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by Katie James April 9, 2015

So you've decided on the Caribbean. Exciting! When it comes to crowd-pleasing destinations, few offer as many diverse experiences as the Caribbean—a fact that means choosing the *perfect* island destination can be a bit overwhelming. Which island is best? The answer all depends on which type of traveler you are. Adventure-seeker? Beach bum? Food obsessive? Family-vacationer? Value-hunter? Pair those preferences with the right island, and you've got a match made in oceanfront heaven.

Here, a breakdown of our favorite Caribbean destinations, highlighting the best new places to stay and which islands are suitable for each type of traveler. Now, all you have to do is pack your bags—and go.

## **St. Bart's**

Ideal For: Beach Bums, Couples, Families, Food Snobs

Even with its winter holiday crowds and hefty price tags, the beauty, charm, and Gallic flair of St. Bart's is undeniable. On Flamands Bay you'll find the rebranded Cheval Blanc St.-Barth Isle de France, which has all the amenities you'd expect from its owner, luxury-brand conglomerate LVMH: 40 crisp, all-white rooms, a fitness center overlooking the sea, and the Caribbean's only Guerlain-branded spa (book the Abeille Royale lifting and firming facial).

At the other end of the island, Le Guanahani recently unveiled a four-year, \$40 million renovation that transformed its 67 guest cottages into chic enclaves with pops of turquoise, yellow, and lavender, plus beach-meets-safari design flourishes, like framed maps and custom furniture by Luis Pons. The hotel also offers two beaches, both clay and grass tennis courts, stand-up paddle board and aqua fitness classes, plus a Frédéric Fekkai hair salon and Clarins spa.

If you can step away from the hotel, try one of the island's many French-inspired restaurants—La Gloriette for crisp salt-cod fritters; Le Grain de Sel for crab-and-lentil salad; L'Esprit Saline for a menu of Provençal-style dishes that changes daily. However, the ultimate culinary experience is undoubtedly found at one of Chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten's two restaurants at the legendary Eden Rock – St. Barths.