

GETAWAY

HONEYMOON IDEAS FOR THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Beach BOUND

Head to one (or more) of these Caribbean hot spots for sun, sand, and *major* sex appeal



FROM TOP: PASCAL SHIRLEY/GALLERYSTOCK; GETTY



ST. JEAN BEACH ST. BARTH

Reef-protected St. Jean is the coolest scene on one very cool island. Weekend lunch is an all-day affair: Jet-setters (Beyoncé, Leo) camp out at party pads like the Eden Rock hotel's Sand Bar and Tom Beach Hotel's La Plage, and as the afternoon gets going, DJs at velvet-roped Nikki Beach—a chic offshoot of the St. Tropez original—turn up the volume. **STAY** The 12 plantation-inspired rooms at **Tom Beach Hotel** are a cocoon of quiet away from the party outside. Rooms from \$355; tombeach.com. —Jen Murphy



HONEYMOON BEACH PETER ISLAND, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

At 1,800 acres, palm-carpeted Peter Island is the largest private isle in the British Virgin Islands. Only one sixth of it is developed, so couples have plenty of options for solitude—including five stretches of deserted sand. The most newlywed friendly? Honeymoon Beach (obvi), outfitted with just a single palapa and two lounge chairs on sugar-white powder. Ask the kitchen to pack you a picnic lunch and linger there all day. **STAY** With 55 ocean-view rooms, suites, and villas, **Peter Island Resort and Spa** is the only retreat on the island. Chill on the beach or your private balcony, or hire a boat to sail, snorkel, or dive in the island's shimmering turquoise waters. *Rooms from \$450; peterisland.com. —J.M.*



PINK SANDS BEACH HARBOUR ISLAND, BAHAMAS

Cape Cod meets the tropics on Harbour Island, a tiny, tony Bahamian outpost beloved by fashionistas like Elle Macpherson. Upon arrival, hop in a souped-up four-seater golf cart (most locals use them) and make immediate moves for Pink Sands Beach, a spectacular three-mile sweep of rosy powder shore. Stroll hand in hand along the water; take a dip in the turquoise surf, then sit back and have rum punch brought right to your comfy chaise. **STAY** Recently renovated, **Coral Sands** is the epitome of barefoot chic. But if you do find yourself in need of shoes, pop over to the resort's boutique, filled with breezy sandals, tunics, and other adorable wares. *Rooms from \$295; coralsandsresort.com. —Sarah Greaves-Gabbadon*

6 EASY WAYS TO SAVE

1 TIME IT RIGHT To score a sweet deal and get great weather, travel during the Caribbean's shoulder season (end of January to end of March, and mid October to mid December).

2 FLY SMART According to Steve Simmons of Honeymoons, Inc., in Atlanta, you'll spend less on plane tickets by picking a destination that has plenty of direct flights, like Cancún; Jamaica; San Juan, Puerto Rico; or Nassau, Bahamas.

3 PLAN AHEAD Book at least six months in advance and resorts may throw in an additional free night, spa credits, or comped excursions, says Margie Hand, a luxury travel agent with Andavo Travel, based in Birmingham, Alabama.

4 PACKAGE PERKS Flight-hotel deals purchased through airlines like JetBlue and American help you spend less than if you'd bought everything à la carte. You might also snag perks like free checked bags—worth about \$100 per couple.

5 BRING SUNDRIES If you wait to buy sunscreen on the island, you could pay a 100 percent markup. Not checking luggage? Fill multiple travel-size bottles with the amount you'll need.

6 CONSIDER A CRUISE There are massive deals on Caribbean voyages all the time. (Six nights for \$369 a person, anyone?) It's a hassle-free way to see all the island highlights. *—Lexi Dwyer*



THE SEXIEST SUNNIES

Sunglasses, \$245, Sheriff & Cherry; net-a-porter.com.



BAIE ORIENTALE ST. MARTIN

Shed your inhibitions at Baie Orientale, a sophisticated slice of sand with great beach bars, primo windsurfing, and a (very European) clothing-optional section at its southeastern end. In the evenings, the tight-knit community of French expats gives the restaurants a fun communal vibe. Up for more? At night, grab your husband and head to a club tucked into a refurbished chapel. (Ask your concierge for directions; the name changes all the time.) **STAY** Cheerful, colorful **Alamanda Resort** offers a low-key vibe just across the street from the sea. *Rooms from \$285; hotelalamanda.com. —Brandon Presser*



FRENCHMAN'S COVE JAMAICA

Even on an island famous for its beaches, this one, in Port Antonio, is a standout. Cinematically beautiful and nestled in a jungly thicket, the wide white crescent—which costs \$10 to visit—feels like a gorgeous secret. Add a languorous river to the mix and you have total photo-shoot bait. (Pack your sexiest bikinis because you'll want to 'Gram from every angle.) **STAY** Hotels don't come any hipper than **Geejam**, a five-room hillside hideout just minutes from Frenchman's that's famous for its recording studio and rock-star clientele: Drake, Katy Perry, and Gwen Stefani have all stayed. *Rooms from \$425; geejamhotel.com. —S.G.G.*

SCOTT BEACH

ST JOHN, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

The only resort in the Caribbean set within a national park, Caneel Bay was originally built by Laurance Rockefeller as an island hideout in the 1950s. Today, the property encompasses 170 acres of virgin palms and seven perfect beaches. Our fave? Scott Beach, one of two adults-only strands. Not only is it the longest swath of sand at the resort, but its waters are also home to sea turtles. (Bring a snorkel.) **STAY** Throwback charm extends to each corner of **Caneel Bay**, from the stone mills that guard the headlands to the butlers who cater to guests' every whim. *Rooms from \$429; caneelbay.com. —B.P.*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: GETTY; COURTESY OF THE DESIGNER; @EYAGRALLI; MATT PROPERTY/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

RENT A VILLA

There's a reason villa honeymoons are trending: "You get absolute privacy and never have to fight for a lounge chair or wait for a table," says Jim Augerinos of Perfect Honeymoons in Washington, D.C. Here's how to plan your home-away-from-home vacay.

KNOW YOUR BUDGET For the best value, look into quieter islands like St. Thomas, Tortola, and St. Croix. But affordable villa rentals can also be found on luxe islands like St. Barth if you know where to look; St. Barth Properties, for example, has sea-view one-bedrooms for around \$2,000 per week in the off-season.

DECIDE HOW LOW-MAINTENANCE YOU ARE

If you're cool with booking your own activities and blending your own daiquiris, try Airbnb or FlipKey. If you want to be pampered—and you have the budget for it—go with a local luxury-villa agency, like Villas by Linda Smith or LaCure Villas, which can arrange an on-call concierge, a personal chef, and daily private poolside yoga classes.

NAIL DOWN LOGISTICS

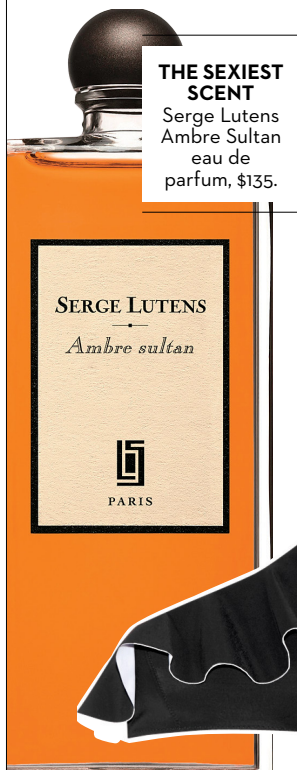
The least sexy thing in the universe is an overflowing toilet, so be sure to ask for a list of contacts for plumbing emergencies or appliance repairs. And pinpoint the nearest grocery store, though many agencies can arrange to have the kitchen stocked before you arrive.

CONSIDER...A RESORT If you love resort life but want a little more privacy, look into those with their own villas, like Como Parrot Cay in Turks and Caicos, where Donna Karan and Christie Brinkley rent out their homes. "Hotel-operated villas give you access to the concierge, on-site restaurants, bars, and activities, plus the chance to mingle with other guests," says Augerinos. —L.D.



ANSE MITAN MARTINIQUE

With its French roots and laissez-faire 'tude, this seahorse-shaped island is one of the sultriest in the Caribbean. Head to the action-packed resort town of Trois Ilets, on Anse Mitan (anse means "cove" in French), where chic bikini-clad locals sprawl by the sea, getting up only for a grilled-lobster lunch at one of the outdoor restaurants that line the water. **STAY** Radiating retro glamour, **Hôtel Bakoua** sits just north of the beach on its own spit of sand. Among its draws: an infinity pool, insane ocean views, and a thatched-roof overwater bar you'll be tempted to move into after one too many "planteurs" (planter's punch made with locally produced rum). Rooms from \$290; hotel-bakoua.fr. —B.P.



THE SEXIEST SCENT
Serge Lutens
Ambre Sultan
eau de
parfum, \$135.



MERRYWING BAY ANGUILLA

A celeb favorite (yes, that's Ellen and Portia at the bar), 35-square-mile Anguilla has 33 superb strands, many of which you can have all to yourselves, even in high season. The beach of the moment? Merrywing Bay, a long, powdery strip that's hidden in plain sight between busier Rendezvous and Cove bays. **STAY** The reason for all the buzz is the new 80-room **Reef by CuisinArt**, a chic resort with a cool young crowd that opened in November next door to the original CuisinArt. Hit the poolside restaurant for the raw bar, fresh seafood (try the peekytoe crab with funnel cake), and hand-picked salad greens straight from the resort's hydroponic farm. Then work off the feast with an aqua-spinning class in the beach-view pool. Rooms from \$500; thereefbycuisinart.com. —S.G.G.



THE SEXIEST BIKINI
Swimsuit, \$395,
Lisa Marie
Fernandez; net-
a-porter.com.

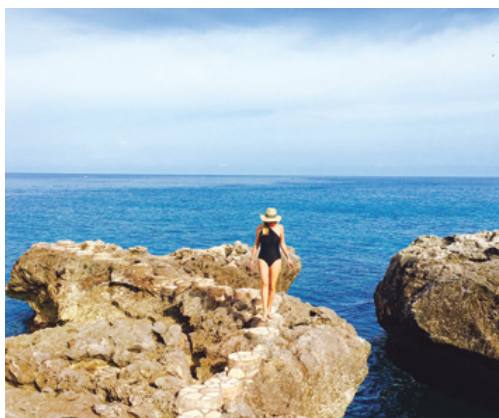
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MATTEO COLUMBO; MONTE TRUMBLE; COURTESY OF THE DESIGNER (2)

5 CHIC HOTELS UNDER \$350



WESTIN GRAND CAYMAN SEVEN MILE BEACH RESORT & SPA GRAND CAYMAN

Fresh off a multimillion-dollar renovation, this sprawling resort fronts one of the Caribbean's most coveted stretches of white sand. For next-level beach time, spend your days in one of the gorgeous new cabanas. Rooms from \$199; westingrandcayman.com.



THE CLIFF HOTEL JAMAICA

There are only 33 suites, cottages, and villas at this newly renovated boutique hotel, perched on Negril's famous cliffs. Dig into lionfish ceviche at celeb chef Cindy Hutson's new restaurant and toast the Technicolor sunset with a rum punch (or three). Rooms from \$350; thecliffjamaica.com.



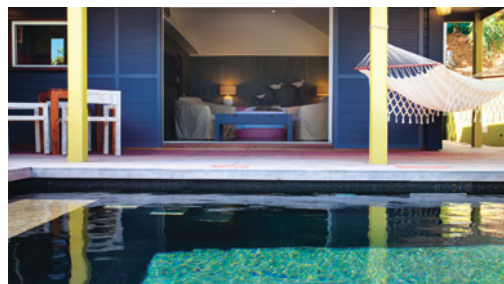
THOMPSON PLAYA DEL CARMEN MEXICO

Tropical chic and urban cool collide at Thompson Hotels' first Caribbean outpost. The roof deck has become the place to party in Playa. Think oversized chaise lounges, a giant infinity pool, and an outpost of buzzy NYC restaurant Catch. Rooms from \$230; thompsonhotels.com.



HILTON AT RESORTS WORLD BIMINI NORTH BIMINI, BAHAMAS

Don't want to burn a whole day at the airport? Bimini is just a three-hour ferry ride from Fort Lauderdale—and home to a gleaming new seaside resort. By day, hit the lazy-river pool; by night, choose from six restaurants curated by *Top Chef* winner Hung Huynh. Rooms from \$229; hilton.com.



LE KARIBUNI LODGE ST. MARTIN

Each one of this retreat's six brightly hued suites has a huge wooden deck strung with hammocks. Head to the super-chill beach club and restaurant on Ile de Pinel, just a free five-minute boat ride away, for lobster and champagne on the sand. Rooms from \$270; lekaribuni.com. —J.M.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP, COURTESY OF THE HOTEL (4) AND CHANDRA CARROLL/@CHANDRACARROLL