



# THE GRAPEVINE

WINTER 2022



It is heart-warming to finally be able to write a positive letter after two very difficult years for everyone.

We have been most fortunate to have rebounded so well with very busy hotels and are delighted to welcome back so many familiar faces and also lots of new ones too who have departed with firm promises to return!

I had a lovely short trip to the UK in the late summer. I didn't spend the entire summer this year as I now prefer to be here in Barbados. London was a great change of scenery though, and I very much enjoyed time with family whilst there, whether having tea at Fortnum's or watching the tennis with feet up. Despite seeing lots of one another at the hotels, it is really special to spend down time together too, when everyone is relaxed.

Like so many in the UK and around the world, I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II. I was glad to be in the UK and felt part of the recognition of the UK monarch, who has reigned for nearly my entire life and served her country with such dignity and devotion, becoming a much loved and respected figure across the globe.

I am very grateful to my family and our teams at Coral Reef Club and The Sandpiper who all work so hard to create what we believe are special places, and we all look forward to welcoming you back.

*Cynthia O'Hara*

CYNTHIA O'HARA  
CHAIRMAN



PICTURED THE O'HARA & CAPALDI FAMILIES (MISSING: WAYNE CAPALDI)



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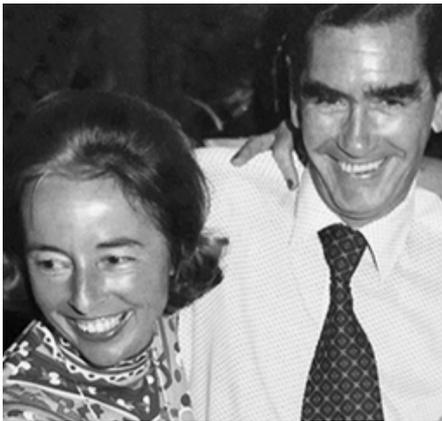
## CORAL REEF'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

**70** years after its inception, Coral Reef Club was proud to celebrate its Platinum Jubilee this year. Budge O'Hara arrived in Barbados in 1952 with his new bride Cynthia to manage Coral Reef, one of the first properties in Barbados to open its doors to sun-seeking travellers looking to escape the long cold winters. 70 years later the much loved hotels they created are still going strong and being run by the family.

Prior to his move to Barbados, Budge had worked at The Goring Hotel in London where he forged a firm friendship with the Goring family. This bond deepened over the decades and both iconic family run hotels now share a long and esteemed history.

In June, as part of our Jubilee celebrations and in honour of this longstanding relationship, Coral Reef teamed up with The Goring to offer the 'Barbados Surf & Belgravia Turf', a package designed to kickstart your holiday in true style with a luxurious night at The Goring prior to travel.

To launch our collaboration and celebrate our significant milestone, Patrick and Sharon O'Hara together with Jeremy Goring, co-hosted a fun press event in The Goring's beautiful gardens, accompanied by Teddy, their mascot Shetland pony, in full regalia. Guests were swept straight into the laidback Caribbean vibe with a spicy 'O'Hara Rum Punch' created especially by the Goring. It was truly a magical night.



*Pictured: Budge and Cynthia O'Hara, Teddy the Shetland pony, Patrick & Sharon O'Hara*



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## EARLY EVENING DINING AT HAROLD'S

Harold's is now open into the evening for those who wish to enjoy an earlier, informal dinner. While Harold serves drinks until 9 p.m., Chef Jean is presenting a delicious new All-Day Menu which is available until 7:30 p.m.

[View sample selections](#)



*Pictured: Harold*



## COCKTAIL PARTIES ARE BACK

We are happy to announce our cocktail parties have resumed. On Wednesdays at The Sandpiper, the Capaldi Family and new GM Ken Flockhart invite you to cocktails at the main pool from 7-8pm. At Coral Reef on Mondays, The O'Hara Family invite you to cocktails at Ruanda from 7-8 pm.



## THE CASUAL BOUTIQUE HAS A NEW LOOK



*Pictured: The newly renovated Casual Boutique*

## ASPIGA OPENS

Aspiga has opened its first international boutique opposite The Sandpiper. This award-winning responsible fashion brand works with artisans and suppliers in Kenya and India to offer sustainable and ethical fashion from around the world. A perfect fit for the Caribbean, Aspiga has found a new home on the west coast of Barbados offering an array of stylish clothing and accessories for men and women.

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*Source: Aspiga*



## ECO TOURISM IN BARBADOS

### *THE CORALL PROGRAMME*

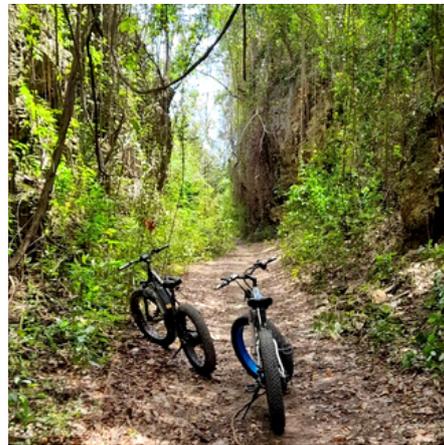
Visitors who join the CORALL Programme can Adopt A Coral fragment and receive updates and photos of its progress. The CORALL programme protects the coral reefs of Barbados through membership programmes and restoration. Persons can learn about the importance of coral reefs, the restoration process and monitoring. For a more hands-on experience, volunteer for planned events, go on monitored dives or attend educational days. The CORALL programme is all about community and conservation and is an important contribution to the planet.

### *COCO HILL FOREST*

Coco Hill Forest has become one of Barbados' newest attractions. Set in the parish of St. Joseph, overlooking the East Coast of the island, visitors can find a 3.5KM hiking trail and a regenerative agriculture project. In the Forest, there are over 70 types of fruits, herbs, spices and medicinals. This includes pineapple, cocoa, herbs, spices and more. Forest bathing is encouraged and with maps given upon entry, the adventurous can enjoy self-guided tours and activities. Forest picnics are also part of this attraction with visitors flocking to the gazebo to take in the natural atmosphere, sure to leave you centered.



Source: CORALL Barbados



Source: Barbados E-Bike Tours



Source: Coco Hill Forest

### *ELECTRIC BIKE TOURS*

Explore Barbados from your private e-bike. Barbados Bike Tours offers a guided view of Barbados through the country side, and various routes. The tour typically lasts about 1.5 hours, taking persons through scenic paths, local neighbourhoods, and fields. It is also a good way to give back as a percentage of each tour goes toward a local church or business in the area of the tour. It's a fun way for family and friends to connect, laugh, and see the island of Barbados in a very unique way.



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## BARBADOS FOOD & RUM FESTIVAL

The Barbados Food and Rum Festival, an annual four-day attraction (Oct 27-30), showcased the skills of Barbados' top chefs, rum makers, and culinary figures. Leading figures in the culinary world participated in the festivities, offering their expertise while titillating taste sensations. The festival has developed throughout the years to produce a wide variety of activities to tempt the palate of guests with vibrant and tasty encounters. Two members of the Coral Reef team joined in on the action as Chefs Glenroy and Jamal both showcased their talents throughout the festival.

At both hotels, we had a day of gastronomical fun on October 28th with food demonstrations, rum showcases, special cocktail menus and a special rum-infused dinner by Chef Hance over at Coral Reef Club and Chef Jean at The Sandpiper.



## ADDITIONAL AIRLIFT TO BARBADOS



### KLM AMSTERDAM - BRIDGETOWN FLIGHTS

After a successful first season, KLM will resume flights from Amsterdam - Bridgetown with thrice weekly flights on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays until March 2023.

### NEW AER LINGUS FLIGHTS

AER Lingus has commenced a nonstop service from Manchester - Bridgetown. The airline will fly to Barbados twice a week on Wednesday and Saturday until the end of April, and once a week on Friday starting October 30th.

### BA EXTRA AIRLIFT FROM GATWICK

Additional flights from Bridgetown - London Gatwick will be added by British Airways. The flights will go between London Gatwick and Bridgetown during the week of Easter, from March 26 to April 16. On Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday, the extra ten flights will fly.



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## PRIME MINISTER MIA AMOR MOTTLEY COVERS TIME 100

Honourable Prime Minister, Mia Amor Mottley, has been named one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people for 2022. The Hon. Mia Mottley has joined the likes of US President Joe Biden in the world leader's category with Time magazine describing her as "bold, fearless, and possessing a great intellect and wit... a brilliant politician who knows how to shake things up". Time Magazine goes on to highlight her advocacy for global issues such as poverty, debt, and climate change. She is a leader of substance and Barbados is proud.

*Pictured: The Honourable Mia Mottley on the cover of Time 100*  
Source: Time 100

## BARBADOS RANKED #5 TOP ISLAND BY CONDÉ NAST

Condé Nast has listed Barbados as one of the top five Caribbean and Atlantic islands. Barbados ranked 5th out of 20 islands, with a reader rating of 87.92 from the popular luxury and lifestyle travel publication. Other islands included Bermuda, St. Barts, Turks & Caicos Islands, and Anguilla. Barbados received the award based on our culture, heritage, activities like surfing, dining, and natural experiences.

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