

FEBRUARY 2018

TANZANIA • SPAIN • CHARLESTON • VENICE • BHUTAN

# TRAVEL+ LEISURE

## Island Getaways

THE GRENADINES

ANTIGUA

THE BAHAMAS

ST. KITTS



JAMAICA

GRAND CAYMAN

ARUBA

ST. LUCIA

DISPLAY UNTIL  
FEBRUARY 23, 2018



On the beach at Baha Mar, in the Bahamas.



at the entrance to the complex, with its towering 40-foot water wall and fountains powered by 365 jets. Eleven swimming pools give everyone room to find their own corner. Even more impressive are the 2,500 pieces of Bahamian art curated by native son John Cox. My favorite: Cox's own painting *The Fifth Season*, a series of colorful circles on a wood background, behind the Grand Hyatt check-in desk. The 1,800 rooms are all spacious; some have a crisp blue-and-white palette that plays off the environment.

The 100,000-square-foot casino (surprisingly easy to navigate, and not overwhelming) serves as a hub, with restaurants and lounges branching off. Thirty restaurants, bars, and lounges in all span the project, and some of the best are the most casual. El Jefe is a seaside food truck—actually a hot-pink Airstream trailer—for tacos, while the Conch Stand delivers a classic Bahamian dish, freshly



Above: Baha Mar features several casual restaurants, like the Conch Stand on Long Cay, Baha Mar's private island. Below: The Baha Mar resort's 1,000 acres include the 18-hole Royal Blue golf course.

caught and seasoned to perfection. You could spend a week here and still be discovering new things to do, from the 18-hole golf course to the 24-treatment-room Espa, one of the best destinations for wellness in the Caribbean, in my opinion. While the Grand Hyatt and the Rosewood—the third Baha Mar resort, scheduled to open this spring—cater to families, the SLS is all about couples. With its minimalist lobby and rooftop cocktail lounge, the property has a youthful energy, something Nassau sorely needed.

That energy extends to neighboring Paradise Island, too, where the resorts have renovated to keep up with the times (and Baha Mar). At the **Ocean Club, a Four Seasons Resort** ([fourseasons.com](http://fourseasons.com); doubles from \$1,260), I saw locals and guests having family nights and celebrating anniversaries at Jean-Georges' Dune restaurant, now sleek and modern but still serving classics like crispy salmon sushi and black-truffle pizza.

Over at the **Cove** ([atlantisbahamas.com](http://atlantisbahamas.com); doubles from \$509), the exclusive wing of Atlantis, Paradise Island, designer Lulu de Kwiatkowski reimagined the adults-centric Cove Pool, decorating the cabanas with original paintings. Sip Sip, Harbour Island's top restaurant, now has a location there, too. But the bigger change is at the **Coral** ([atlantisbahamas.com](http://atlantisbahamas.com); doubles from \$289), where you can now make use of a kids' concierge, stay in redesigned rooms, and taste Bahamian-inspired ice cream in the new lobby café, Sun & Ice. There, chef Wayne Moncur serves flavors like "yea bey," a fusion of caramelized sugar banana and soursop. It's a crowd-pleaser with a sense of place—a formula that the destination seems to have finally figured out.



**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Markham Roberts updated the 13 villas originally designed by native son Oscar de la Renta at **Tortuga Bay at Puntacana Resort & Club** ([tortugabay.com](http://tortugabay.com); villas from \$850), giving their plantation-style interiors a lighter feel. In **La Romana**, the **Minitas Beach Club & Restaurant** ([casadecampo.com.do](http://casadecampo.com.do); entrées \$20–\$38) at Casa de Campo now has a sprawling pool deck and expansive Caribbean views.

