

Caribbean revival

IN TIME FOR WINTER, LEO BEAR LOOKS TO HOTELS THAT ARE REOPENING AFTER HURRICANE IRMA

With winds of up to 215mph, Hurricane Irma was one of the most devastating hurricanes ever to strike land. Tearing a straight course through the Caribbean in late 2017, the islands of Tortola, Barbuda, Anguilla and St Barths were worst affected. Paradise resorts including Eden Rock St Barths and Necker Island were forced to close their doors but, 12 months on, from tragedy comes triumph. Following frenetic levels of rebuilding, resort-wide overhauls and creative architectural additions have been unveiled to rapturous applause. Welcoming guests once again, for an all-new winter season, there's no better time to visit.

EDEN ROCK, ST BARTHS

Following Irma, the entire property (now part of the Oetker Collection) has been lavishly revitalised. While taking care to preserve the hotel's original character, Martin Brudnizki has given rooms a fresh look, including artwork from the New York Academy of Art, and there's a new beach bar and sunbathing area. On the Rocks restaurant will not be returning but, instead, an ocean-view spa and handful of suites are being built on high. *Reopens December 2018*

NECKER ISLAND, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Richard Branson's 74-acre playground will be reopening post-Irma in stages. First up is the Great House, historically the main gathering place for guests, which now has 10 stylish bedrooms, all with balconies. Elsewhere, there's an elegantly restored pool area with sunbathing deck overlooking the ocean. Further guest cottages will open in 2019. *Reopens October 2018*

CHEVAL BLANC, ST BARTHS

Following a full-scale facelift, Cheval Blanc has lost none of its lustre. French interior designer Jacques Grange has waved his magic wand across 19 new rooms, as well as a Riviera-style restaurant, and the hotel's lush tropical gardens have been brought back to life by the American landscaper Madison Cox. A full transformation will be complete by February 2019. *Reopens December 2018*

LE TOINY, ST BARTHS

Post-renovation, guests of Hotel Le Toiny, tucked away in the hills, will be able to enjoy the resort's sublime shores and rocky outcrops with the addition of eight new suites and a brand-new beach club with pool. London-based interior designer Lady Bee Osborn was tasked with updating all the rooms, restaurants and communal spaces with a coastal-chic aesthetic. *Reopens October 2018*

SILVERSANDS, GRENADA

The most anticipated opening in the West Indies for a decade, this uber-resort is causing ripples across the whole island chain. A far cry from the spice island's usual laid-back lodgings, Silversands has 43 suites and nine villas – all strikingly minimalist in design – a retro-styled rum bar, a modern art gallery and the longest swimming pool in the Caribbean. *Opens November 2018*

BELMOND CAP JULUCA, ANGUILLA

Anguilla was the island to recover fastest from the storm, and this 30 year-old beach retreat, recently acquired by Belmond, is re-launching with more than 100 colonial-style rooms dotted across the curves of Maundays Bay. Home to a show-stopping saltwater pool, a spa that 'disappears' into its surroundings and a choice of excellent restaurants, it's definitely one to watch. *Opens November 2018* □

