

12 Experts Predict
How the Golf Year
Will Play Out

**WHISKY FROM CANADA
SCORING MORE KUDOS**

**Set Sail on the Yangtze River
on a Poshly Refurbished Ship**

Rocket Fast

Flashy new Lamborghini
for all you speed demons

Wow!

Heli-ski
With an Olympic
Gold Medalist
in Alaska's
Backcountry

PRIVATE Clubs

A C C E S S T H E L U X E L I F E

WINTER 2018

Cape Town

WHY GO NOW

Go chic in the city's upscale
Camps Bay beach district

Plus...

Improve your golf game with pros' warmup secrets
What you'll like about the Caribbean's newest resorts
Try this recipe for slow-cooked wild boar
Test must-do adventure treks around the world

More Island News BY DON NICHOLS



Blissful Sailing in Panama

For a total departure from the typical Caribbean resort experience, consider one of the newest trips now available from **Blue Parallel**, a boutique tour operator specializing in bespoke itineraries to Latin America and the Mediterranean. You can now book six- to eight-day excursions that focus mostly on sailing through Panama's unspoiled **San Blas Islands**, a Caribbean archipelago with more than 350 small isles, only a few inhabited by the indigenous Kuna Indians.

"These islands are stunning with their coconut trees, palm trees, sand, and turquoise water. But visiting them is like being on a different planet — there are no supermarkets, no restaurants, no internet, so you feel you can completely disconnect and reconnect with Mother Nature," says Emmanuel Burgio, Blue Parallel's president.

Just how disconnected? For meals, you eat what you or your captain catches while fishing or what you buy from the Kunas, all prepared by your onboard chef.

The company suggests you first spend two days exploring Panama City, where you get special VIP access to the Panama Canal, before boarding a private plane for a half-hour flight to a remote landing strip in the islands to begin your at-sea journey. Your floating home away from home: a 40- to 60-foot luxury catamaran that holds up to eight guests, though Burgio recommends no more than six, so you have more room on the boat. Spend your days learning about Kuna culture, just chilling, or being as active as you like in the calm Caribbean water — swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, you name it. Come evening, after cocktails and dinner, look up to the heavens. "There's no light pollution, so the stargazing is phenomenal," says Burgio.

Details: From \$19,000 for two (from \$33,000 for six) for six-day itineraries. 301-263-6670; blueparallel.com

ANTIGUA

Curtain Bluff

At a cost of \$13 million, this fully inclusive resort with access to two beaches has redesigned its entrance, dining venues, bar, lounge, and reception area — as well as refreshed its 72 rooms, all with ocean views. It has also upgraded the beach experience, with sleeker chaise longues and sand chairs and the addition of a beach concierge on hand to get guests settled into their beachfront digs, arrange activities and watersports, and take drink orders.

Something special: The four Hulford Collection suites, which are named after the resort's owners, now have private infinity-edge plunge pools on their terraces overlooking the Caribbean.

Details: From \$800. 888-289-9898; curtainbluff.com



Master Villa bathroom

ELEUTHERA, BAHAMAS

Royal Private Island

Cuvee, which owns and operates high-end luxury homes and villas both domestically and internationally, has added the 430-acre Royal Private Island to its portfolio. This exclusive getaway can accommodate up to 14 guests in five beachfront villas. Your stay includes a private chef, beach club, a fleet of water vessels (including a catamaran), and a host of water activities, from jet skiing to mangrove tours.

Something special: Your kids can hang out in a dedicated Kids Suite, and nannies can escape to a Nanny Suite for some privacy.

Details: From \$14,375. 720-833-4533; cuvee.com



Garden Cottage

BELIZE

Mahogany Bay Resort & Beach Club

The latest Curio — a Collection by Hilton property sports 205 rooms in cottage- and villa-style accommodations on 60 lush tropical acres on Ambergris Caye, Belize's largest island. Colonial-style detailing, heirloom-quality furnishings, and sustainably harvested Belizean hardwoods create an authentic island aesthetic. Relax around the 15,000-square-foot pool at the on-site Bay Club or take a shuttle to the nearby Beach Club to cool off in the clear blue water.

Something special: In Mahogany Bay Townlet, take your pick from 49 weekly classes at the Science and Soul Wellness health and yoga center. Not a yoga devotee? Restaurants, bars, and shops make the townlet inviting, as well.

Details: From \$369. 800-416-7339; mahoganybayvillage.com/resort

CAYMAN ISLANDS

The Westin Grand Cayman

This popular, 343-room resort located directly on Seven Mile Beach just completed its two-phase \$50 million renovation. Besides all the public areas, designers transformed all the rooms, giving them a complete new look that brings the outdoors in with colors, textures, and materials that evoke the island environment.

Something special: Sip on refreshing cocktails at the new swim-up bar in the redesigned pool, Grand Cayman's largest freshwater pool.

Details: From \$299. 800-937-8461; westingrandcayman.com