

THE **Best Nap** YOU'LL EVER HAVE P.13

CARIBBEAN

TRAVEL+LIFE

12 TOP SPOTS THAT SHOULD BE ON YOUR LIST FOR 2012

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The velvety sand of Maundays Bay is a showstopper, but it's Cap Juluca's service, cuisine and casually elegant ambience that make the resort an island favorite.



Money Well Spent

At this classic island resort, the perks you don't pay for are almost as attractive as the ones you do.

By Sarah Greaves-Gabbadon

CAP JULUCA ▶ FROM \$495 PER NIGHT

ANGUILLA

YOU'RE CHAUFFEURED TO YOUR suite in a Lexus. Petits fours and poetry are placed on your pillow at turndown. The staff-to-guest ratio is almost 2-to-1, and no one ever passes by without a ready smile and a warm hello. Pinch yourself all you want, but this is no Caribbean dream. Rather, it's business as usual for Cap Juluca, the decades-old grande dame of Anguilla's clutch of tony resorts.

Housed in iconic whitewashed Moroccan-Mediterranean buildings, Cap J's 98 plush suites (to which the likes of Donatella Versace, Liam Neeson and Denzel Washington have retreated) preside over the crystalline comma of Maundays Bay, just one of this tranquil 37-square-mile outpost's 33 beaches. Fringed by mesmerizingly blue water, Maundays' sands are serviced by the resort's cadre of beach butlers, who, as soon as they spy you emerging from your room, will spread a plush towel over your favorite lounge chair, top it with a plump pillow and place a cooler of refreshments under the shade of your beach umbrella. (And should you require additional sustenance, simply release the flip-down Velcro flag for prompt chaiseside attention.)

Indeed, it takes extraordinary dining options to entice guests to leave this sunbaked strand. But the resort's restaurants deliver, with an exquisite lavender creme brulee at water's-edge "Eurobban" Pimms, crab cakes with a sea view at beachfront Blue and tapas and wine pairings at Flights.

Yet for all its solicitous service, highfalutin reputation, celebrity following



HOTEL WATCH



and lofty room rates, Cap J impressed us most not by its inclusions but by what it leaves out. While we've reluctantly become accustomed to paying a premium for the conveniences we crave at other top-drawer retreats, at Cap Juluca, it's a completely different story. Want Wi-Fi? No charge. Tropical-fruit-flavored sorbet on the beach or bottled water from the minibar? Complimentary. Afternoon tea under the Dome or poolside Pilates? Free. The refreshing lack of nickel-and-diming? Priceless. 888-858-5822; capjuluca.com

FREE ADVICE

EAT

Every day between 4 and 6 p.m., Cap J's guests enjoy complimentary exotic teas, petits fours and homemade scones in the ocean-view lobby. Walk-ins can savor the spread for just \$12 per person.

PLAY

Day-trip it to Sandy Island, a sandbar two miles offshore, where you'll find a white-sand beach, tranquility and the best crayfish ever to come out of a kitchen powered by four car batteries. mysandyisland.com

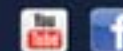
SHOP

Follow local fashionistas to Irie Life, a South Hill boutique housed in a gingerbread cottage that's crammed with stylish Caribbean-themed T-shirts, accessories, swimwear and souvenirs. irielife.com

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ZACH STOVALL