

18 SPORTY GETAWAYS: SAILING, GOLF, TENNIS, DIVING AND MORE!

CARIBBEAN

JULY 2008

TRAVEL & LIFE

WET & WILD SNORKEL ADVENTURES

15 RESORTS WITH ROOMS RIGHT ON THE REEF

TOP-SHELF RUMS
Your Guide to the
Best of the Best

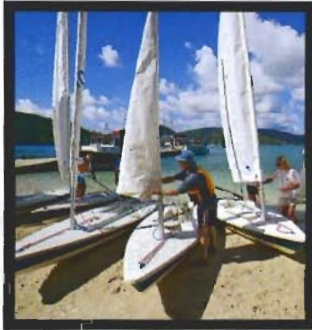
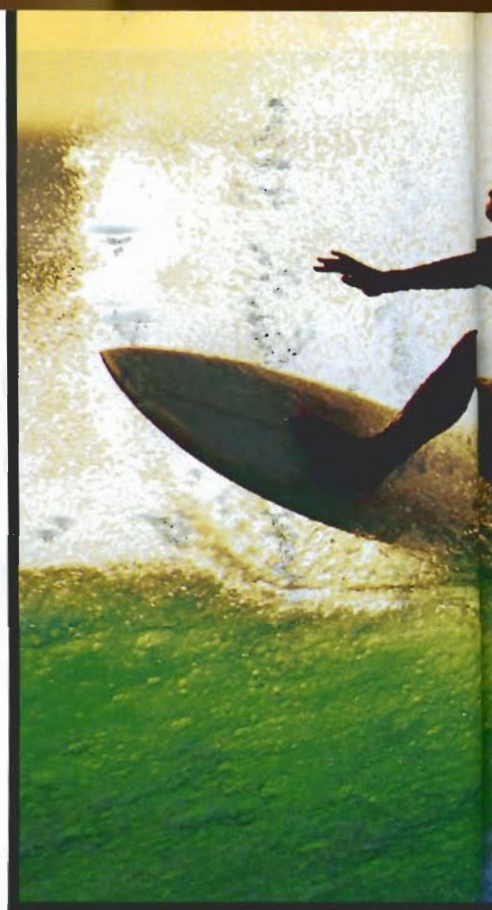
HONDURAS
An Eco-Paradise
On the Rise

MARTINIQUE
On \$109 a Day!

TORTOLA
Locals Share
Their Secrets

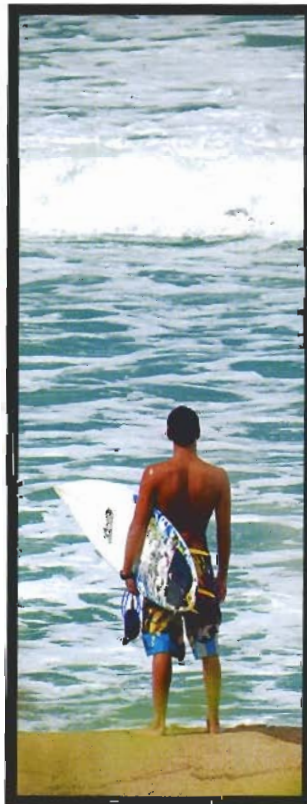


+
A VIRGIN
ISLAND
LOVE STORY



GET YOUR

18 SWEET AND SPORTY PLAYGROUNDS WHERE YOU CAN





GAME ON!

SHARPEN YOUR ATHLETIC SKILLS — OR JUST LET IT RIP

By KATE SIBER



PHOTO CREDITS ON PAGE 129

TENNIS

CANEEL BAY

ST. JOHN, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Between the distractions of Caneel Bay's azure water, seven pristine white beaches and the adjacent Virgin Islands National Park, tennis has plenty of competition here. But the secluded resort's seven hard courts and four artificial grass courts are hardly lacking for players. Credit tennis pro Patrick Alle, who runs one of the Caribbean's most successful tennis schools and whose philosophy revolves around both performance and fun. "People reach a plateau, and then they get discouraged," Alle says. "We want to go past that because we believe that tennis is a game for life." Novices and expert players alike can attend stroke clinics, take private lessons or break a sweat with a ball-machine workout. Perhaps the most popular offerings are Tuesday and Thursday round robins, pairing guests and locals, plus pro-am tournaments that attract upwards of 300 spectators. In the tradition of grand old Caribbean resorts, 166-room Caneel Bay offers between-match distractions as varied as watercolor classes, nightly movies, cocktail parties and water sports (diving, sailing, snorkeling and windsurfing). Even lazy snorkelers can spot parrotfish and snapper just offshore. Rates begin at \$395. 888-767-3966; caneelbay.com

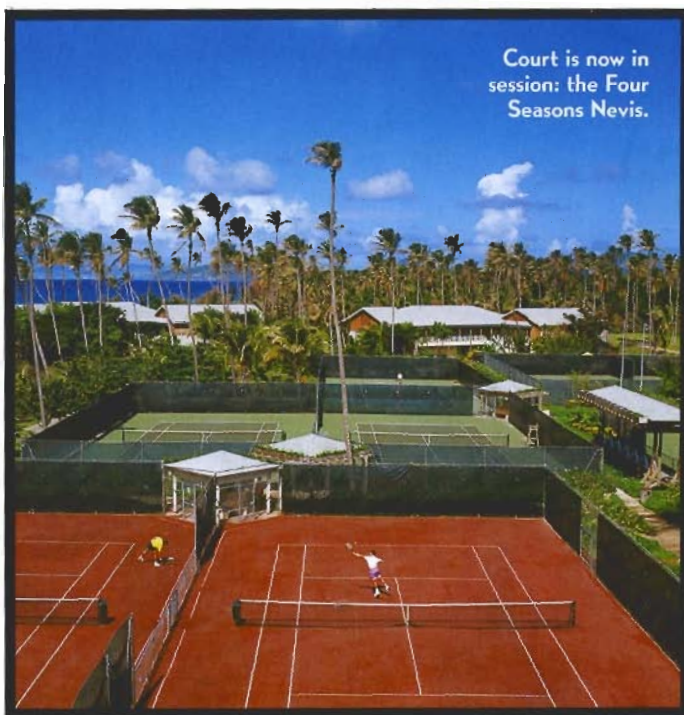
FOUR SEASONS RESORT

NEVIS

Beneath the slopes of Nevis' dormant volcano, steps away from 4-mile-long Pinney's Beach and shaded by swaying palms is an elegant haven where you can ratchet up your racket skills: the Four Seasons, with six hard courts and four clay courts. With patience and infectious

enthusiasm, pro Jeff Henkelman teaches private lessons and runs the dizzyingly comprehensive tennis program, including six-person ground stroke, doubles strategy and net-game clinics; Sportwall workouts with an electronic backboard; and player matching. Lavish touches don't hurt, either, like peppermint-scented towels, lemonade and orange slices after matches. The 196-room resort even lured tennis great Maria Sharapova (though she mostly

every Saturday and advanced tennis drills on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They also have kids' clinics, and private lessons are offered on 11 Har-Tru courts and two hard courts. Complimentary beginners' clinics entice neophytes, and local enthusiasts challenge seasoned players in arranged matchups. With 11 restaurants, lounges and bars, two golf courses, a mile of beach, a spa, fitness center and casino, you don't really need to leave the 500-acre grounds, set against El Yunque National Forest near San Juan. After tennis, decisions loom: Should you dive, parasail or kayak — or just settle in at the Tiki Bar with a Ziggy Zaggy, a mango-strawberry-piña-colada concoction? Rates start at \$184. 877-636-0636; wyndhamriomar.com



hid out in the spa). Rates start at \$335; add \$500 per week for the Unlimited Tennis package, with five hours of lessons, three hours of clinics and unlimited use of courts and ball machine. 800-819-5053; fourseasons.com/nevis

WYNDHAM RIO MAR BEACH RESORT & SPA

PUERTO RICO

With 600 rooms and 72 suites, Rio Mar Beach Resort resembles a small town with a bustling tennis center to match. The pros of the Peter Burwash International tennis program arrange round robins

every Saturday and advanced tennis drills on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They also have kids' clinics, and private lessons are offered on 11 Har-Tru courts and two hard courts. Complimentary beginners' clinics entice neophytes, and local enthusiasts challenge seasoned players in arranged matchups. With 11 restaurants, lounges and bars, two golf courses, a mile of beach, a spa, fitness center and casino, you don't really need to leave the 500-acre grounds, set against El Yunque National Forest near San Juan. After tennis, decisions loom: Should you dive, parasail or kayak — or just settle in at the Tiki Bar with a Ziggy Zaggy, a mango-strawberry-piña-colada concoction? Rates start at \$184. 877-636-0636; wyndhamriomar.com

TRYALL CLUB

JAMAICA

Transformed from a one-time sugar plantation in the 1950s, the storied Tryall Club has the elegance of a top-shelf country club without the stuffiness. There's a golf course and a spa, but the resort's unsung gem is its tennis program. On five Nova Cushion courts and four

clay courts, pro Richard Ferdinand holds free beginners' classes, doubles drills and midcourt-game lessons. Looking for competition? Enlist the matchup service. Itching for high-speed play? Hire a ball boy. Each of the 69 villas is privately owned and decorated and comes with a chef, a laundress and a housekeeper; many of the staff have worked here for decades. Tryall traditions include high tea, beach barbecues and cocktail parties. Have an evening gin and tonic at the clubhouse overlooking the lights of Montego Bay. Rates begin at \$2,750 per week for a one-bedroom. 800-238-5290; tryallclub.com