



Coral Reef Club

THE GRAPEVINE

AUTUMN / WINTER 2020



THE SANDPIPER



What can we say that has not been said before by all of you? The year 2020 started off in great form and promised to be a very successful one - I even liked the sound of it - 2020. However, out of this misery has come some good where people have cared for one another in such a selfless way.

During the lockdown I remained at Coral Reef and each day I walked the 12 acres which although peaceful, was admittedly lonely; without customary warm greetings, waving hands and a deserted beach. Coral Reef was never meant to be like this.

We had only four gardeners working four days a week and they did a remarkable job. I was full of admiration for their support. The weather was glorious, sunshine throughout the day and rain at night - what a waste without guests.

Throughout this troublesome time our Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, has been a tower of strength making the right decisions to keep the island protected.

On a much brighter note we are back in business and the number of guests slowly building up - quite a few extending their stay which is music to our ears.

We have missed so many of our regular guests and can appreciate how difficult it has been for you too. Looking to the future we sincerely hope to see you during 2021. Let us help you to restore your good humour and good health.

A rum punch awaits you!

Cynthia O'Hara

Cynthia O'Hara
Chairman



The O'Hara & Capaldi families

THE RESTAURANT SCENE

Since we re-opened, we've had excellent feedback on our local restaurants and some are better than ever - shout out for The Fishpot. There's an exciting new restaurant replacing Cin Cin on the Sea, and another called 'Local & Co' opening in Speightstown in a wonderful old coral stone building overlooking the sea.

111 East, which suffered a blaze in the summer, has re-opened... more beach chic than ever. Lancaster Plantation has had its own renaissance with a great new chef and an enviably lush garden setting; it is ever popular with locals and ex-pats alike. Many other top picks such as La Cabane, which now has a cool jazz night, Lobster Alive and Tides, continue to hit the sweet spot with our guests.

Some might wonder why we promote other restaurants. It's not unusual for hotels to try and hold on to their guests as much as possible as naturally everyone wants their own restaurants to be busy.



We feel however that our island has so much to offer and enjoy that such a great array of choices can only serve to enhance our guests' experience. At the same time, based on the loyalty and positive feedback our own restaurants receive, we are confident that our guests will be well looked after, whether dining in or out. Whether you like to get out and about and 'live like a local', or you prefer to simply stroll through the gardens to our restaurant... we will take care of you!

THE SPA

The Spa at Coral Reef Club continues to thrive. Each treatment room has its own private garden terrace and The Thermal Spa Garden is nestled quietly in lush surroundings with tranquil waterfalls. Allow soothing water jets to rejuvenate you in the Hydro Pool and let tensions evaporate in the warmth of the Steam Room, harnessing the positive energy of the amethyst geode. Enjoy a massage in The Pavilion, an outdoor treatment suite perfect for couples and friends, within the privacy of embracing gardens.



NEWS

Things have been going very well since we re-opened both hotels in October and we are all happy to have them up and running again.

It has certainly been a very difficult year for everyone but fortunately Barbados has handled the COVID crisis extremely well with quick action and consequently no community spread. Once through a surprisingly pleasant entry process, typically lasting less than 2 days, you are free to enjoy all the island has to offer... life is very normal here. We have been truly blessed with how effective our lockdown was, largely due to the cooperation of the Barbadian people and also to the swift and meaningful management of the crisis by our Government.

You may be wondering, is it safe for me to go? Do Bajans even want visitors? Is travelling the right thing to do right now? In truth, everyone has to feel comfortable and we understand it's not an easy time to make certain decisions. Many of you have left your deposits with us for a stay next year which was a thoughtful gesture. To those of you who have visited since we re-opened or who have made bookings to come, thank you for placing your confidence in us and for your wonderful compliments, we sincerely appreciate your support. We look forward to welcoming you, to what for many is like coming home, and for those not yet in that bracket, it is our goal to make you feel that way. The outpourings of well wishes and compliments have been truly heartening during such difficult times.

Sun, sea and the unparalleled safety of the island aside, perhaps one of the ultimate benefits of choosing Barbados for your holiday is the fact that there is zero quarantine upon return to the UK and US. A growing number of people have also figured out what a great pit stop Barbados is en route to the States from the UK... the perfect way to circumvent a tedious 2-week quarantine there.

The island is ready for exploring, with restaurants full of life and better than ever. Bajans are so happy to see visitors enjoying all that the island has to offer once again.

Sharing some lovely comments from recent guests:

- *From a Tour Operator: "The Sandpiper and Coral Reef's adaption to the COVID situation and especially dealing with second testing in Barbados, has been so well received and the sales team have the utmost confidence that our guests' holidays will not be impacted at all."*
- *"Everything at the hotel was perfect."*
- *"The separate areas to sunbathe, dine and swim worked really well and weren't remotely an inconvenience."*
- *"Quarantine was painless and made me feel like my holiday had begun from the moment I arrived."*





ARRIVAL PROTOCOLS

In compliance with Government requirements, a mandatory pre-test is required no earlier than 3 days prior to departure date (NOT 72 hours). After landing with a negative COVID-19 PCR test, our guests can come straight to the hotel and unwind with their favourite welcome drink - Rum Punch for most!

A post-arrival PCR test is then required which is arranged for the morning after arrival at the hotel, if tested 3 days prior to departure, (basically 4 days after the first test). So, depending upon how many days before travel the first test was done, the date for the post-arrival test will be determined. The cost is US\$175.00 per person and test results can generally be expected within 24 hours. We highly recommend Fast Track upon arrival at the airport which we offer through Platinum Services at US\$35.00 per person.

Whilst awaiting results during that initial period, restricted movement applies within the hotel, which you will be pleased to know is a very pleasant experience.

There are specific areas for relaxing and sunbathing and at both hotels we have a pool assigned. Our accommodation all have either patios or balconies for relaxation and some also have private plunge pools. Dining is either in a designated ocean view area or room service can be enjoyed on your private terrace. At Coral Reef there is also access to a tennis court.

During this brief period, the wearing of masks will be required whilst walking around the property, but not once settled in one of the designated areas. In keeping with Government restrictions, during this brief time, regrettably there can be no access to the beach or the sea, along with some other areas of the restaurant and bar.

Once your negative test result has been received, masks will no longer be required whilst walking around the property, only upon entering interior spaces such as Reception, The Spa, the Boutique and the Restaurant until seated. When exploring the island, as would be expected, the wearing masks in indoor air-conditioned spaces such as the supermarket and banks and on entering all of our lovely restaurants and beach bars on island, is part of the island's protocols.





CONGRATULATIONS HAROLD!

We are proud to share the wonderful news that Harold Shepherd has been Highly Commended in the Hotel Hero category of the 2020 Small Luxury Hotels of the World Awards.

It is a huge achievement to have stood out amongst Small Luxury Hotels of the World, which is a group of some of the most wonderful independently minded hotels in the world. Many congratulations to you Harold!



CHILDREN

Children under 12 are now welcomed in the month of February as our restriction has been waived.



THE SALON AT CORAL REEF CLUB

We have refurbished the hair salon at Coral Reef Club and have a new operator. Contact details are:
Tel: +1 246-419-4125,
Email: thesalon@coralreefbarbados.com
IG: @thesaloncoralreef