

# The Miami Herald

COUPONS  
INSIDE:  
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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2004 | 102ND YEAR, NO. 68 | ©2004 THE MIAMI HERALD | FINAL | ONE DOLLAR

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UP FRONT | FORD CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND

## A BURST OF CHEERS



CARL MAST/HERALD STAFF

CONGRESS

## GOP rejects 9/11 reform efforts

■ House Republicans turn down a compromise on efforts to reform U.S. intelligence, possibly dooming calls by the 9/11 commission for a director of national intelligence to oversee all U.S. intelligence.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2004 | EDITOR: JANE WOOLDRIDGE jwooldridge@herald.com | 305-376-3629 or 954-764-7026 ext. 3629 | THE MIAMI HERALD

Caribbean / Bahamas

# island renewal

Golf,  
family  
programs  
and  
affordable

BY DAVID SWANSON

Special to the Herald

If location is everything, then life for Caribbean-bound travelers is a sun-drenched blessing, with the occasional curse.

No doubt the lively 2004 hurricane season inspired more than a few of the latter. Three major storms ravaged the Caribbean in September, leaving businesses on a few islands — particularly Grand Cayman, Grenada, Haiti and the northern Bahamas — scrambling for power, water and insurance adjusters. But if the Weather Channel left you with an image of the region limited to flooded tennis courts and washed-away beaches, then it's time to broaden the perspective.

Most of the Caribbean suffered no real harm from the 2004 storms. Several islands that were grazed by hurricanes saw only cosmetic damage that is already largely repaired. Hurricane season is almost over, and today the Caribbean is eagerly anticipating another kind of deluge: visitors.

Here are some of the new items on the agenda.

#### NEW HOTELS

Why mess with a proven formula when you can build a discreet addition to lure a higher-paying crowd? Such is the path two of the region's best-loved small hotels chose this year.

In Aruba, **Bucuti Beach Resort** opened a new wing, the Tara Beach Suites, offering a sleek boutique approach to Caribbean living. Located on the island's quietest stretch of sand, most of the 39 new rooms have beach views and use dark wood tones and white fabrics, creating a Zen mood. The rooms have mini bar, high-speed Internet and 24-hour concierge services. The resort also built a new spa that provides treatments on the beach or in private rooms. Doubles start at \$140 until Dec. 22 and at \$255 after that date. (800-297-5831)00; [www.bucuti.com](http://www.bucuti.com).

The **Anse Chastanet** resort in St. Lucia has been one of the Caribbean's most successful hideaways, with rooms that offer a brood

## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# Lavish, glam resorts put two-island nation on a new plane

■ These stunning properties add an element of pure luxury to the equally paradisiacal Antigua and Barbuda.

BY DAVID SWANSON  
Special to The Herald

The two-island nation of Antigua and Barbuda delivers the Caribbean's specialty — long, luminous beaches — in abundance. And with two resorts debuting this year, the islands offer new outposts for deluxe escape: one with swank European pedigree, the other promising a barefoot hideaway.

## CARLISLE BAY

Created by Scotsman Gordon Campbell Gray, Antigua's Carlisle Bay is a striking, utterly contemporary resort intended to complement his esteemed hotel, One Aldwych in London.

Located away from most of the island's limited action, on the southwest coast, Carlisle Bay is little more than a stone's throw from Antigua's long-established Curtain Bluff resort.

The two serve as bookends for a village that slumbers at the base of Fig Tree Drive, a road through the island's most verdant valley.

Carlisle Bay entices guests across a bridge over a lily pond into a sprawling, sedate pavilion, lined with planters made from seven-foot-high hollowed-out tree trunks and wooden jalousie shutters.

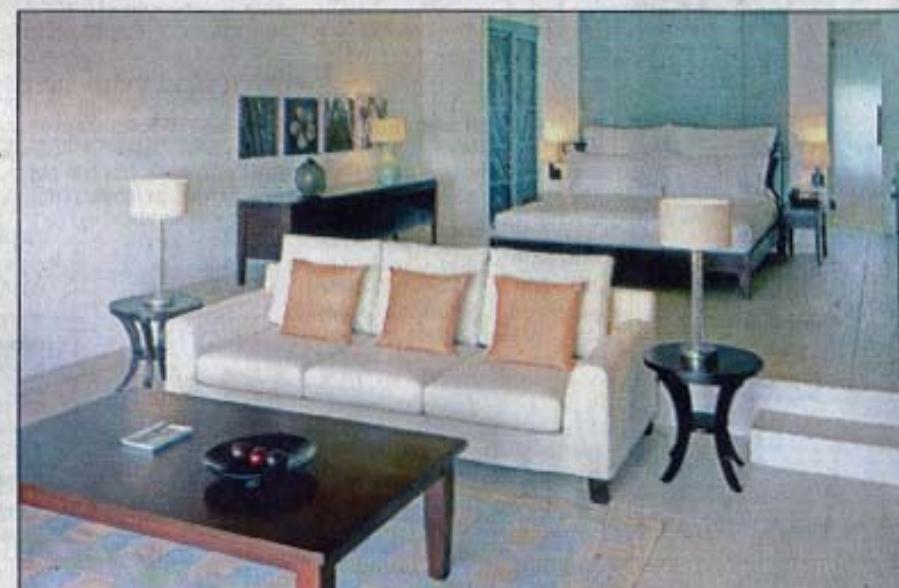
Chilled towels and warm handshakes are offered against a monochromatic backdrop; the little color provided is from splashes of purple orchids.

All 88 rooms are suites, and almost all boast unimpeded sea views from Frette-outfitted beds. An orchid sits on a dark wood cabinet, while its matching credenza supports a tray of improbable fruit,



COURTESY BEACH HOUSE HOTEL

**OPEN-AIR LOUNGE:**  
Beach  
House  
Hotel, in  
Barbuda.



COURTESY CARLISLE BAY

**BLUE DREAMS:** Ocean Suite at Carlisle Bay, Antigua.



