

1st *First* Life

January/February 2011

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Highlights from this
month's in-flight
entertainment
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THE
CARIBBEAN
ISSUE



Feast your eyes
This isn't just any view...
it's the view from the
Great Room, Sunrise
House, Mustique

DRINK IN THE VIEW

From barefoot luxury to the world's most expensive suite, these exceptional hotels and villas have one thing in common – vistas to take your breath away, says **Charlotte Metcalf**

SUNRISE HOUSE, MUSTIQUE

The room The Great Room.

The view On a hillside, a short walk from the famous Macaroni Beach and the beautiful wild Pasture Bay, Sunrise House looks out over coconut groves and its own secluded, white sandy beach to uninterrupted views of the Caribbean. It is a tranquil haven of cream and white simplicity, and a contemporary architectural take on a traditional colonial house. Extraordinarily comfortable and spacious, it has five self-contained bedroom suites and a Great Room, which has the superb view. There are also two beach cottages with their own freshwater rock pool, ideal for dining beside.

USP Andrew, the butler, for whom nothing is too much trouble.

When to go End of January/early February for the Mustique Blues Festival.

Way to go British Airways flies to Barbados

from London Gatwick. Then take a charter.

The price From £14,000 a week.

Book it The Mustique Company (mustique-island.com).

MALLIOUHANA HOTEL & SPA TURTLE COVE, ANGUILLA

The room The pool suite.

The view Set in 25 acres of lush, landscaped garden, the Malliouhana is a small, discreet and exquisite hotel, and a favourite of Meg Ryan and Uma Thurman. The two-storey 5,000sq ft, Mediterranean-style pool suite overlooks Meads Bay and the Caribbean from Turtle Cove bluff. It has been designed to maximise the panoramic views so the sweeping staircase that links the two storeys faces a huge wall of glass. Apart from its own pool, the suite has a private set of stairs down to the secluded beach on Turtle Cove, otherwise accessible

only by boat. You will also be able to take advantage of the hotel's amenities, its superb spa and the two Michelin star Michel Rostang at Malliouhana restaurant serving French and Mediterranean cuisine infused with Caribbean flavour.

USP The Malliouhana's collection of 20,000 bottles of wine, personally selected by the owner, Leon Roydon, and wine director Albert Lake. The Malliouhana has held the annual Spectator Grand Award since 1999.

When to go Anytime except during 31 August-31 October when the hotel is closed for refurbishment.

Way to go BA flies from London Gatwick to Antigua. Liat (liatairline.com) flies to Anguilla.

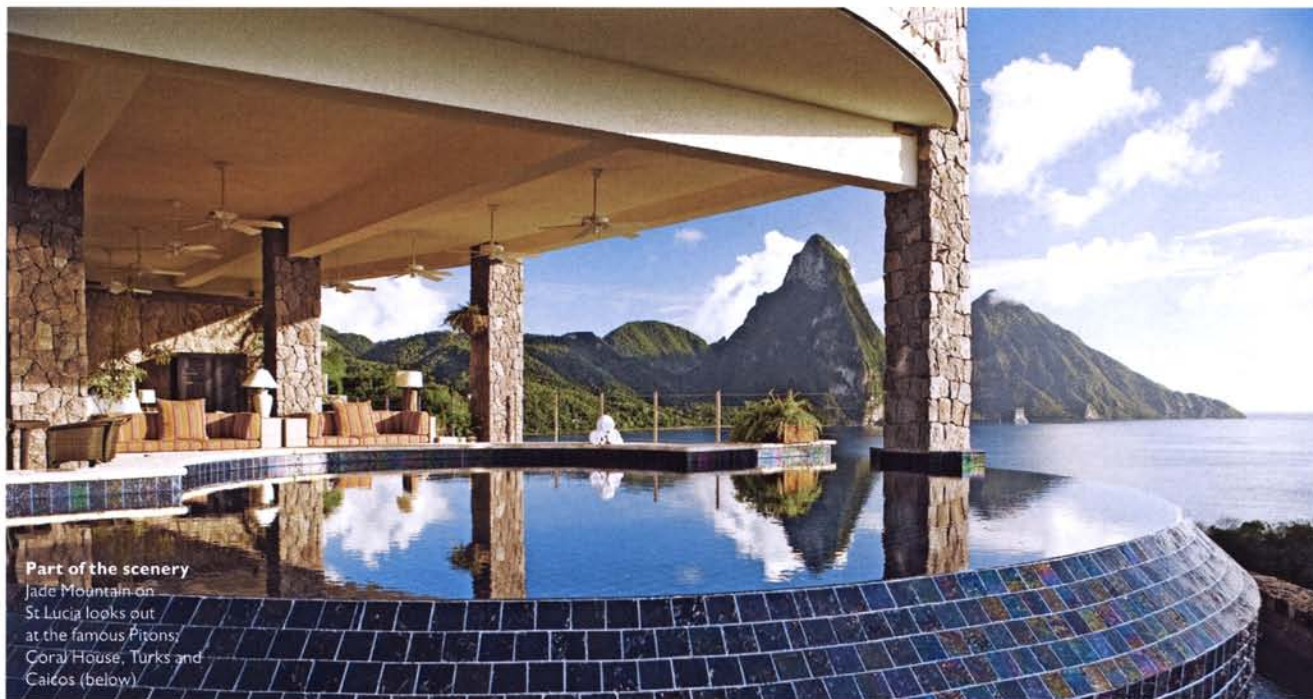
The price From £1,510 a night.

Book it malliouhana.com.

JUMBY BAY, ANTIGUA

The room The Rosewood Estate suite.

The view The huge skies, framed by towering palm trees, have made Jumbay one of the most exclusive and sought-after destinations in the world. This exquisite one-bedroom suite's living and dining areas open onto the infinity-edge pool and dramatic views of the Caribbean. The bedroom has a courtyard garden with a deep pedestal tub and a rain shower. The suite's décor is inspired by the island's sand, serene cream and beige with British colonial furnishings. Everything here is understated ▶



Part of the scenery
Jade Mountain on
St Lucia looks out
at the famous Pitons,
Coral House, Turks and
Caicos (below).

and elegant, in keeping with the wish of Jumby Bay's residents, who want to keep their secret paradise all to themselves.

USP The superb Sense Spa where you can relax in its exquisite tropical gardens.

When to go For carnival in July or Independence Day on 1 November.

Way to go BA flies to Antigua from London Gatwick.

The price Price on request, limited availability.

Book it British Airways Holidays (+44 (0)844 493 0758).

JADE MOUNTAIN

ANSE CHASTANET, ST LUCIA

The room The Galaxy Sanctuaries.

The view The bold design of architect and owner, Nick Troubetzkoy, makes Jade Mountain one of the Caribbean's most beautiful resorts. The two Galaxy Sanctuaries are on the highest level of Jade Mountain and have the most commanding panoramic views. With no fourth wall, the living spaces seem to merge effortlessly via the private infinity pool into a floating, liquid world overlooking the sea. The interiors are furnished with 20 species of tropical hardwood. The Jade Mountain Club caters exclusively to guests. Plus there is a boutique spa, fitness studio, a Celestial Terrace and the award-winning Jade cuisine.

USP The 15ft-high ceilings and views to the Pitons.

When to go December for St Lucia's National Day and the Festival of Lights and Renewal.

Way to go BA flies to St Lucia from London Gatwick.

The price The Galaxy suites start from £1,600 for two.

Book it jademountain.com.

THE CORAL HOUSE, GRACE BAY BEACH PROVIDENCIALES, TURKS AND CAICOS

The room The living room.

The view Set among powder-white sand dunes, palms and seagrass, Coral House is the only residence on Grace Bay Beach and is set in 65 acres of undeveloped land and 2,000ft of pristine beach. Coral House is 12,000sq ft of unpretentious splendour, arranged around a central garden so that every single room has a view of it as well as the sea. The living room is steps away from the beach, and there's a lush courtyard and terrace. Indoor and outdoor spaces are connected via 'breezeways' so every room feels airy and cool.

USP The property is an architectural masterpiece inspired by legendary theatrical designer Oliver Messel, and is arranged around the central garden.



When to go May for the South Caicos Regatta, aka the Big South.

Way to go BA flies to Providenciales via Miami from London Heathrow.

The price From £2,170 a night.

Book it coralhouse.tc.

SUNDOWN VILLA DISCOVERY BAY, JAMAICA

The room Master bedroom, the north wing.

The view Sundown Villa is on the island's north coast at Discovery Bay from where Christopher Columbus first viewed Jamaica and pronounced it, 'The fairest isle on which man ever set eye.' And as you take in the view from the master bedroom, you'll tend to agree. Set amidst the spectacular natural mountainous landscape, among the mainly flat Caribbean islands, there are panoramic sea views over the villa's own white sandy beach. Sundown has recently been upgraded to offer five giant en-suite bedrooms, all in Caribbean style. Sixteen people can eat outside, on the veranda,

in a gazebo or on a pier over the water.

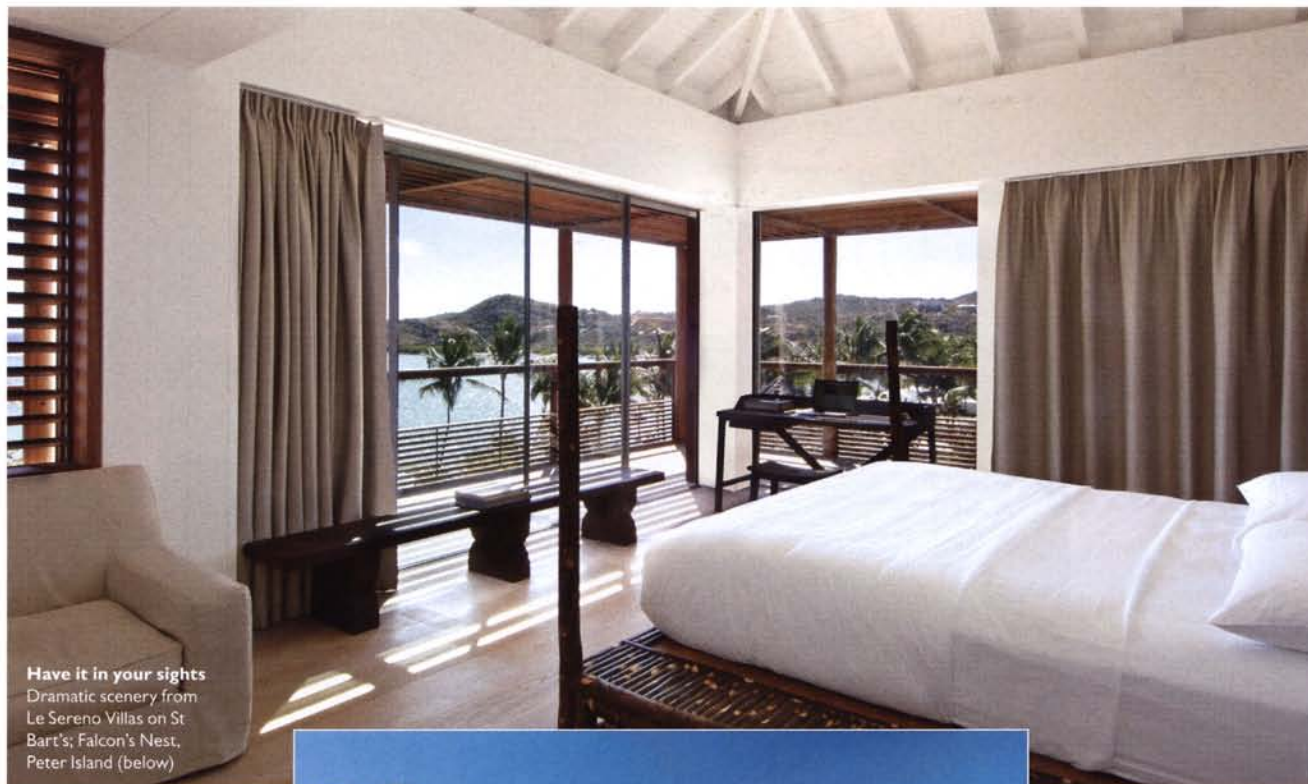
USP The friendliness of the staff, including a talented cook and butler, will guarantee your stay is as comfortable as possible.

When to go 12-19 June for nearby Ocho Rios' 21st annual Jamaica International Jazz Festival and before the rainy season (end of July).

Way to go BA flies to Kingston, Jamaica, from London Gatwick.

The price £10,500 for seven nights.

Book it uniquevillasofjamaica.com. ▶



Have it in your sights
Dramatic scenery from Le Sereno Villas on St. Bart's; Falcon's Nest, Peter Island (below)

LE SERENO, ST BART'S

The room The living rooms.

The view Last December, Le Sereno introduced its three new private villas. Each has 7,000sq ft of exquisitely integrated indoor and outdoor space, and dramatic views of the beach and bays beyond from every room – none more spectacular than in the living rooms. Designed by Parisian, Christian Liaigre, 'the most influential and copied architect in our time' (*Financial Times*), the villas are built of natural wood and stone that are in complete harmony with the environment. In tune with the French flavour of this exclusive getaway, the villas combine luxury with simplicity, resulting in complete tranquillity and elegance. The new spa will open in the summer.

USP St Bart's reputation for being unspoilt, its French lifestyle and strong artistic and cultural heritage have made the island a magnet for celebrities. Beyoncé and Jay-Z, Madonna, Brad Pitt, Tom Cruise, Gwyneth Paltrow, Heidi Klum, P Diddy and Martha Stewart have all frequented the island.

When to go Late March for the Bucket Regatta – hundreds of boats partake, including some of the most prestigious yachts.

Way to go BA flies to St Lucia and St Kitts from London Gatwick. Then take a local onward flight.

The price From £3,230 a day.

Book it +59 (05) 9029 8300, lesereno.com.



FALCON'S NEST, PETER ISLAND BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

The room Any of the master bedrooms.

The view Falcon's Nest is a sleek, contemporary villa perched atop a 350ft bluff, adjacent to a helicopter pad, with breathtaking vistas of Peter Island's virgin southern beaches. All six master bedroom suites have balconies with panoramic views of Norman Island. Inside, the house is all natural stone, driftwood and hardwood with a spectacular double-height living area. There is a two-tier infinity pool with a grotto, Jacuzzi and cascading waterfall and an ocean-view private spa and gym. There is a manager, chef and chauffeured vehicle on 24-hour standby. **USP** Privacy is taken to a new level: guests can institute a no-fly zone over the island, ensuring that no paparazzi interrupt their holiday.

When to go End of April for the Virgin Islands Carnival.

Way to go BA flies direct to Antigua and Barbados from London Gatwick. From

there, take a connecting flight with Liat (liatairline.com) or a fast boat (25 minutes).

The price From £7,140 per night on a full-board basis, including chef and butler.

Book it ITC Classics (+44 (0)1244 355 570 itcclassics.co.uk).

PARK BAY HOUSE, BEQUIA

The room The upstairs living room.

The view Right at the end of the eastern coast road, on Bequia's most northern point, Park Bay House sits in splendid isolation on a bluff. To its rear are hundreds of acres of undeveloped woodland and the other three sides of the house are surrounded by ocean, with a dramatic view of the Atlantic waves crashing onto the offshore reef and the Grenadine Islands on the horizon. The comfortable living room leads out onto a shaded porch where you can simply stare at the view or sit down to dinner. Park Bay House is utterly private but not isolated, being just a ten-minute drive from the charming town of Port Elizabeth. The house is built in traditional West Indian style from tropical hardwood and native stone, and is comfortable and unpretentious with four bedrooms and three bathrooms.

USP The house is perfect for families with young children and is equipped with portable playpens, cribs, baby gates, high chairs and car seats. At the foot of the drive there is a ▶



A different perspective Views at Steele Point on Tortola are of the 360° variety

natural shallow 'baby pool', with a sandy bottom and protected from the waves.

When to go April for the Easter Regatta.

Way to go BA flies to Barbados from London Gatwick. Liat (liatairline.com) flies from Barbados to St Vincent.

The price From £1,150 a week for the whole house or £930 for upstairs only (two bedrooms/two bathrooms).

Book it Contact Peter Jeffe directly on +1 512 263 1610 or visit parkbayhouse.com.

HOLDERS HOUSE, BARBADOS

The room Jodie's Room.

The view Situated high on Holders Hill, this traditional plantation house dates from the 17th century and is set in five acres of park and gardens. It overlooks the new Sandy Lane Green Monkey Golf Course to the east and has magnificent views of the Caribbean to the west. Holders House is home to Jodie Kidd's family and you can choose from seven rooms, though the best is Jodie's, which has views over the huge pool and the polo field to the sea. You can also be taught to play polo by Jack Kidd (Jodie's brother), whose polo school opens next September.

USP Holders House does not advertise and it's word of mouth that brings people here. You will be staying in a real Caribbean home, being warmly welcomed as part of the family.

When to go Between 19 March-2 April during Holders Season. Guests receive free

tickets to all events. Visit holders.net.

Way to go BA flies to Barbados from London Gatwick.

The price From £155 per person a night.

Book it kiddpolo@hotmail.com.

STEELE POINT, TORTOLA

The room The Lovers' Pavilion.

The view This ultra de-luxe estate is situated on Tortola's most western tip, between the US and British Virgin Islands. Steele Point's private, gated eight-acre peninsula features 360° ocean views, exquisitely manicured gardens, a private dock and a cliff-side pool. The villa contains a fine collection of art and sculpture and is laid out over several levels. The en-suite bedrooms are secluded, with private balconies or stone terraces. And there is a fifth suite, the Lovers' Pavilion, in a separate cliff-side pavilion at a discreet distance from the main house with glorious views of the point.

USP The layout of the house ensures total privacy and the dock area, complete with sheltered sun decks and ladders for swimming and snorkelling, has a secluded sandy nook for two – ideal for a spot of naturist sunbathing.

When to go June for the Highland Spring Hihio, the ultimate windsurfing event.

Way to go BA flies to Barbados and Antigua from London Gatwick. Liat (liatairline.com) flies to Tortola.

The price From £7,225 a week.

Book it +44 (0)870 850 1144, wimco.com.

ATLANTIS, PARADISE ISLAND THE BAHAMAS

The room Atlantis Bridge Suite.

The view The ten-room suite takes up the entire bridge that spans the 23rd floor of the resort's two towers, giving it the most spectacular views over Paradise Island that money can buy – as you stand on its 800sq ft balcony you will feel like king or queen of all you survey. The suite has a staff of seven and ten rooms, including a 1,250sq ft living room with grand piano, a dining room with a 22-carat gold chandelier and bedrooms with vast walk-in wardrobes. Marble, gold, gilt and crystal are the order of the day in this lavish, glitzy and extravagant shrine to conspicuous consumption. Celebrity guests have included Oprah Winfrey, Bill Gates, Celine Dion and Michael Jordan.

USP At £15,500 a night, the Atlantis Bridge Suite is the world's most expensive room with a view.

When to go 1-5 December for the Bahamas International Film Festival.

Way to go BA flies to Nassau from London Heathrow.

The price £15,500 a night.

Book it atlantis.com. 7

WAY TO GO

For details of all British Airways flights, visit ba.com, where you can also find a great selection of five-star luxury properties and join the Executive Club to earn BA Miles.