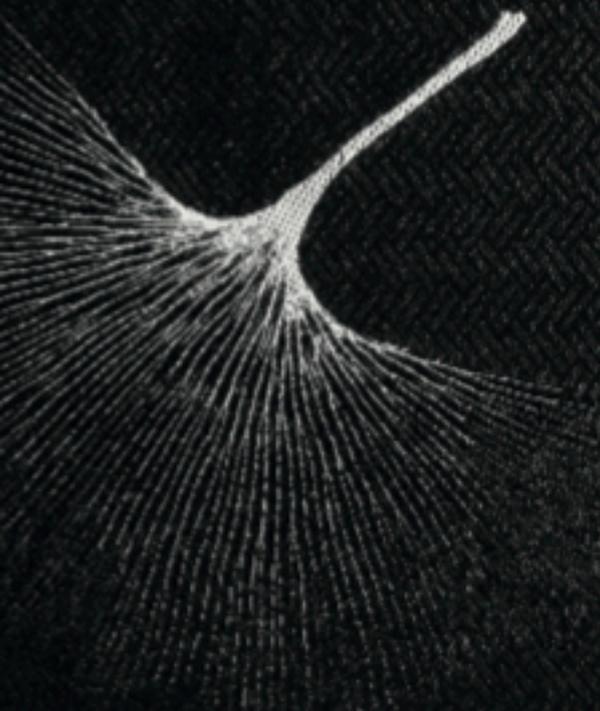


# CENTURION



## **TIMELESS SPLENDOUR**

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AUTUMN 2021

A spectacular view of Gustavia's port from the new Hôtel Barrière Le Carl Gustaf



## FRESH EYES ON ST BARTHS

Fun-loving and always *au naturel*, the boho-chic Caribbean isle is strictly good vibes only. By Juliana A Saad



Delightful bites at L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon

**ALIGHTED UPON** by Christopher Columbus, settled by France and – bizarrely – a Swedish colony for just over a century, St Barths was the land of buccaneers until the 1950s, when adventurer and flying wizard Rémy de Haenen built his Eden on the Rocks over St Jean Bay. The swish hotel cast a spell over the Caribbean isle that attracted everyone from Greta Garbo and Howard Hughes to David Rockefeller and Benjamin de Rothschild. A barrage of private villas soon followed, along with even more luxe hotels – turning the island into a byword for chic escape. After the hurricanes in 2017 and then Covid, the

island has had an opportunity to reinvent itself, and that's exactly what it's done, with bold renovations and a few key additions.

De Haenen's paradise, now called Eden Rock St Barths ([oetkercollection.com](http://oetkercollection.com)) and part of the Oetker Collection, was spruced up after the hurricanes and oozes glam, not least from its brand-new Villa Poppy, which features 360-degree sea views. Perched on a rocky promontory surrounded by turquoise waters and a divine beach, the destination's happy hours at the Rémy Bar are de rigueur, as are a stop in the top-of-the-rock spa and chef Jean-Georges's signature dishes at The Sand. >

PHOTOS FROM TOP: HUGO ALLARD, EMILY LAB



Left: the tranquil pool area at the Eden Rock's Villa Poppy; below: an offering from Le Bonito



A new addition to the island is Hôtel Barrière Le Carl Gustaf (*hotelsbarriere.com*), a spectacular seafront retreat where chic, terraced bungalows – and all the other rooms, suites and villas – were designed with impeccable style by French firm Gilles & Boissie, and the full Franco-Caribbean experience hits its culinary highs at the only Caribbean outpost of Paris icon Le Fouquet's.

Another newcomer is Rosewood Le Guanahani (*rosewoodhotels.com*), which sees the white-hot hotelier take over a classic St Barths property spread across a private seven-hectare peninsula with both Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean sea fronts. Opening with its new makeover for the first time in October, the 66-key resort will showcase the fullest complement of watersports on the island as well as a new beachfront dining venue.

Dining on the island is never a disappointment: the savoir-faire in kitchens everywhere is a testament to the French culinary passion. The newest destination to arrive is L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon Saint-Barth (*ateliersaintbarth.fr*), where the signature red and black decor, created by Pierre-Yves Rochon, is topped by a sea-view terrace, Le Rooftop. Elsewhere, chef Jean-Claude

Dufour's creative cuisine takes centre stage at L'Esprit (+590 590 524610), set in a seductive tropical garden near Saline Beach. Bonito (*bonitosbh.com*) is centrally located in Gustavia (just round the corner from Robuchon), and its fusion of French and Latin dishes is superb. A more laidback vibe can be found at Tamarin (*tamarinstbarth.com*), where Creole cuisine pairs perfectly with the lush fauna of its setting. For a quick treat, Sin Garden by Marine Urbain (+590 590 872124) is the latest patisserie in Gustavia – and the island's premier purveyor of sweet treats.

Designers Claudia and Fridtjof Linde have two branches of their eponymous store, Linde Gallery (*lindegallery.com*), in St Barths – one at the Carré d'Or in Gustavia and another inside the Hotel Christopher – and both lead the way with their collection of drop-dead beach and travel totes and a brilliant mix of vintage pieces and curated items from labels such as Alaïa, Rick Owens and Comme des Garçons. Also in Gustavia, Kokon St Barths (+590 590 297448) has its finger on the pulse, with Lulu Guinness beach bags, Earl Jeans and James Perse T-shirts, as well as embroidered caftans and a dazzling selection of footwear and jewellery.

Few massages can be described as "life-changing", but this is precisely the way a number of A-listers and jet-setters have pronounced their experience with Christophe Marchesseau, who has his own spa, Excellence des Sens (*excellencedessens.com*), in the Cour Vendôme and can also be booked for treatments in private villas and yachts. It's this sort of casual indulgence – here, there, everywhere – that has long made St Barths a beloved destination, and will continue to do so, newly made over, for years to come.

## MARBELLA REVERIE

Long one of the Spanish getaway's most alluring destinations, the whisper-quiet Marbella Club, secluded among the coastal pines since 1954, has recently opened its new Clubhouse, which unites a handful of the property's restaurant and bar offerings – from the old-world Grill to the bohemian-style bar, Rudi's, a fitting homage to the hotel's famed general manager, Rudolf Graf von Schönburg (known in these parts as Count Rudi), who at age 88 still makes appearances around the property. Decked out in a dizzying array of patterns and colours, the maximalist space is also home this year to pop-up shops from Chanel and Orlebar Brown as well as a photography exhibition by Stuart Cantor. [marbellaclub.com](http://marbellaclub.com) – Brian Noone



Inside the Marbella Club's ornate new Clubhouse