chef Eric Desbordes, created the gourmet menu, which is heavy on native seafood. A local favorite, **La Langouste** (hotel-baie-des-anges.com) is a casual poolside spot at the Baie des Anges hotel that's famous for its super-fresh

PLAY

Posh resorts, fabulous food, lean, tanned, beautiful people — you're surrounded by them on St. Barts — but you're also never far from one of the island's spectacular beaches. **St. Jean Beach**, centrally located next to Eden Rock, is buzzy but crowded; the complete opposite is **Colombier Beach**, only reachable via boat or by hiking a long, rugged trail. If you want to bare it all, there's **Anse de Grande Saline** and **Gouverneur Beach** — both on the southern coast. But our pick for the ideal mix of wide beach, calm waters and great meal options is **Flamands Beach**.



SEE FOOD: Spaghetti with clams at L'Isola (above) and mega-fresh lobster at La Langouste.

Courtesy of L'Isola