



Coral Reef Club

# THE GRAPEVINE

AUTUMN / WINTER 2021



THE SANDPIPER



ANOTHER YEAR - and oh what a year, times when it appeared that things were beginning to return to normal and then two steps back again. I am sure it has been the same for everyone.

When we re-opened after our brief closure in September, we were dubious about numbers, but to our surprise and delight our occupancy crept up and we enjoyed that we could give such pleasure to those who had been longing to visit and enjoy themselves once again.

Barbados continues to handle the pandemic well with sensible rules on masking and guests find relief in freely walking along the beach, swimming and generally winding down. It has been so rewarding for us to see the difference between guests arriving and their departure - relaxed and planning a return visit.

Knowing how most of you have a great need for a carefree holiday, we look forward to welcoming you and doing our utmost to see that you enjoy a wonderful stay with us.

*Cynthia O'Hara*

Cynthia O'Hara  
Chairman



*I thought I would include a picture of Budge and I sailing on 'Anna Kareena' in the 1970's, our favourite pastime.*



*The O'Hara and Capaldi families and Russell Crony.*

## THE SANDPIPER'S NEW CHEF

At Sandpiper we welcomed Andrew Jean as our new Head Chef and are thrilled with the experience he has brought as a Bajan from overseas. His knowledge of local suppliers is increasing our farm to table experience which is an achievement we are delighted with, both for our guests and our island!



## BARBADOS HAS BECOME A REPUBLIC

The big news in Barbados is that we have become a Republic. Prime Minister the Honourable Mia Amor Mottley had, as part of her manifesto when her party won every seat in parliament in 2018, the aim of ending ties with the monarchy and having a local Head of State. Barbados became independent in 1966 and many locally felt that it was part of the evolution of our independence. Hence Dame Sandra Mason, the former Queen's Representative as Governor General became President of Barbados. Prince Charles was invited to be in attendance and was accorded a 21-gun salute on arrival at the celebrations and a Freedom of Barbados Medal which will replace the Knight of St. Andrew, the highest honour given by the Monarch. Although Barbados has removed the Queen as its head of state, it has chosen to remain a member of the Commonwealth.



*Photo sourced from Loop News*

## ISLAND DINING

We have some new restaurants to explore - the pretty **Local & Co**, on the beach in historic Speightstown whose ethos is deeply rooted in sustainability and the health of our oceans, soils and local food communities.

**Quattro Passi and QP Bistro**, located on the former renowned Cliff restaurant site, has undergone extensive refurbishment and offers an exciting dining experience with stunning sea views.



*Local & Co*



*Fusion Rooftop*



*Sea Shed*

**The Round House** has a new lease on life with second generation leadership and **Eco-Lodge**, above Bathsheba, has an easy, laidback vibe, serving farm-to-table and sea-to-table dishes on a deck among the palms 100 feet above the coast.

**PEG Farm**, another product of the burgeoning farm-to-table scene, offers superb burgers on an inland deck with a vast view. Another simple local stop is **Dina's**, a lilac and fuchsia shack right above the Atlantic rollers, where Dina offers popular local dishes such as fresh fish, chicken, macaroni pie and roasted breadfruit.

Locals and visitors alike still enjoy Hometown favourites, **The Mews**, **Nishi** and **Fusion Rooftop** in Limegrove, and **Sea Shed** and **La Cabane** are as popular as ever with their simple and stylish beach bars, made for lingering all day and evening.



## ISLAND ATTRACTIONS

**Andromeda** is a 6-acre botanical garden and historic cultural attraction in the village of Bathsheba. All the botanical gardens on island had lots of tender loving care over the quiet COVID period and are in peak condition for visitors. **Tropical Garden** meanders along winding paths and slopes filled with orchids and tropical plants and **Hunte's Gardens**, set in a limestone sinkhole, is a flamboyant affair, a cauldron of colour and blooms with classical music playing.

In the east, a noisier, more frenetic experience is on offer for motor-racing fans at the **Bushy Park Circuit**. The birthplace of Barbados' star driver, 18-year-old Zane Maloney, winner of Formula 4 in 2019 who is currently riding high in the Formula Regional European Championship. You can ride around the track on which he honed his skills as a passenger in a Formula 4 racing car, a Radical FR3 or book go karting experiences for children from 5 - 18 years.

Bajans claim Barbados is the original home of rum. In the north, Mount Gay, who have been making rum since 1703, has recently opened a full distillery tour. The beautifully restored **St. Nicholas Abbey Great House Plantation and Distillery**, built in 1660, is one of only two Jacobean structures on the island and one of only three in the entire Western Hemisphere. The Heritage Railway on the site is a new and exciting family attraction.



## TENNIS PRO PROGRAMME

Some of our guests love to explore the island while others prefer to simply relax at the hotel where their decision making is little more than deciding what to order for lunch whilst gazing out to sea! The more energetic make good use of our tennis programme. Some even chose to 'ride out' lock down at Coral Reef last winter, playing tennis every afternoon to balance out all the wining and dining! We are very pleased be able to offer a visiting tennis pro year-round as it is greatly enjoyed by so many.



## THE SPA

The Spa Team is tremendously excited to Launch the Diamond Well Living Collection. Natura Bissé, who has been voted the World's Best Spa Brand at the World Spa Awards 2021, for the fourth year in a row, has uniquely tailored a series of body treatments exclusively for Coral Reef Club using their newly released Diamond Well Living product line. The line includes beautiful scrubs, creams and dry oils with a shea butter base and the new treatments are heavenly.

To book either:  
call: 246-419-4121 or email:  
[TheSpa@CoralReefBarbados.com](mailto:TheSpa@CoralReefBarbados.com)



## OUR TEAMS

We end by turning to our teams at both hotels to whom we give heartfelt thanks for their extraordinary commitment to maintaining excellence during such difficult times. Many have had to work harder than ever, and with constantly changing protocols it has been quite challenging, so we are deeply appreciative of their dedication. They have been warmed by the concern expressed by our loyal guests when they were unable to visit. The O'Hara family and the teams at Coral Reef and The Sandpiper are extremely happy to be welcoming our wonderful guests back to our shores for some good Bajan hospitality and a beautiful holiday.