

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

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And why we love them



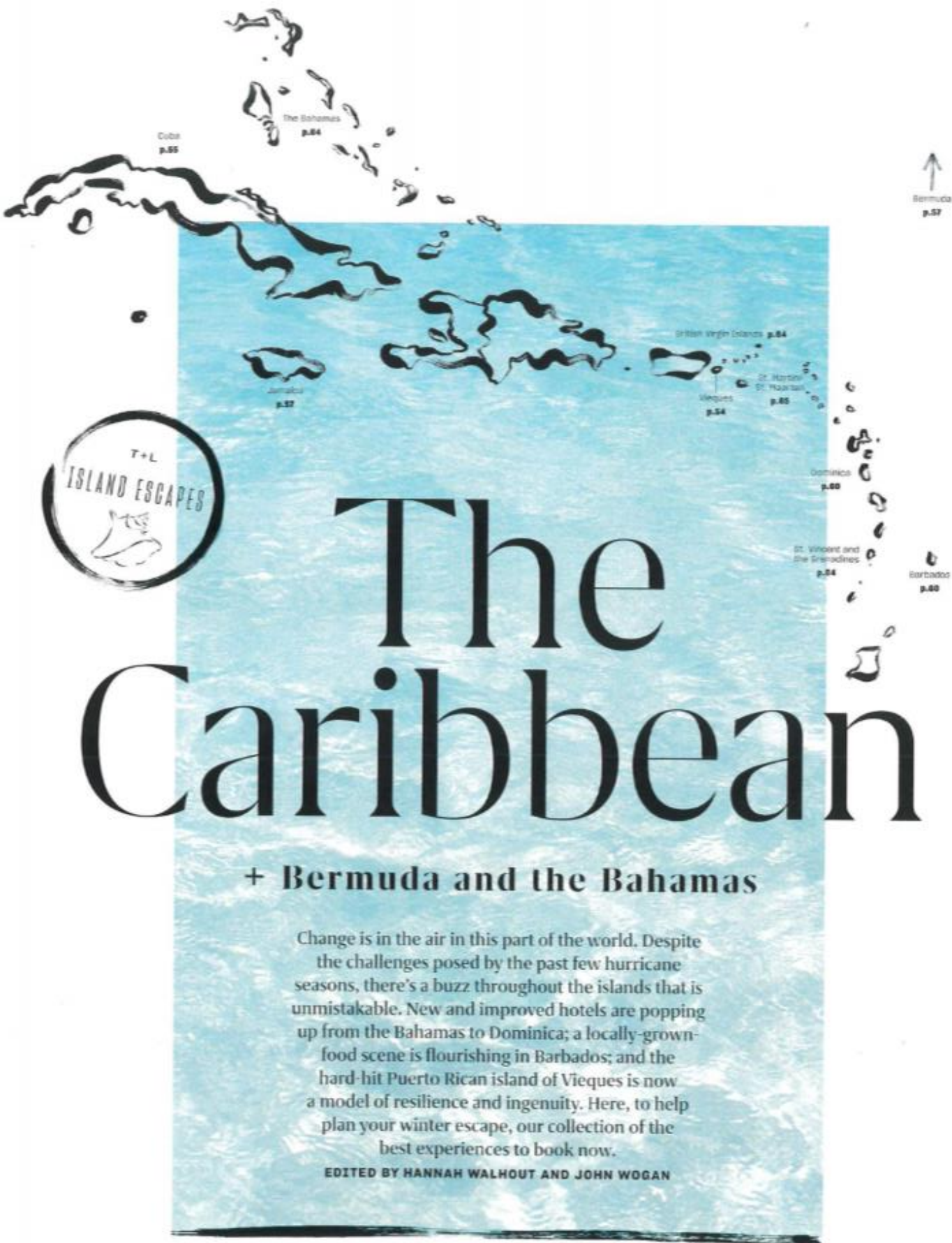
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The Caribbean

+ Bermuda and the Bahamas

Change is in the air in this part of the world. Despite the challenges posed by the past few hurricane seasons, there's a buzz throughout the islands that is unmistakable. New and improved hotels are popping up from the Bahamas to Dominica; a locally-grown-food scene is flourishing in Barbados; and the hard-hit Puerto Rican island of Vieques is now a model of resilience and ingenuity. Here, to help plan your winter escape, our collection of the best experiences to book now.

EDITED BY HANNAH WALHOUT AND JOHN WOGAN

DOUBLE THE FUN

Been to Bermuda lately? This Atlantic isle (we know it's not in the Caribbean, but it shares a common spirit with the region) is booming, thanks to spiffed-up hotels and regular airlift from the States. Here's why it's perfect for both honeymooners and fun-loving families.

BY JACQUELINE GIFFORD

Jamaica, James Bond Style

IN APRIL, special agent Bond will return to the island for the 25th official 007 movie: *No Time to Die*. It's a great year for travelers to visit overall. At **GoldenEye** (goldeneye.com; doubles from \$715), fans can rent out the cliff-top villa (from \$6,365) where Ian Fleming wrote the original 12 Bond novels in the 1950s and 60s—and where Daniel Craig, Léa Seydoux, and Naomie Harris gathered to launch the new movie. And this summer, the property will debut a three-bedroom lagoon villa and two one-bedroom lagoon cottages.

Over in Montego Bay, **Half Moon**, a member of Preferred Hotels & Resorts (halfmoon.com; doubles from \$305), is another place to experience Fleming's Jamaica. Remember the scene in *Live and Let Die* in which Roger Moore takes down a snake with a can of shaving foam and a lit cigar? It was filmed in Half Moon's Cottage 10. The entire resort, with its seafront gazebos and colonial-style architecture, feels like a throwback to the era of tuxedos at dinner. Which is not to say it's stuck in the past: 57 new cottages will be added this year. Just be sure to check the bathroom for snakes. — FLORA STUBBS



HONEYMOON

Where to Stay

The **Rosewood Bermuda** recently swapped out its formal, slightly dated décor in favor of a more youthful look. The Conservatory, a new open-air lounge, is the perfect place for a G&T. rosewoodhotels.com; doubles from \$495.



FAMILY GETAWAY

Kids love the **Hamilton Princess** for the free snacks in the Gold Lounge and harbor-front infinity pool. Its Beach Club, a short shuttle ride away, has a pirate-themed playground. thehamiltonprincess.com; doubles from \$399.

Where to Eat

Little Venice is a Hamilton institution with a hushed atmosphere and excellent pastas. Order the linguine with Guinea chicks (a Bermudan term for spiny lobster) when they're in season. littlevenice.com; entrées \$29–\$47.

Rustico, in Flatts Village, makes the best pizza on the island. Come evening, the patio is busy with families wolfing down perfectly crisp margherita and quattro stagioni pies. bermuda-dining.com; entrées \$15–\$40.

What to Do

Couples massage, anyone? With **Winnow**, a Bermudan app that gives access to curated experiences, you can book an 80-minute treatment inside the island's famous crystal caves. winnow.life; \$224 per person.

If you need a break from the beach, take the kids to the small but still informative **Bermuda Aquarium**, also in Flatts Village, to spot eels, balloonfish, gray triggerfish, seals, and more. bamz.org.

Hot Tip

Friday, not Saturday, is the big night to party on the island. Head to Hamilton when the locals start going out—happy hour begins promptly at 5 p.m.

A new VIP airport arrival service lets you cut straight to the front of the line—key if you're traveling with multiple children, bags, and strollers. Arrange through your hotel or at skyport.com.