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MARTHA STEWART

SPECIAL ISSUE



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Caribbean Dreams

It's easy to love its breathtaking beaches and azure sea. But with 28 nations and more than 7,000 individual islands, the hard part is choosing what to see, where to stay, and where to begin. Here, 10 unforgettable experiences (discover even more with us online). Consider this a good start,

TEXT BY KELLY LACK



1 Check into a knockout private villa

Drop your bags in your freestanding guesthouse at St. Kitts's just-opened Belle Mont Farm, then grapple with your next move: a dip in your very own pool, plucking ripe fruit from 400 acres of organic farmland, or sipping craft cocktails at The Mill bar on the property (from \$1,000 a night, bellemontfarm.com).



2 Take in jaw-dropping eats and architecture

New hotel El Blok, on Vieques, Puerto Rico, is worth its hype: First there's the hot cuisine from star chef José Enrique, then there's the mod design, and, finally, that bright white beach (from \$195 a night, elblok.com).



3 Explore 33 fantasy beaches on one tiny isle

Some people prefer to island hop for sandy strands. But you and yours can forgo extra jet-setting by staying put on friendly, flat Anguilla and touring its shores, where the sand is so soft you probably couldn't even exfoliate with it (ivisitanguilla.com).

4 Have a fashionable cocktail

"St. Nicholas Rum Distillery, on Barbados, is right out of a fairy tale. The house is a pink Jacobean manor, and it has a veranda looking out over the lush gully—the perfect spot to enjoy rum!" says designer Erin Fetherston, who wed rocker Gabe Saporta at St. Nicholas Abbey Plantation, in 2013 (stnicholasabbey.com).



5 Park yourselves in surf-side lounge chairs under striped umbrellas

The spot? The new Ritz-Carlton, Aruba. Your room? No need to be picky, private balconies come standard. That shore? Trying its darnedest to make the phrase *beach potato* happen (from \$399 a night, ritzcarlton.com).



8 Try a roaringly delish appetizer

The lionfish tacos at farm-to-table Michael's Genuine Food & Drink, on Grand Cayman, are doubly good. First, cooking up the species helps with the area's overpopulation. And when fresh pieces get tumbled around with passion fruit and avocado, the results are seriously mouthwatering (michaelsgenuine.com).

9 Follow happy trails

St. John, in the United States Virgin Islands, is 60 percent national park with more than 20 trails. On your hikerinerary? Secret beaches, old sugar mills, estate-house ruins, and pre-Columbian petroglyphs (visitusvi.com).

6

Make a scent-sational souvenir

Blend your own fragrance at Tijon, a chic boutique perfumery on St. Martin. Once you're back home, it's sure to conjure up warm honeymoon fuzzies every time you dab it on (perfume classes from \$85, tijon.com).

7

Go to kiteboard heaven

"The waves off Playa Encuentro, just four and a half miles west of Cabarete in the Dominican Republic, are a dream," says pro kiteboarder Laurel Eastman. One she wasn't willing to wake up from: "I moved to the D.R. because it had the most beautiful tropical beaches I'd ever seen."



10 Catch a trip-making sunset

Picture it: you two sipping rum drinks at a table in a candlelit, cliff-side cavern, part of Jamaica's The Caves hotel, right as the sun dips (dinner from \$150 for hotel guests, \$300 for nonguests, islandoutpost.com).

+ For more reasons to honeymoon in the Caribbean, visit marthastewartweddings.com/caribbean