

The 21 hottest hideaways



Launching our seven-page Caribbean special, **Chris Haslam** picks the places to stay this winter

Does winter's approach fill you with dread of cold days, thick jumpers and porridge for breakfast? Then you're getting it all wrong. You should be anticipating hot days, skimpy beachwear and rum for breakfast, for this is the season of the Caribbean break.

Admittedly, things haven't been universally paradisiacal in the Antilles this year. Some beaches have been blighted by the foul-smelling sargassum seaweed that bloomed across the region this summer. Like

you, we prefer our sand white and weed-free, so we've double-checked with every property listed here that its beach wasn't troubled by sargassum at the time of going to press. Thankfully, the stuff now appears to be on the wane across the region, so those with a clean bill of health should keep it.

Now dig out the factor 50. Whatever the calendar says, the hottest days of the year are still to come.

● *Unless stated, prices are per person for seven nights, B&B, including flights and transfers*

BY THE BIG BEACH, GRENADA

The de Savary empire stretches from Dartmoor to Darwin, but his best effort is the lovely **Mount Cinnamon Resort and Beach Club**, on Grenada's magnificent Grand Anse Beach. This is proper fly-and-flop territory, just 15 minutes from the airport, with everything you need for doing nothing – a beach bar that does cracking barbecues, a spa, a pool and huge rooms with flashy modern kitchens, should you have the absurd notion of cooking for yourself. If you must leave the resort, we can recommend the hike up Mount Qua Qua, in the Grand Etang National Park. Take the No 6 bus from St George's (£1.70 return), pay £1.30 to enter the park and allow three hours to get to the top and back along an extraordinarily verdant and easily climbed path. On this day at least, you'll have earned your rum ration.

*From £1,169pp; 020 7749 9220,
kenwoodtravel.co.uk*