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All Eyes On ANGUILLA

Eighteen months after Hurricane Irma ravaged Anguilla, the island's most illustrious resorts have reemerged with new frills aplenty

By Paul Rubio

FOUR SEASONS RESORT AND RESIDENCES ANGUILLA

Hurricane Irma's path of destruction was far from equal across Anguilla's 35.14 square miles, and pockets of the West End, home to the Four Seasons Resort and Residences Anguilla, sustained comparatively less damage. Consequently, this grouping of suites, residences, and villas adding up to 181 accommodations was ready for its close-up by March 2018.

Rewind to the months prior to Irma, when the property had shuttered to transition from a Viceroy-flagged resort to one of Four Seasons pedigree, a change that resulted in most turn-key inventory becoming available for private ownership. During that time, the Kelly Wearstler-designed enclave—and all its infinity-edged, silver travertine-laced excess—was polished and perfected to embody the current state of Caribbean cool.

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THE FOUR SEASONS FEATURES INTERIORS BY KELLY WEARSTLER, WHO BROUGHT HER RAW YET REFINED AESTHETIC TO THE COMMUNAL AND PERSONAL SPACES.

This made the post-hurricane goal simple: Turn back the hands of time to when the resort had re-debuted. Damaged elements, such as the low-rise glass balconies framing each unit, plentiful fire pits added in late 2016, and towering date palms at the Aleta pool, were replaced to appear as they did pre-Irma. Thankfully, interiors stood unscathed. (We were relieved to hear our favorite petrified-wood tables, olive-tinted armoires, and carved-alabaster ornaments all survived.)



Storm stress notwithstanding, Irma did bestow a major gift upon the Four Seasons; she unearthed and repositioned mounds and mounds of fine-quartz sand, dramatically expanding the resort's beaches. To be sure, the property had always occupied prime Anguillan real estate on Meads Bay and Barnes Bay. (A rocky promontory, which houses amenities like the 8,100-square-foot spa, seafood-centric Cobà restaurant, and the stunning Sunset pool and lounge, separates the two dreamscapes.) But nowadays, there's even more room to amble, splash, sunbathe, and ogle the spellbinding turquoise waters.

Combine that with superb service, a smart and sophisticated vibe, fabulous programming that includes the island's best live music and fitness classes, and excellent, Instagram-worthy food and drink offerings—like tuna tartare served in a coconut shell and the Soya's Thyme cocktail presented in a pineapple—and you'll see why a Category 5 was no match for this bastion of West Indian glamour. (fourseasons.com/anguilla)



LAUDED FIRM ROTTET STUDIO REINVIGORATED THE LOOK OF BELMOND CAP JULUCA WITH A DESIGN THAT HONORS THE RESORT'S SURROUNDS WHILE ALSO ADDING A DOSE OF SLEEK ISLAND STYLE.

BELMOND CAP JULUCA

In the wake of Hurricane Irma, Anguilla's grande dame, Cap Juluca, transformed tragedy into opportunity—for an epic facelift, that is. Some \$40 million dollars later, the icon re-emerged in December 2018 as the got-to-see-it-to-believe-it flagship Caribbean property of the esteemed Belmond brand.

While the famed white-washed, Greco-Moorish exteriors and sparkling mile-long Maundays Bay beach remain, nothing else is the same. Rottet Studio's redesign reveals an exciting departure from Cap Juluca's long-standing classic style. The 108 oceanfront guest suites now ooze contemporary barefoot luxury, as seen in flowing natural fabrics, abundant sunlight, intricate patterned tiling, oversized bathrooms enveloped by walled botanical courtyards, and colossal terraces and balconies accessorized with conversation-inducing furnishings. A newly constructed infinity pool area segues to the main house by way of a staircase leading to a second decorative pool bejeweled in deep-green tiles and framed with a variety of seating alcoves overlooking surreal ocean blues.



EVERY INCH OF MALLIOUHANA IS RIPE FOR INSTAGRAM FODDER. SNAP SOME SHOTS OF TODD AVERY'S BEACHY PASTELS OR RELAX BY THE POOL UNDER SUNNY UMBRELLAS.

MALLIOUHANA

British entrepreneur Leon Roydon built Malliouhana in 1984. Fast-forward 30 years and the prized property was reborn as a boutique hotel, envisioned by the teams of SB Architects and TAL Studio and incorporated into the Auberge Resorts Collection.

During Hurricane Irma, the stately, Moorish-indebuted resort atop Meads Bay fared surprisingly well. However, the period afterward spawned a perfect storm for an ambitious expansion and revamp across all 25 acres.

The first new element, Café Celeste, opened in December 2018. This reincarnation of the hotel's signature restaurant exemplifies the Auberge hallmarks of high-quality food and wine, so expect a French-influenced, Mediterranean menu with an incredible Napa-centric wine list to match. At press time, all else that's new at Malliouhana shall be unveiled later this month, including a collection of 11 beachfront suites, the two-bedroom Turtle Cove Villa (with private infinity pool), a spa complex, a full beach club, and Leon's Porch and Beach Bar, serving beach-conscious eats in a feet-in-the-sand setting.

These additions will personify the pastel-hued, vintage-chic Todd Avery aesthetic found within the existing buildings and common spaces. All take full advantage of Malliouhana's sweeping ocean views across three bays and coves. It's the type of design where every nook looks as if it was created with social media in mind. Anticipate blowing up your feeds with images of the tiered lobby accessorized with funky touches like circular mirrored tiles and a floor-to-ceiling collection of vintage deep-sea diving helmets, as well as selfies under the ruffled yellow umbrellas of the two-level infinity pool. (malliouhana.aubegeresorts.com)



PAUL RUBIO

As part of its reimagination, the resort has welcomed several big-deal food and beverage outlets, namely Cip's by Cipriani, a spin-off of the Venetian culinary hot spot at Belmond Hotel Cipriani. It boasts a mix of light and rich Italian fare (the pumpkin lasagna is worth every calorie) with a hefty side of Venetian allure in seductive garden-themed environs. Also of note is The Cap Shack, a laid-back, palapa-topped beach shack at the far end of the property that specializes in spiked tropical drinks.

With a fresh look and its inherent bounties, the Belmond Cap Juluca is not just enshrined in the history books of Anguilla opulence but has found its way into the next chapter alongside its headline-grabbing counterparts. (belmond.com/hotels/caribbean/anguilla/belmond-cap-juluca)



COURTESY OF BELMOND

ONE THING THAT HASN'T CHANGED: BELMOND CAP JULUCA'S ACCLAIMED WHITE-SAND BEACH ON MAUNDAYS BAY.

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ENVISIONWORKS INC.

ENVISIONWORKS INC.

CUISINART REVAMPED ITS INTERIORS WITH A MODERN PLAY OF BLUE AND WHITE FURNISHINGS, WHILE ALSO IMPROVING ACTIVITY AREAS ACROSS THE ENTIRE PROPERTY.

CUISINART GOLF RESORT & SPA

For decades CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa was synonymous with the lost-in-time Caribbean experience, harking back to when Anguilla first hit the jet-set scene in the 1980s. And following a November 2018 reopening, the long, lazy, carefree beach days of yesteryear can again be enjoyed at the resort—but this time with a twist.

Since Hurricane Irma, CuisinArt embarked on a path of modernization that brought new life to the resort. Out are the tired interiors; in is a property that exudes coastal elegance, playing off a contrast between blues and whites, accented by sea-inspired art and sleek lounging areas. A mammoth new outdoor playground and kids' splash zone

(which is more like a mini waterpark) emphasize the resort's growing presence as a family-friendly destination, while a full restoration to the par-72 Greg Norman Signature Design 18-Hole Championship Course—the only course on Anguilla—carves a niche for golf enthusiasts. Additionally, CuisinArt has introduced the Mosaic restaurant, with international and Caribbean cuisine, and the North African-themed KazBar.

Despite a complete design transformation, fans of the old CuisinArt need not worry. The resort has somehow managed to move into the future without leaving the past or compromising on an unpretentious, classic panache. (cuisinartresort.com) ◀◀

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