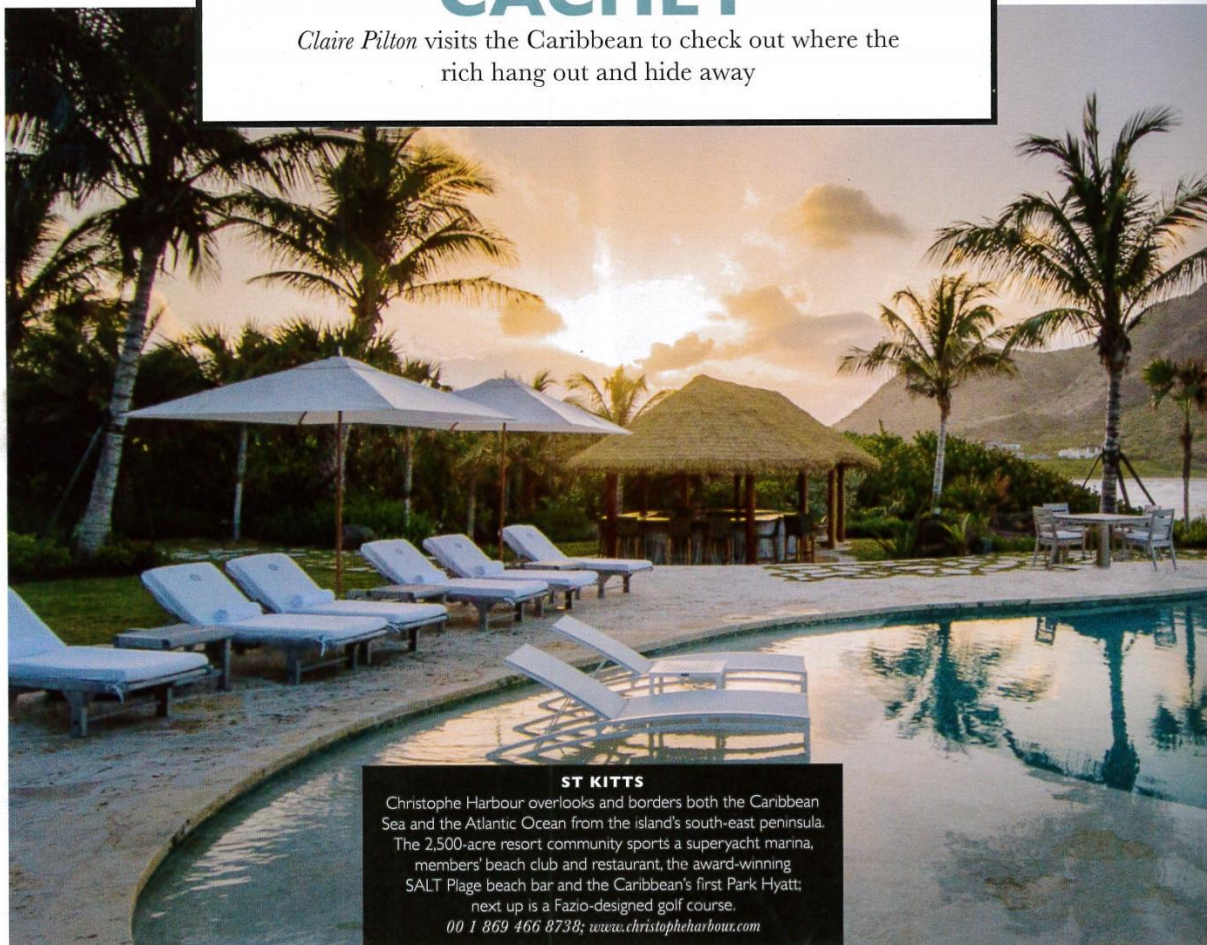


CONDÉ NAST
BRITAIN | PROPERTY

CARIBBEAN CACHET

Claire Pilton visits the Caribbean to check out where the rich hang out and hide away



ST KITTS

Christophe Harbour overlooks and borders both the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean from the island's south-east peninsula. The 2,500-acre resort community sports a superyacht marina, members' beach club and restaurant, the award-winning SALT Plage beach bar and the Caribbean's first Park Hyatt; next up is a Fazio-designed golf course.

00 1 869 466 8738; www.christopheharbour.com

Christophe Harbour in St Kitts is an exceptional 2,500-acre residential resort that reflects its pristine location on what developer Charles 'Buddy' Darby calls 'the thin end of the drumstick'. With Kiawah Island in South Carolina and The Lodge at Doonbeg in Ireland under his belt, Buddy believes 'affluent people want to be part of a community.' This one provides a mix of 'legacy' home sites from \$700,000 to \$8.5 million (build costs from circa \$650 per sq ft); custom-built houses from \$3.7 million; turnkey villas from \$1.375 million; and fractional ownership four-bedroom residences from \$450,000 for

a 1/10 deeded share. Alternatively, if you're down to your last superyacht, freehold marina berths start from \$1.875 million for 150-foot-plus vessels and rise to \$5.9 million for their 300-foot custom-built counterparts. This is very much a destination marina village with its colonial-style customs house, crew lounge and fitness centre, restaurants, bars and boutiques. 'That it also offers berth owners freehold titles makes Christophe Harbour a unique proposition,' says director of yachting (and Buddy's former superyacht captain) Aeneas Hollins. 'Our cruising grounds benefit from the longest leeward windy stretch in the Caribbean; you can sail

here, at speed, with a glass of champagne in your hand, no problem.' St Kitts completes the 55-mile cruising triangle between Antigua and St Maarten.

In the Grenadines, Mandarin Oriental has taken the helm at Canouan's Pink Sands Club, with its championship golf course, spa and children's club. Three-, four- and five-bedroom villas in this private 1,200-acre gated community start from \$6 million through Savills. In Barbados, Savills and Knight Frank are instructed on the island's swankiest development to date. The Villas at Beachlands start from \$28 million, and are set in 4.5-acre grounds with 700 feet of

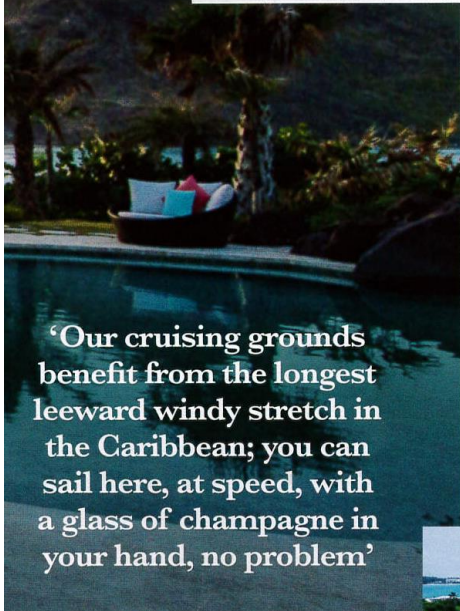
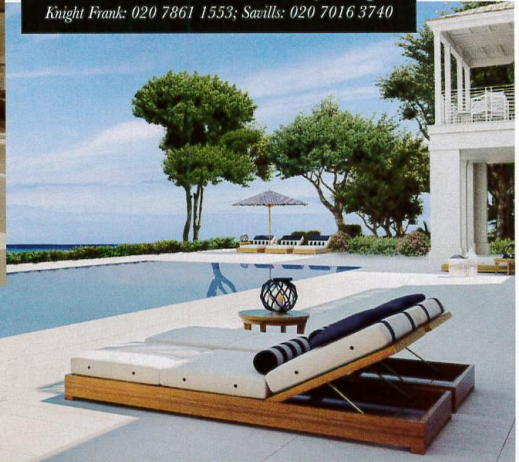


MUSTIQUE

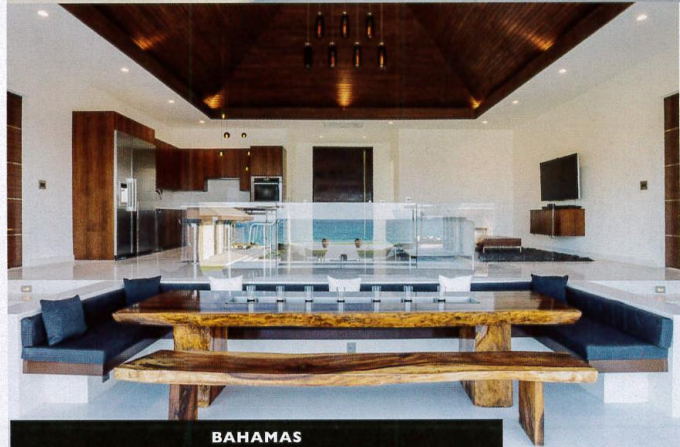
Inspired by the work of Oliver Messel, this elegant gingerbread villa costs \$9 million. Five generous bedroom suites, two reception rooms, several terraces and a swimming pool make the most of spectacular views over ever-exclusive Mustique to the glittering Caribbean and neighbouring islands beyond. *Knight Frank: 020 7861 1553*

BARBADOS

A short stroll along the beach from Sandy Lane, the four Villas at Beachlands occupy the last significant undeveloped site in St James. Spanning 13,175 sq ft over two floors, the first beach-fronting villa, Tamarindo, has four bedrooms and a \$28 million price tag. *Knight Frank: 020 7861 1553; Savills: 020 7016 3740*



'Our cruising grounds benefit from the longest leeward windy stretch in the Caribbean; you can sail here, at speed, with a glass of champagne in your hand, no problem'



BAHAMAS

15 minutes from Governor's Harbour Airport, this four-bedroom villa teams a beachfront setting with a touch of Zen; the 50-foot pool is framed by a huge elevated daybed to one side and a sunken sala with a BBQ-bar-dining-lounge on the other. The \$10 million sale includes two jet-skis. *Chestertons International: 020 7201 2071*

platinum coast frontage that is protected by an ocean groyne system, which preserves the dry sand area while providing Hawksbill turtles with a safe, five-star nesting habitat.

While the recent spate of hurricanes has prompted purchasers 'to choose their location carefully and consider the quality of construction and insurance costs,' Robert Green of Sphere Estates reports, 'the fall in enquiries is negligible for Barbados and for St Lucia.' Here, at The Landings, the 'Final Collection' of 21 waterside homes range from \$575,000 for a two-bedroom marina apartment to \$3.75 million for a three-bedroom Grand Villa on the beach.



TURKS & CAICOS

This \$4.8 million beach house has fantastic snorkelling right on the doorstep and is within a short walk of several fabulous restaurants. Located on Grace Bay Beach, it has six bedroom suites, cool covered terraces and two swimming pools, both with views of that terrific turquoise sea. *Christie's: www.theturksandcaicos.com*