



SHOPPING WATCH
Must-have
mementos P. 10



CRUISE WATCH
Hop a new ferry
to paradise. P. 12



RESORT WATCH
East meets West
in Curaçao. P. 14



FOOD WATCH
Take a bite out
of a shark P. 16

The Current

MY CARIBBEAN

SOLE MAN

This guy will make the women in your life happy. Very happy. *By Sarah Greaves-Gabbadon*

Jamaica

JONATHAN BUCHANAN KNEELS BEFORE ME, CRADLING MY FOOT IN his hands, and proclaims: “You’re a six-and-a-half, love.” I beam; what woman doesn’t want to hear her feet are a size smaller than she thought? Without advertising or even a sign at the door, the chief operating officer of Bridget Sandals has positioned his shoe-designer mother’s 30-year-old Kingston atelier as *the* destination for stylish Caribbean kicks, and now international fashionistas flock for strappy sandals crafted from buttery leathers and supple suede. Read on for Jonathan’s Jamaica tips — and the one thing every man needs to know about women. →

The Current
SHOPPING WATCH

You haven't seen Jamaica if you haven't seen ... the view from Blue Mountain Peak; on a clear day, you can see Cuba. The Bob Marley Museum is hardly a secret, but still, you have to visit the place where the

Cont. from p. 9

music the whole world loves was made. Rick's Cafe, in Negril, is a classic too. Sipping a Red Stripe as the sun dips beneath the sea — that's paradise.

Yes, Jamaica's beaches are great, but ... our rivers are just as amazing. Many aren't marked on the map or don't have names, and nobody really talks about them. But a river bath is really healing, and standing under a waterfall is nature's massage. Ask any Jamaican to direct you to their favorite, and you won't be disappointed.

If I want a beach to myself, I go to ... Winnifred Beach, in Portland. It's hidden away down a hill and beyond the bush, but the water there is amazing. And I love going to Lime Cay, not far from Kingston. You take a boat from the beach to get to another beach; it's really cool.

Kingston's bad rap is undeserved. The north coast is tailor-made for tourists and has the whole vacation vibe going on. But Kingston represents the real, true Jamaica. In the capital, you can see how vibrant and passionate and noisy Jamaicans really are; nothing is diluted. And you may run into Usain Bolt! (I literally bumped into him at a nightclub last weekend.)



The one local dish I could eat every day is ... curried goat. I had it yesterday, and I'm having it again for lunch today. You simply have to try it while you're on-island. Oh — and every tourist should eat at least one patty.

You gotta get high. At the end of the day, it brings me great joy and peace to sit up on a rooftop and watch the sunset, to hear the birds and to feel the cool breeze; it's just me and nature. But if you're an early morning person, the sunrise is even prettier.

Men are from Mars; women are from the mall. We men really only purchase for need, but a woman buys for want. Once you understand that, the rest is easy.



STRAP HAPPY
Bridget's classic style, the Rose, can be worn myriad ways. Go to caribbeantravelmag.com/rose to learn five ways to tie one on.

RATIONALE

"Of course, every woman should have a pair of *Bridget sandals*; they're *heaven on your feet*. And guys should buy them for the woman they love. Trust me; when you see how *happy she is* when you give them to her, that's a gift in itself." From \$95. 876-968-1913; bridgetsandals.net



3 MORE HAND-CRAFTED CARIBBEAN TAKE-AWAYS

1 Bring the Heat
Yes, we know you think you can handle spicy, but heed our advice: Go easy with these scorching Bahamian hot sauces, made from local goat and ladyfinger peppers, or live to regret it. Trust us; just a dash'll do ya.
THE TAB From \$8

2 Top It Off
Ole, Guillermo Jeffs' tiny store in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, is jam-packed with authentic handmade Panama hats, which he custom-fits using a blow-dryer and embellishes with the ribbon of your choice.
787-724-2445
THE TAB From \$55

3 Stir It Up
Chris Blackwell, Island Records owner turned Island Outpost hotelier, now turns his entrepreneurial eye to rum with this spicy and subtly sweet eponymous elixir blended in Jamaica.
blackwellrum.com
THE TAB From \$28

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: JON WHITTLE (4); ZACH STOWALL