

# LUXURY

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## TRAVEL ADVISOR



### DESTINATIONS

Basking in Barbados

Rich in Rome

Just Back: Southern India

### HOTELS

Belle Mont Farm

Valentine Getaways

### CRUISE

Jet-setting Ports

# ROYAL TRAVEL

Kendra Thornton refuels family agency with a Gen-X attitude



## DESTINATIONS

- 10 BARBADOS:** Butlers and poolside drinks await at these top resorts  
*by Joe Pike*

## HOTELS

- 14 TOP SUITES IN ROME:** We've got a look at five distinct options  
*by Sharri Whiting De Masi*
- 20 VALENTINE GETAWAYS:** Advisors let us in on their top global picks
- 24 BELLE MONT FARM:** It's farm-to-table and can't be missed  
*by Joe Pike*

## CRUISES

- 28 JET-SETTING PORTS:** Explore these luxe stops from Portugal to Croatia  
*by Susan J. Young*

## EVENTS

- 36 OUR NEW SHOW:** Photos from the first annual Travel Industry Exchange

## COVER STORY

- 38 ROYAL TRAVEL:** Kendra Thornton, the new president, revamps family agency  
*by Ruthanne Terrero*

## DEPARTMENTS

- 6** Publisher's Letter
- 8** Editor's Letter
- 42** The Pulse
- Safaris:** Two new African camps
- India:** By motorcycle
- Mandarin Oriental:** Marrakech
- 46** Just Back: Southern India
- 48** Jetset Report
- 49** Sightings
- 51** Source List

*On the cover, President Kendra Thornton (center) with travel consultants, Brittney Magner (left) and Courtney McCarthy (right)*

COVER PHOTO BY MARIA PONCE BERRE

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## HOTELS



**BELLE MONT FARM** has 84 guesthouses, each of which comes with a king-size bed, an open verandah and a pool.

# Belle Mont Farm, St. Kitts

Our recent visit proved this new haven for affluent, health-focused foodies serves up a refreshing take on the traditional Caribbean hotel.

### BY JOE PIKE

Belle Mont Farm on St. Kitts is a collection of 84 guesthouses and seven four-bedroom farmhouses set within an organic farm. Five expansive villas are currently offered as well.

The guesthouse accommodations (a.k.a. “Mustique” rooms) each have a pool and a king-size bed. Nice Touch: The bathrooms in the rooms are outdoors — not just the showers, but sinks and toilets as well. They are, however, completely blocked from outside view by foliage. Nevertheless, it may take some getting used to.

It gets a little chilly at night, so throwing on a pair of shorts and

a sweatshirt every time you need to use the restroom can be a little odd. But brushing your teeth, doing your hair and such before hitting up dinner or the town is way better in the refreshing breeze that Belle Mont Farm usually attracts, with crickets providing the soundtrack. It was great not feeling like we were wasting a second of sunshine as well.

Most of the rooms have a full pool and sundeck with lounge chairs and a daybed. Note: The Bequia guesthouses do not offer a pool. Each guesthouse also comes with its own mini iPad, which doubles as the room’s directory for everything from dining options to weather updates.

The amenity that truly blew us away was the full movie projection screen in our bedroom with access to Netflix. For an island that can see its share of nighttime showers, this feature ensures guests will have ample entertainment on any given night. Good to know: You can also opt for butler service.

Although there is no beach at the hotel, but Belle Mont Farm will soon be launching a beach club.

The hotel is also not the right fit for anyone who insists on an insect-free environment. Situated high above the hills, Belle Mont Farm beckons for nature to join the party, so it’s not unlikely

for ants or a few small spiders to accept the invitation. Rest assured that the hotel can provide enough bug spray for guests to stay lathered up for the entire stay, if need be.

There are currently two spa treatment cottages. In-room treatments (massage, body scrub) and wellness experiences (private yoga) are also available. There are no locker rooms or waiting area. Hint: There are no forms where you have to declare any pre-existing injuries. You just tell the masseuse where you want her to work on or where to avoid. From the moment we walked into the cottage, we felt like our spa treatment had begun. And it was quite



## ADVISOR INSIGHT:

"Belle Mont Farm is ideal for someone who's already well traveled through the Caribbean, a guest who can appreciate an unbelievable pool with a view over another beach," says **Lindsey Epperly of Epperly Travel** in Atlanta. "The farm-to-table concept makes it like an island version of Blackberry Farm [in Tennessee]. It's great for foodies. It's for that client who doesn't mind getting their hands a little dirty — that is, when they're invited to pick fresh vegetables during the foraging experience — without sacrificing quality service and beautiful accommodations."



**THE VILLAS** (here) have their own infinity-edge pool, and offer views of the Caribbean Sea. **BATHROOMS** (below) in the guesthouses are outdoors — not just the showers, but sinks and toilets as well.

the experience. Hint: We highly recommend our masseuse, Petula, a.k.a. "Pet," especially for the deep tissue portion of the 90-minute, full body massage.

Kittitian Hill, the resort destination that Belle Mont Farm belongs to, will be home to its own stand-alone Mango Walk Spa facility, which will comprise tree-houses in a forest of giant mango trees, high on the mountain. It will have ten treatment rooms modeled after the Belle Mont Farm guesthouses, and the current treatment rooms will become guesthouses. In-room treatments, which will be very similar to the experience we had, will still be available.

Luxury travel advisors looking to make any special spa requests should contact Nickie Myers (Nickie.Myers@kittitianhill.com), spa manager.

The food is spectacular, including all-natural produce. We were served perhaps some of the freshest and most flavorful dishes we've had in quite some time. Sunday brunch at The Kitchen is popular with guests and locals alike. The hotel's menu changes almost daily — it is basically at the mercy of the farm. If the produce is fresh enough and ripe

enough to serve, it will most likely be on the menu in some way, shape or form. Tip: If on a given day French toast cooked in rum is on the brunch menu, do yourself a favor and order two servings.

Additionally, The Farm is an al fresco dining option that exhibits a rustic communal table set amongst organic orchid, vegetable and fruit gardens. Again, it may not be on the menu at the time of your dinner here, but if it is, order the duck and grilled carrots. Hint: The hotel is also home to a really cool, relaxing pool bar overlooking the ocean and just downstairs from The Kitchen.

For any special food requests, advisors should reach out Nicoyan Jones (Nicoyan.Jones@kittitianhill.com), guest relations manager.

Scoop: Slated to open November 15, Irie Fields will be a Par 71, 18-hole "edible" golf course that embraces its natural landscape with fruit ripe for the picking throughout.

Advisors seeking to fulfill any special requests from travelers planning a trip to Belle Mont Farm should reach out Eva Chan (Eva.Chan@kittitianhill.com), director of sales. ■

