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Best of the Caribbean



The New Classics

Seven new or newly reopened Caribbean properties have us itching to visit before the crowds arrive. Here, Indagare gives the lowdown on these fresh faces.



Clockwise from top left: Belle Mont Farm; Gansevoort Dominican Republic; Belle Mont Farm; lunch at Malliouhana; a Belle Mont Farm pool suite; Malliouhana



The Caribbean has long had a reliable core of sure-hit hotels, but recent openings are shaking things up, and many newcomers are poised to become instant stars.

Anguilla

Best Dressed: Malliouhana

After an \$80 million makeover, Malliouhana reopened in late 2014 decked out in a new, seriously chic wardrobe. The esteemed hotel's latest incarnation resembles the home of an eclectic world traveler, where British colonial pieces sit beside Art Deco ones, and all are tied together by a pastel color scheme. aubergeresorts.com

St. Kitts

New Wave Hippie: Belle Mont Farm

Set on 400-acres of farmland, this Bill Bensley-designed property is an Eden of sustainable tourism. Each morning, guests awaken to a basket of fresh fruit on their doorstep, and can play the "edible" golf course, which weaves through orchards. There are also cooking classes and artisan workshops. www.bellemontfarm.com

Vieques

Resident Techie: El Blok

Constructed of concrete curves, El Blok might have an imposing façade, but the interior features open spaces and skylights. Twenty-two guest rooms are decorated in bright colors and have private balconies. www.elblok.com

Dominican Republic

Life of the Party: Gansevoort DR

Gansevoort's newest outpost is this charmingly intimate, 48-room resort. All have floor-to-ceiling windows with sea views and full kitchens, and the penthouse suites are also equipped with Jacuzzis. Cabanas line the infinity pool, which overlooks the private beach below. www.gansevoorthotelgroup.com

St. Lucia

Most Changed: Capella Marigot Bay

Formerly the Discovery, the Capella Marigot Bay reopened in 2014 after completely overhauling the interior design, replacing the former Asian-décor with bright prints. The resort has also upgraded the air conditioning and added pampering amenities such as an Auriga spa. Private nooks and lounge chairs dot the property, ideal for enjoying a sundowner while surveying Marigot Bay. www.capellahotels.com

Grenadines

Most Anticipated: The Pink Sands Club

The Pink Sands Club, due to open this spring on Canouan, is the latest project of Dermot Desmond, owner of Sandy Lane on Barbados. Desmond's plans include a world-class hotel to complement the villas and golf course already completed. Given his success with Sandy Lane, this property could well be the next great spot in the Caribbean. www.pinksandsclub.com

Looking Forward

Aman Dominican Republic

Amanresorts is expanding its Caribbean presence with this second property. In addition to a 30-room hotel, which is expected to display Aman's signature minimalist Asian styles, there will also be several two- to five-bedroom villas. All guests will have access to the world-class Playa Grande Golf Club. www.playagrande.com

Baha Mar, Bahamas

One of the most ambitious undertakings in the Bahamas since Atlantis Paradise Island opened in 1998, the Baha Mar, a five-hotel complex comprising 2,900 rooms is due to open this spring. Although the compound is sprawling, the 200-room Rosewood Hotel will likely provide an elegant haven from the crowds. www.bahamar.com

The Bahamas House Inn, Harbor Island

Owned by adventure company Eleven Experiences, the Bahamas House Inn is poised to be the premiere property on Harbour Island, which lacks a true five-star hotel. Housed in a 19th-century pink-stone building, the inn will offer activities like bone fishing and paddle boarding. elevenexperience.com/bahamas