

ISLAND STYLE

by

SARAH GREAVES-GABBADON



THE CARIBBEAN ISN'T ONLY ABOUT SEA AND SAND. LOCAL DESIGNERS ARE ADDING STYLE TO THE EQUATION WITH ISLAND-INSPIRED CLOTHING, JEWELRY, AND ACCESSORIES. CHECK OUT FIVE OF THE REGION'S HOTTEST TALENTS, AND THEN TAKE THEIR TIPS FOR LOOKING STYLISH UNDER THE SUN.

Kristin Frazer

TRÈFLE DESIGNS

When Beyoncé requests samples of your beachwear, you must be doing something right. That's the enviable position in which Tortola, British Virgin Islands-based designer Kristin Frazer found herself in 2014 when the superstar wore some of her swimwear on a Mediterranean vacation, putting Trèfle Designs on the international fashion map.

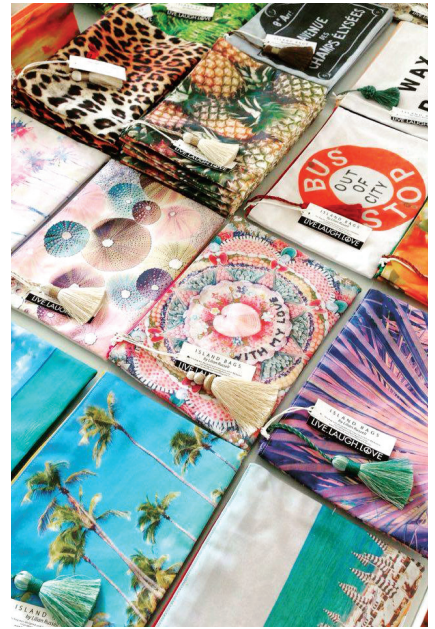
Named for her grandmother, Clover, who taught Frazer to sew (*trèfle* is the French word for the leaf), the design house is distinguishing itself in the Caribbean and beyond with a line of swimwear and resortwear in bold colors, playful prints, and sizes from petite to plus.

"I aim to offer my customers style, comfort, and affordability," says the effervescent 20-something, who interned with Carolina Herrera and BCBG. "The Caribbean is my home, and Trèfle is my way of sharing it with the world."

→ trefledesigns.com

STYLE SUGGESTIONS

"Keep cool while you look cool in loose-fitting sun dresses in cotton, linen, or chiffon. And don't be afraid of color and exotic prints! Hues such as aqua, canary yellow, and forest green reflect nature around you, make you happy, and are always on trend."



Esther Lussan

ISLAND BAGS

When Barbados-based designer Esther Lussan couldn't find the right bag to use during her frequent travels, she created one herself – and soon friends began clamoring for their own. So, in partnership with a former colleague in the garment industry, Lussan established Island Bags, a limited-edition line of multi-functional and chic pochettes designed to hold everything from makeup to personal tech.

Transitioning seamlessly from day to night, the simple and stylishly functional pouches feature photographs taken by Lussan herself, and incorporate playful tassels as oversized zipper-pulls. While she has since added clothing and jewelry to her Lilian Russell line, Lussan is

keeping the brand small, retailing exclusively through Island Bags' Facebook page, a local boutique, and a seasonal pop-up shop in the island's Grantley Adams International Airport. → facebook.com/islandbagsbarbados

STYLE SUGGESTIONS

"For hot Caribbean days and nights, I love to carry a little folding hand fan to cool myself down with. I have quite a collection of darling ones from around the world!"



Isy Obi
ISY B.

When you grow up playing with fabrics and your mother is a fashion designer, a career in the fashion industry is practically a given. Cayman-based Isy Obi did, indeed, inherit her fashion design skills from her mother, and is now putting them to work on her Isy B. line of dresses and separates.

"After wilting one too many times at a hot Cayman cocktail party, I saw the need for elegant dresses that remain comfortable in the

heat," she says. And so the collection was born, offering light yet luxurious day-to-night dresses that combine technology and smart design to keep you cooler in balmy temps. "My designs draw on the colors, relaxed vibe, and cosmopolitan sophistication of my Caribbean home," Obi says. The Caribbean in a camisole? We'll take it.

→ isybdesign.com

STYLE SUGGESTIONS

"Clothes made of lightweight breathable fabrics such as cotton, silk, and linen keep you cooler by allowing air in and letting heat and moisture out. A day-to-night sundress is a Caribbean wardrobe staple that you can dress up or down with accessories that you find on your travels."

★
"IN THE CARIBBEAN HEAT YOU CAN'T ACCESSORIZE WITH JACKETS AND BOOTS BUT YOU CAN ADORN YOURSELF WITH JEWELRY."

Joyia Jones
JOYIA JEWELRY

Even as young girl, when other children were collecting stickers and toy cars, Joyia Jones was collecting stones to make jewelry. And as an adult, after working as a teacher for many years, Jones returned to her first love, working with a jeweler to learn silversmithing.

It wasn't long afterward that she conceived the idea for her "intention jewelry," engraved with inspirational sayings and customized motivational messages, and eventually opened her Christiansted, St. Croix, storefront.

→ joyiajewelry.com

STYLE SUGGESTIONS

"In the Caribbean heat you can't accessorize with jackets and boots but you can adorn yourself with jewelry. For the most interesting look, mix different colored metals, and try square and oval-linked chains, necklaces, and bracelets."



Pat Wright
SCHATZIE

Pat Wright has had careers as a hair stylist, cosmetologist, personal development consultant, and fashion house owner. And now her latest incarnation is as the designer behind Schatzie, a made-in-Jamaica line of linen resortwear and children's clothing. A collaboration with local entrepreneurial duo Patrick and Katrin Caserly, Schatzie is committed to bringing back linen as the go-to fabric for warm-weather wear.

"Linen is versatile, stylish, and airy yet elegant," Wright says of her favorite fabric, which she fashions into women's separates and dresses, as well as shirts, pants, and shorts for men. A children's collection is on the horizon, which will be available at Schatzie's Montego Bay store and in the boutiques at Round Hill Hotel and Villas and The Tryall Club.

→ schatzie-ltd.com

STYLE SUGGESTIONS

"Linen is a natural fabric that's perfect for the Caribbean heat, but don't just wear it on-island. Linen works for European and American summers, too."

