

EXCLUSIVE REPORT

BRINGING DOWN LANCE

(Inside the Crusade to Disgrace a Champion)

Outside

DECEMBER 2005

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EXPOSURE SPECIAL

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ALL TANS ON DECK: ISLAND HOPPING ON THE ARABELLA;
BELOW, BASKING IN MORNING GLOW IN ONE OF THE CABINS.



longsnout seahorses, and the Turneffe Islands' soaring coral pinnacles. There's also landlubber adventure, with guided visits to red-footed booby reserves, secluded mangrove forests, an important grouper spawning ground at Glover's Reef atoll, and Carrie Bow Caye, a Smithsonian marine-research field station. A team of lecturers and naturalists complements the site visits with expert analysis and explanation. And don't worry: The ship even calls at the rightly renowned Blue Hole. EIGHT DAYS FROM \$4,390, ALL-INCLUSIVE; 888-993-8687, WWW.WORLDWILDLIFE.ORG/TRAVEL

O CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN!

The Arabella, St. Barthélemy

If you've always wanted to yacht like a blue-blooded New Englander but couldn't stand the chill, take note: This January, the 160-foot *Arabella* will add a seven-day itinerary through the islands of St. Bart's, French St. Martin, and Anguilla to its list of regular northerly routes. Starting in Marigot, the café-filled village capital of St. Martin, you'll sail around the Caribbean in style: The intimate 20-stateroom yacht has in-cabin satellite television and phones, a hot-water spa, and daily deckside hors d'oeuvres and spiced rum punch. You can also arrange for one-on-one sailing tutorials on the *Arabella's* operations with the ship's captain and crew.

Leave the mother ship for day trips swimming and snorkeling at Colombier Bay Beach, a private, sandy cove accessible only by boat or a half-hour hike along a steep, rocky goat path. Or drop anchor at Île Fourche, a jewel of a deserted island that teems with undersea life, for world-class diving and sea kayaking. The trip finishes off with a dinner at the exclusive Eden Rock hotel, in St. Jean—once a hideaway for Garbo, it's perched high on a rocky promontory. Here, you'll be right at home uttering her famous line from *Anna Christie*: "Gimme a whiskey, ginger ale on the side. And don't be stingy, baby!" FROM \$1,295, BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY, INCLUDING MOST MEALS AND ACTIVITIES; 800-395-1343, WWW.CRUISEARABELLA.COM

GRECO-CARIBBEAN FUSION

The Beach House, Barbuda

Miles of pink-sand beaches front the aptly named Beach House, a tranquil 21-room lodge that opened last year on the tiny scuba paradise of Barbuda, one of Antigua's sister islands. The look is Greek-island-meets-minimalist, with distinctive whitewashed buildings, teak deck chairs, and spare walls hung with black-and-white photographs. But the atmosphere is Caribbean luxe: Guests are met with frosty cocktails brought by "service ambassadors," designated personal butlers who set up complimentary welcome massages and diving, fishing, and horseback excursions around the island. A gleaming saltwater

DISPATCHES WARM WINTER ESCAPES

pool is the centerpiece of the open-air Club House, which also features a library, bar, and fusion restaurant with seafood specialties like lobster tagliatelle. A short walk through the lounge leads to breezy beaches where snorkelers can mingle with rays, dolphins, and schools of barracuda. Post-swim, settle into an overstuffed white recliner and ponder the gushy collision of the Atlantic and the Caribbean. There are no televisions in the guest rooms, which feature king-size four-poster beds, but rest assured: Upon departure you'll wish you were always so unplugged. **DOUBLES FROM \$750; 888-776-0333, WWW.THEBEACHHOUSEBARBUDA.COM**