



Grown-up Fun in the Sun Selling Resorts for Couples

Puerto Rico,
Copamarina Massage
Credit: Copamarina

If sun loungers on endless stretches of sandy beaches, unlimited fine dining and starry nights aren't enough, try a resort that caters to grown-ups without distractions like teen discos and crowded buffets. A Caribbean vacation without the kids is all about swapping pint-sized dinner plates for side-by-side massages on the beach.

JUST THE TWO OF US

The road less traveled and a world away from the high-rise strip in San Juan, **Copamarina** on the south coast is the real deal for couples looking for a few days away from the hustle bustle of the capital city. Fronting the Caribbean Sea (San Juan is on the Atlantic Ocean side), in the seaside town of Guanica, the inviting hotel is a two-hour drive from the airport and well worth the effort for the day beds on the beach, hammocks made for two, breakfast at the open air Las Palmas eatery (ask Luis to whip up a fabulous omelette), stellar service that gives couples plenty of privacy without hovering and comfy rooms, many facing the beach. On twenty acres, the resort also offers a spa, swimming pools and did we mention the romantic day beds on the beach? www.copamarina.com

In Jamaica, a speakeasy bar called The Rabbit Hole, fabulous French in Le Gourmand restaurant, the jerk shack and the Popcorn & Palms Cinema are

couple-pleasers at the adults-only **Sandals Grande Riviera Beach & Villa Golf Resort** in Ocho Rios. Perched high on a mountain, cool drinks are poured with warm hospitality at the casual yet chic All-Butler Village and should couples venture out of their sweet suite, the resort stretches over more than one hundred acres. www.sandals.com

Pay-for-one and experience the other at St. Maarten's adults-only **Sonesta Great Bay Beach** where guests also enjoy the amenities at the family-friendly **Sonesta Maho Beach**, its sister property close to the airport. Newly buffed up, Sonesta Great Bay is a seashell away from the boardwalk and shopping that makes the capital city of Philipsburg a good fit for couples. The boutique all-inclusive sweetens the pot with three swimming pools, four restaurants like Il Pescatore for seafood pasta and Tre Assi for oven-fired pizza, four bars, spa and Golden Casino. Upping the adults-only ante, champagne upon check-in is a fizzy welcome, afternoon tea is gracious and for those in the premier suites, those same butlers serve lunch on the beach. www.sonesta.com/greatbay

For grown-ups with an open mind, not a lot of clothes and a playful spirit, **Hedonism II** in Negril is all about mirrors above the beds, Jacuzzis in the suites and access to the clothing-not-allowed beach from the aptly named 'au naturel' rooms. An



Puerto Rico, Copamarina Beach
Credit: Copamarina

inhibition-free zone, the party playground also comes with exceptionally good restaurants and a clothing-optional beach, should you tire of skinny dipping, if only for an afternoon. www.hedonism.com

TOP SHELF

Designed by the same team that created New York's Grand Central Station, the nearly century-old **Condado Vanderbilt**, named for Frederick William Vanderbilt, scion of one of America's richest families, was once the haunt of A-list bluebloods like Charles Lindberg, Errol Flynn and President Franklin and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. Today, the Grande Dame of Condado in the upscale suburb of San Juan is newly renovated, yet still honors the glory days of San Juan, especially in the elegant Veritas Wine and Cognac Bar with cocktails like the fabulously saintly St. Hillaire that does a flute justice with Prosecco, lemon peel and the elderberry-flavored liqueur called St. Germaine (find a bottle to bring home), and the Vanderbilt Mojito chilled with Ron del Barrilito Three Star rum, lime and a sprig of mint. Luxe rooms including 108 suites are fresh from a facelift and aim to please with gratis Wi-Fi, butler service and fruity Bigelow amenities in the spacious bathrooms. www.condadovanderbilt.com

You blink once and then twice and you know you've landed in the lap of luxury when white gloved servers deliver chilled sorbet to your sun lounger every afternoon at 3pm at **Cap Juluca**. Spectacular with dramatic seaside suites that front Anguilla's Maundays Beach, pampering perks on the beach include cushioned sun loungers with extra-large umbrellas, frosty bottles of water, chaise-side sips and snacks, chilled towels to keep the heat at bay and those delectably refreshing cups of fruity sorbet (note to connoisseurs: lemon is our first choice with coconut a close second). www.capjuluca.com

NEWS

NEW CARNIVAL

The first "Bahamas Junkanoo Carnival" will take place on Grand Bahama Island, April 17th and 18th and in Nassau, May 7th to 9th, 2015. The annual event spans five weeks beginning on Easter Monday, 2015. Unlike the Bahamas' renowned Junkanoo, the "Bahamas Junkanoo Carnival" will be an interactive and participatory event open for all in attendance to join in and take part in the fun and excitement. It is a festive weeklong celebration where Bahamians and guests from around the world will be immersed in all things Bahamian. The carnival events will showcase Junkanoo, Rake-in-Scrape, arts and crafts, Bahamian cuisine, visual art, music, dance and more. Additionally, Bahamas Junkanoo Carnival is a high entertainment experience, which sets the stage for Bahamian recording artists to nurture their sound and express themselves in front of a global audience. It will also include an immersive parade on an iconic stage.

www.bahamas.com/carnival

CUBA

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Cuba Cruise now welcomes Americans on board by offering two easy ways to travel: book a comprehensive program with a U.S. tour operator partner, like Road Scholar and InsightCuba, or book directly with Cuba Cruise and register for a People-to-People Cuba Cruise program. Rates for the 7-night People-to-People Cuba Cruise start at \$630, plus port fees (\$145) and the cost of registration (\$75). Weekly departures through March 23, 2015 are available to book now with limited availability. Passengers can embark from either Montego Bay or Havana. Commissions are available.

BERMUDA

WINTER GETAWAY

www.elbowbeachbermuda.com

SAVINGS

Elbow Beach Bermuds is offering winter specials and packages, making luxury travel more convenient than ever. Their "Escape the Cold" package offers 50% on their Junior Suite Ocean Rooms, and provides a free welcome drink upon arrival. A three night minimum stay is required. Guests enjoy free wifi and complimentary access to the fitness center. Their experienced staff and luxurious property make this the ultimate island getaway. Call **800-223-9350**.



San Juan Condado Vanderbilt Side Exterior
Credit: Condado Vanderbilt

soaking tubs and open-air dining for intimate dinners pour deux. The bedroom that is likely larger than the one you have at home, comes with a four-poster bed, walk-through shower, his and her plush robes for après shower time and enough hi-tech entertainment like a forty-six inch TV and iPod docking station to keep couples busy from sunrise to sunset.
www.sandals.com

Once the private estate of A&P supermarket heir Huntington Hartford II and the grand escape of the rich and famous, **One & Only Ocean Club** on Paradise Island in the Bahamas impresses with more than the stunning Versailles Gardens and terraced steps that lead to one of the finest beaches in the Bahamas. The resort also shines with butlers who deliver champagne and strawberries to each room, beach attendants who excel at Evian water misting and pool concierges who deliver sunscreen and magazines to your spot by the water's edge and with a simple request, will return to clean your sunglasses. For those with a tad more energy than it takes to top off a tan, yoga on the deck and beach bikes gets full marks.
www.oneandonlyresorts.com

For twosomes splurging on a high-end stay in Punta Cana, Royal Service rooms at **Paradisus Palma Real** on Bavaro Beach includes gratis cell phones for receiving international calls and unlimited green fees at the Cocotal Golf Club. The sophisticated smaller wing of the bigger resort, Royal Service includes access to three pools, unlimited pours at six bars, dinner at the upscale Passion restaurant, rubdowns at

the spa and plenty of couple must-dos from snorkeling and scuba to volleyball on the beach and aerobic classes in the water. **www.paradisus.com**

No resort chain says sweeties like **Sandals Royal Caribbean**. Close to the airport in Montego Bay, the upscale adults-only all-inclusive is a cornucopia of couple-fun from the private island to the butler-serviced Grand Luxury suites with