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beyond the beach

Girls
Just **Wanna**
Have...
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Spa Resort

FirstClass...Living**The Villa**Life~**Jamaica**~**Sandals**Optional
NegrilHas**A New Gem...**Azul**Sensatori**
Shades**Of Blue**In**Anguilla**



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letter from the publisher

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Hello,

Welcome back. I know I always tell you I won't keep you long on this page, but this time I really mean it! There's so much that we packed into this issue. You won't be able to take your eyes off of the gorgeous images the Andrew shot in Jamaica and in Cancun. The villa feature brings into focus the luxurious side of travel; in the most laid back way. Have a look inside the private homes of Butch Stewart, the Chairman of Sandals Resorts. It's going to blow your mind and the best part is that you can stay there as well. Ava gives you all the details as she recounts her time at each of them. While on the same island, Andrew spends a few days unearthing Negril's newest gem, the Azul Sensatori by Karisma resorts. Fabulous!

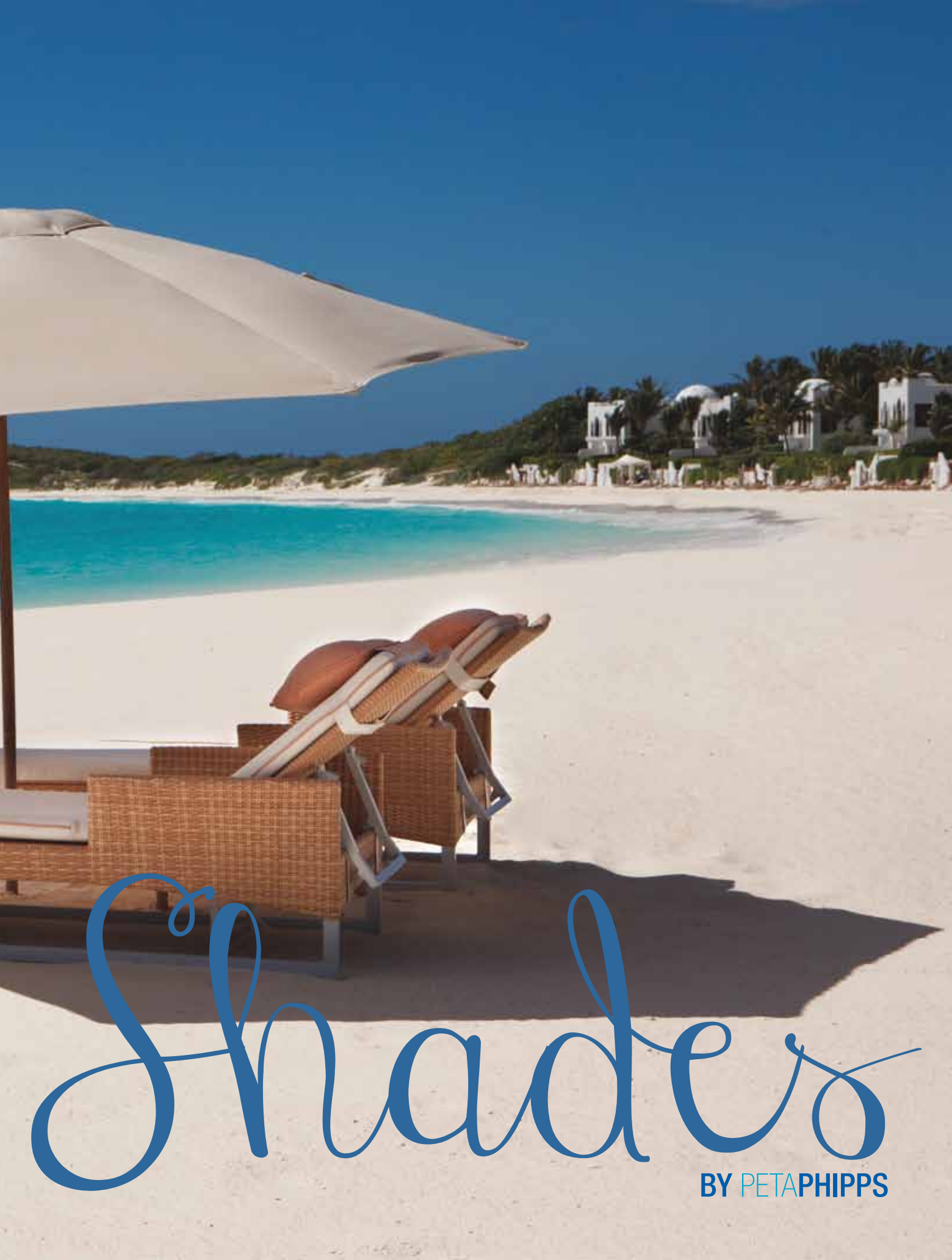
I bet we caught your attention on the cover with girls just wanna. It's a weekend spent at Le Blanc Spa resort with two friends and myself. Again, I'm typing this as fast as I can, so I hope you're reading just as quickly. You're going to want to see this. As if that weren't exhilarating enough, we take you on a whirlwind trip to Anguilla, which seduced us with its shades of blue and sunsets galore. So much luxury packed into 48 square miles. Get ready to plan your next trip(s)! It was a fun issue to create. I hope you create some memories of your own, based on what you see here. Feel free to post and share any of your vacation shots on our social media outlets. Details are on the bottom of the page to the left.

One love,

Peta

A tropical beach scene with turquoise water, white sand, a white umbrella, and a lounge chair.

Anquilla's
Blue



Shades

BY PETAPHIPPS





It's been a few years since I visited Anguilla and I am happy to report that it's still sophisticated, sexy, laid-back and oh-so blue. Private jet service was not on the itinerary this trip, as I was flying from Los Angeles. One of the most fun-filled parts of the journey is after landing in St. Maarten, your best option when flying commercially, you get a lovely boat ride across to Anguilla. Here's where I separated myself from the pack. There is a routine ferry service that takes visitors and locals back and forth, but I opted for a private boat transfer. It's the little things that enhance the experience and Calypso Charters gave a smooth transition from the Dutch island's airport to the ferry terminal in Anguilla. Arriving by sea, I decompressed almost immediately. With the salty air breezing by and the deep blue hues of the channel yielding to softer baby blues, as we neared our destination, there was no reason for my mind to be anywhere else. This Caribbean paradise fully captured my attention.

Could I possibly be more absorbed by this island and the inescapable color that surrounds it? Why, yes I could. Ce Blue...was the villa resort I chose for my stay. It's the newest property on the island and having tried a few of the other resorts, I wanted to see something different. It did not disappoint. Perched perfectly on the side of one of the island's few hills, it seemed as though the developer had conspired with Mother Nature to show off the most amazing sunsets and ocean views. It was that spectacular. She put on her shows every evening and Ce Blue gave you an unobstructed, front-row seat. From every angle of my villa, I was often rendered speechless and in awe. I bathed in my glass encased spa-like bathroom and caught sight of this glory.



"Once you've experienced it, you'll want to repeat it..."

On evenings when I chose to take a plunge in my private pool, after a day at the beach, I sipped Champagne and soaked-in the indescribable colors of the sky. The daytime horizon that had paralleled the blues of the Caribbean Sea dissolved into a smoldering atmosphere. Everyone needs to experience this, at least once. I say that with a warning. Once you've experienced it, you'll want to repeat it, night after night and then year after year, trust me. Of course you have access to a great beach with water toys like kayaks and paddle boards. There's much to see and do in the waters off Anguilla. Ce Blue, once again, took things up a notch for me. They have their own motorboat, with another, larger one set for delivery in mere weeks. It felt like they knew me only too well and anticipated my desire for fun and adventure. The service here is top-notch in a subtle and welcoming way.

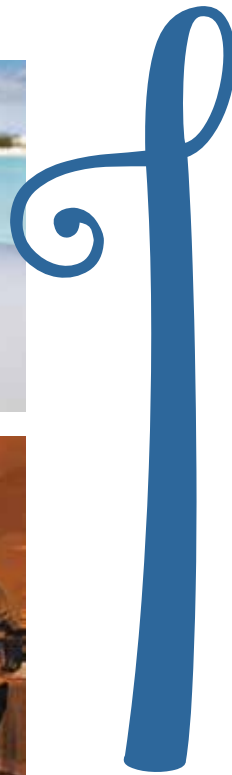




Having Ce Blue as my home base was a great idea. It gave me all that I needed and put me in the middle of where I wanted to be. Once I'm in Anguilla, there will never come a time when I don't make room for all of my favorite haunts. The island is only 16 miles long and 3 miles wide, so being close to things is relatively easy. One of my classic favorites on this gorgeous island is Cap Juluca. The hotel is five-star and has that welcoming Anguilla vibe. Nothing here says pretentious. Everything says, "Stay a while. You'll love it here."



"...and "Juluca" was excited to take me all the way in and around the bend."



wasn't going to spend the night here on this trip, but the rooms and villas are simply spectacular. I did have lunch at Blue, cocktails at Maundays and I wanted to stay for dinner at Spice, just to relive the ambiance but had to get back to meet friends for a night out. Before leaving, my adventurous side needed to get up and go do something, so... I went horseback riding on the beach behind the property at Cove Bay; tranquil, public and out of sight of the guests at the hotel. Leave it to me to have the most hilarious thing happen and not capture it with a photograph. The ride was more of a leisurely stroll by those impossibly blue waters and never quite made it into a trot. My Rasta guide kept telling me that "Juluca", my horse, was a thoroughbred and if she took off, the other horse, with a less experienced rider, would follow suit. He asked me to keep it at a stroll and I obliged. As we wended our way back to the beach in front of the hotel, I think he could see the frustration in my eyes. While he helped the other rider dismount, he pursed his lips and raised his chin, pointing me in the direction of the Cap Juluca beach. I hesitated because that was CAP JULUCA! There were well-heeled travelers in the water. He couldn't possibly mean for me to take the horse, on my own, and just wade in. Oh yes he did and by the second nonverbal cue for me to get going, I was on my way. I wish I'd had more than an iPhone to capture those moments. The guests had a good laugh and "Juluca" was excited to take me all the way in and around the bend. What a great day. I can't say enough about Cap Juluca! Totally drenched and grinning from ear-to-ear, it was time to head back to Ce Blue and get ready for that evening's festivities.



tonight we watched the sun set at the amazing, amazing, amazing Viceroy Anguilla. This tiny island packs a whole lot of fabulous into 48 square miles. Exuding nothing short of modern Caribbean luxury from the moment I walked in, and so was the resort; but seriously, that's their subhead for their Anguilla property and it is aptly placed. The theme of this resort couldn't be described as anything else. Missing out on spending a few nights here was hard to swallow, but I know what the rooms and villas are all about...they too ooze modern Caribbean luxury, from bedroom to bathroom. This evening, I was here to play. My first drink was just off the lobby on the pool deck, and as I was determined to drown my regret in not being able to fit this resort into my itinerary, this trip. I sampled another one or two at the Bamboo Bar & Grill. Feeling absolutely no pain, I found myself at the Sunset Lounge just in time. Maybe it was the country of Anguilla who made some sort of pact with Mother Nature...this view of the day succumbing to night was breathtaking and my words are not doing it justice. Barely able to pull myself away for dinner at the famed Cobà, perched on a bluff overlooking the Caribbean Sea, it sits at the convergence of Barnes Bay and Meads Bay and I was able to dine on the most succulent lobster and Cowboy Ribeye while watching the next great show in the sky. It was a moonless night and every star came out to shine. Some were even in the restaurant. I think I saw Sharon Stone at the table next to me.







The next day, my suspicions were confirmed. I went to swim with the dolphins and there she was, in broad daylight, Sharon Stone, also about to do what I'd just done. She seemed a bit more hesitant than I was, but she sure went for it. Winding down my day, I knew that there was one more stop I had to make. I always include Cuisinart. The Cuisinart Golf Resort & Spa gives me another side of Anguilla. It's top ratings are well deserved, but it hits me on a grass-roots level. It's more than the fact that they hydroponically grow most of their vegetables, right on property. It's a mellow feeling throughout. I treated myself to an afternoon at the spa, no time for golf, and then friends joined me for dinner at Tokyo Bay. The freshest Sushi I've had in many years. I can imagine that with their dedication to locally grown produce, their philosophy extends to their fish as well. It is right outside their door and it tasted as sunny as the waters I'd been surrounded by for days; fresh and delightful. Another day ending and my vacation suddenly seemed to kick into overdrive.





"My body,
mind and
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W



With my departure date looming, I was determined to kick back and take in Anguilla from the water. Ce Blue packed up the boat and we were off to Sandy Island. A spit of a sandbar with a few hammocks, and a killer bartender that served the most over-the-top lunch any beach bar I've ever been to has served. Lobster, again, was my selection. I was full. My body, mind and soul had been satiated by the love of Anguilla. Sand in my bikini and plans to return soon, I made my way back to my villa and spent my last night with friends, at my pool, doing what else but watching the show that I know is somehow more spectacular in Anguilla than back home.

 PetaPhipps

