

Plus! Anita Diamant's Cape Ann Driving Texas Hill Country Low-Fare Asia Best of the Web A*List Deals Local Color


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Canada's Garden City
Victoria on the Pacific

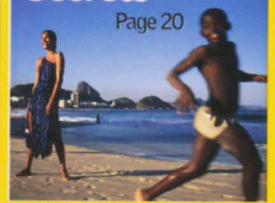
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 Page 20




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INSIDER'S CHARLESTON
20 Ways to Fall Under the Spell

Dive instructor Bridget Barclay soaks in an infinity pool in the Jade Mountain Club, a new section of Anse Chastanet opening in December or January. In the background, looming more than 2,400 feet above the sea, are St. Lucia's volcanic Pitons. "At Anse Chastanet," says the author, "no two guest rooms are alike. They range from cheerful hillside standard rooms to forest-wrapped quarters just off the sand to spacious suites where one wall is replaced by an open-air panorama."

Multisport Playground

Anse Chastanet, St. Lucia: The ramshackle fishing village, Soufrière, and the iconic Pitons are backdrop for this 600-acre resort straddling a ridge rising from a cove of silver sand. Variety is the prime draw—in both room types and activities. Snorkel or dive amid tropical fish just feet from the beach. Nearby, at the 18th-century ruins of Anse Mamin plantation, mountain bike at a dedicated facility with a challenging trail crafted by Olympic champ Tinker Juarez; or navigate easier trails through mango and avocado trees. Add kayaking, sailing, a newish spa, and art gallery. "Whether you're a lounge lizard or outdoor adventurer," says photographer Susan Seubert, "you'll find choices here" (800-223-1108; www.ansechastanet.com; from \$225).

Going Native

Seduced by the Caribbean

Truly singular hideaways tend to be smaller, owner-managed, and designed to complement the landscape. Here are 12 that stand out, each for its own reason.

By David Swanson / Photographs by Susan Seubert