



Coral Reef Club

THE GRAPEVINE

AUTUMN / WINTER 2019



THE SANDPIPER



Another year but no longer counting! I am pleased to say that both Coral Reef Club and The Sandpiper have had a good year and it was such a pleasure to welcome so many repeat guests, sometimes twice in the year. A tremendous amount of credit goes to our dedicated staff who contribute greatly to your holidays.

What a pleasure it was to have the company of my eight grandchildren on occasions when I was in London. They have all left school and the last two, Jack and Gemma, will be heading for University after a 'gap year'. Jack is going to Japan to give skiing instruction, but if the rain doesn't stop it will be swimming lessons! My 'young' (!) and grandchildren gave me a lovely dinner party on the occasion of my birthday which I celebrated in London.

We were privileged to have Royal visitors to the island in March and Prince Charles hosted a reception at Coral Reef for the Prince's Trust. It was a very successful occasion and attended by all the notorieties of the island. The Prince was charming, relaxed and very entertaining. The entire O'Hara family was introduced to him. To think all those years ago my mother and I were walking past Buckingham Palace when an announcement was posted on the gates stating the safe arrival of Prince Charles.

We made our usual greenery contribution to the Chelsea Flower Show and were thrilled to know they achieved another Gold. It is unbelievable to think that all of it crosses the Atlantic by air over a week before the event. We are very proud that the Barbados team always achieves great results.

Unfortunately, my Macular eye condition is catching up on me, therefore if I don't recognize you until we almost bump into one another, please forgive me. Nothing else has changed, still enjoying my dark chocolate and red wine so I have nothing to complain about.

My family and the entire team at Coral Reef Club and The Sandpiper join me in sending our good wishes.

Cynthia O'Hara

Cynthia O'Hara
Chairman



The O'Hara & Capaldi families less Wayne Capaldi who was holding the fort at The Sandpiper.



THE BARBADOS FOOD & RUM FESTIVAL

Both Coral Reef Club and The Sandpiper held special culinary evenings in October to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Barbados Food & Rum Festival. These events showcased our teams' skills with incredible tasting menus that could compete with any visiting celebrity chef, if we say so ourselves - but our diners did



say so too! In addition to all of the 'fine food', we are happy to say that a simply grilled piece of fresh fish for lunch, with a rum punch on the side, is still about as good as it gets!

THE SPA WELLNESS WEEKS



Our Wellness Weeks continue to be popular with guests who enjoy the luxuries of a beach holiday along with varied fitness sessions, including Caribbean-Style Zumba, Sunset Yoga and Pilates or hikes through gullies or beachside cliffs. We are also now offering personalized body composition assessments and meal plans. Should you wish to attend our Wellness Weeks next year, they will be held 7th - 14th March, 8th - 15th August and 24th - 31st October 2020. For further information, please visit our website.

ST. NICHOLAS ABBEY

We were pleased to collaborate with another family business - our friends at St. Nicholas Abbey, for the Food & Rum event and are delighted that their 'product' grows from strength to strength. To complement the visit to the 'Abbey' and rum refinery, the fantastic addition of their heritage steam railway, chugging through the 'jungle', up to the most beautiful view on the island, is a delight.



CORAL REEF CLUB

Our chef Hance and his team have introduced fresh new lunch menus for both the Restaurant and the Spa. We are more focused than ever on healthy options whilst still maintaining a delectable selection of dishes. Thanks to our team's culinary expertise, they ensure that dining at Coral Reef, be it beachside, poolside or in the Reef Restaurant, is always a highlight of the day.

We hosted the Italian celebrity TV chef earlier in the year, Simone Rugiati, who shared his pasta making techniques with the Coral Reef team. We look forward to putting these skills on show at our lunch pasta station over the winter months.

Coral Reef Club has been awarded by the U.K. Tour Operator Elegant Resorts "Clients Choice of Best Hotel in the World for Service." We are very grateful to our team for the excellent job that they do.

We are pleased to advise that we have taken the decision to remain open over our usual closure period of late May, June and early July, when the island enjoys some of its best and most consistently sunny weather.

Have a look at our newly designed website which we recently launched - www.coralreefbarbados.com

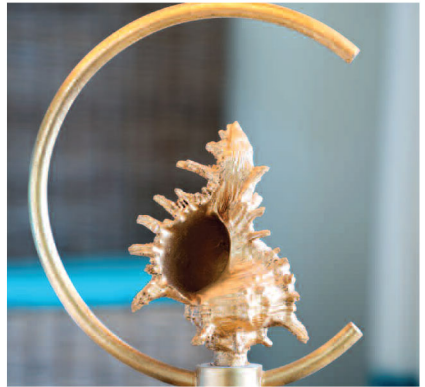


THE PRINCE'S TRUST RECEPTION

We were honored to welcome HRH The Prince of Wales to Coral Reef Club in March for the Prince's Trust International Reception where Lionel Richie was named Global Ambassador for the Prince's Trust International. It was a very successful and enjoyable event.



*Image sourced from The Telegraph.
Credit Jane Barlow / PA*



THE SANDPIPER

We are delighted with the new, fresh look at Sandpiper's main cocktail bar by the pool and restaurant - it looks like spring has arrived! Our aim was to brighten up the bar without having some of the hotter Caribbean colours, so the tones of white furniture, apricot, lemon, sea salt white and pale pink are a gorgeous mélange of cool hues.

In addition, we have hung three large, framed black and white photographs in the restaurant which add a certain panache. Whilst our restaurant team continues to offer their usual friendly yet professional service, our accomplished kitchen team, led by Christophe, continues to move onwards and upwards with the quality of meals they create.

We are thrilled that The Sandpiper was included in Conde Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards for 2019 which is a wonderful recognition and testament to our loyal team.

Our newly designed website has been launched!
Have a look at www.sandpiperbarbados.com





DIVE FESTIVAL

We have a great diving operation on site at Coral Reef Club, Hightide Watersports, and several protected Marine Parks in Barbados, including Folkstone which is home to a beautiful reef just south of Coral Reef, and Carlisle Bay with its fantastic collection of wrecks. For those who enjoy scuba diving, the diving association in Barbados has a fun week of events, 'DiveFest', which runs from 3rd to 12th July 2020. DiveFest includes discounts with 20% off all diving from Hightide at Coral Reef Club. It also includes events to teach local children how to swim plus underwater and beach clean ups.



ISLAND DINING

Barbados is in the enviable position of having superb restaurants with excellent food. Amongst them The Cliff, Tides, The Lonestar and Daphne's, with more recent additions such as Port Ferdinand's Dockside 1359. There are some new beach bars that have opened along the west coast with good food in lovely locations - La Cabane, 1.11 East, Sea Shed and Ju Ju's which has been going for a while. For those who prefer the complete local experience, Bombas and Fisherman's Pub in nearby, colourful Speightstown are the places to go.

SUSTAINABILITY

A recent article in Conde Nast Traveller revealed that 70% of travelers are currently more likely to choose a hotel if it's 'green'. We have always put ethics before profit and supported local community charities, education and sporting endeavours. The environment has also become more and more to the fore as part of our ethics. In order for us to have a team that fully embraces environmental issues, we started with educating ourselves about our precious sea. We arranged a screening of 'Plastic Ocean' to be shown to both teams at Coral Reef Club and The Sandpiper. This film highlights the dangers to our seas and oceans posed by plastic pollution and helped us to appreciate the reasons for decisions to move away from using plastic (straws, bags etc). We also have environmentally friendly practices such as using LED bulbs, solar heating and supporting local farming.