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Antigua & Barbuda

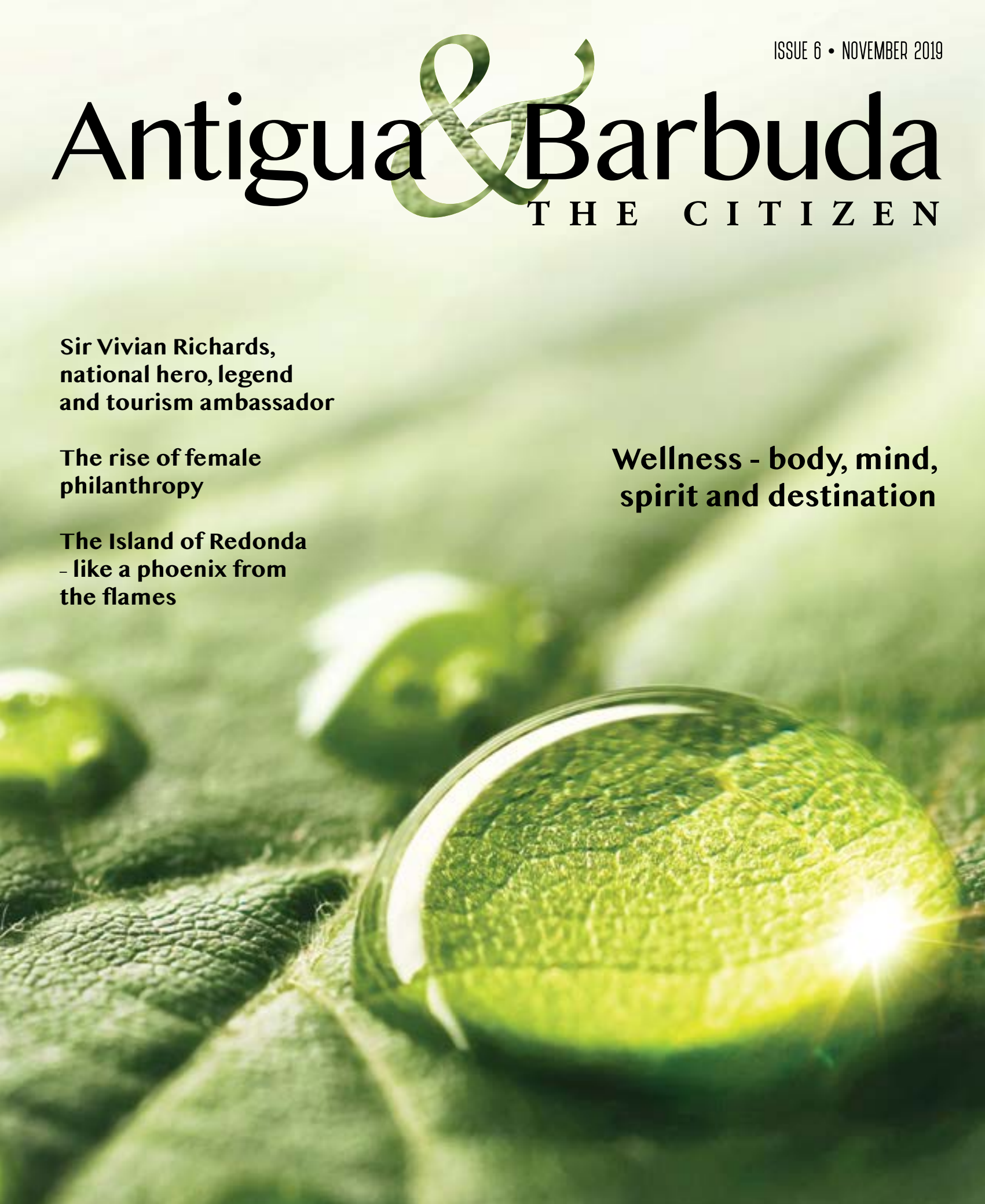
THE CITIZEN

**Sir Vivian Richards,
national hero, legend
and tourism ambassador**

**The rise of female
philanthropy**

**The Island of Redonda
- like a phoenix from
the flames**

**Wellness - body, mind,
spirit and destination**





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WELCOME



"A new age in wellness has evolved and Antigua & Barbuda is truly embracing these changes and innovations."

M

My Dear Friends,

I am of the view that for many of our visitors, merely to lay eyes on Antigua & Barbuda and to enjoy our beautiful beaches and balmy sea is enough to guarantee a feeling of wellness and well-being. Other visitors may desire to go beyond experiencing Antigua & Barbuda's beauty and warmth of her embrace in order to feel whole. Although the islands have all the facilities that discerning visitors seek such as world-class spas, healthy and delicious cuisine, nature, and sports facilities, my government has taken extra steps to cement Antigua & Barbuda as the first true wellness destination in the Caribbean region.

Stem cell research and therapy to cure degenerative diseases and for anti-aging treatments are gaining momentum around the world. To be at the forefront of this revolution, new legislation has been adopted by the parliament of Antigua & Barbuda to allow stem cell treatment for both medical and wellness purposes, meaning that those who desire to utilise these remedies are welcome to our shores.

Furthermore, with the growing global wellness phenomenon of cannabis-derived products, we have opened an application process to allow companies to cultivate and process the cannabis plant with the aim of placing the twin islands on the map of world medicinal cannabis producers. Thanks to this new legislation, we are experiencing a knock-on effect on the types of wellness and tourism that the islands can offer visitors and residents alike.

A new age in wellness has evolved and Antigua & Barbuda is truly embracing these changes and innovations. Our respected citizenship by investment programme will also be welcoming investments in these new sectors. Welcome to the bold, new Antigua & Barbuda.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Browne'.

Honourable Gaston Browne
Prime Minister



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

WELCOME TO THE BEAUTIFUL TWIN
ISLANDS OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



If wellness is all about well-being, then just waking up in the spectacular and sun-kissed surroundings of Antigua & Barbuda is all you need. Breathing fresh pure air, gazing at the stunning beaches, crystal-clear waters with their palette of shimmering blues, and the lush foliage will feed your soul. Year-round balmy temperatures, a vibrant culture and a rich history ensure Antigua & Barbuda cannot be beaten in terms of somewhere to escape, unplug and reset. But wellness goes beyond simply feeling great. It goes beyond the numerous sumptuous spas around the twin islands where your body can be nourished with luxurious treatments. It goes beyond eating the healthy fresh fish plucked straight from the ocean and the delicious tropical fruits on offer. It goes beyond the yoga retreats with awe-inspiring backdrops or on powdery white beaches. It goes beyond the myriad water and land-based sports to hone your body, or

hikes in the awe-inspiring and healing nature. The dual-island nation is forging itself as the first wellness destination in the Caribbean and although all the above are vital components of anywhere that has wellness at its core, Antigua & Barbuda has much more on offer. With the foundations laid for the country to begin welcoming visitors to its shores to enjoy the medical marijuana phenomenon that is sweeping the planet, as well as the most innovative regenerative and rejuvenating stem cell treatments, its wellness offer will appeal to everyone, no matter their needs and desires. As one of the best Citizenship by Investment (CBI) destinations in the Caribbean and in the top five of the Global Citizenship Programme Index in Henley & Partners' Global Residence and Citizenship Programmes 2018-2019 report, citizenship in Antigua & Barbuda allows visa-free travel to 165 jurisdictions including Hong Kong, Singapore, the UK and Schengen area. ●

Antigua & Barbuda

THE CITIZEN

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Antigua & Barbuda introduction photo (page 4 & 5):
Arthur Thomas

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www.investmentmigration.org



CiviQuo is the World's First Investment Migration Marketplace.

For enquiries, contact us at:

info@civiquo.com
www.civiquo.com



To access THE CITIZEN:



www.thecitizenantiguabarbuda.com



Susan Brophy
Editor



elcome to the sixth edition of Antigua & Barbuda THE CITIZEN. Now that the summer season is behind us, the twin islands are ready to welcome the new influx of winter visitors.

This issue's cover theme looks at how Antigua & Barbuda are positioning themselves as the first wellness destination in the region. Wellness experts Anne Dimon and Tricia Greenaway give an overview of the attractions that the twin islands offer in this field whilst we also look at the emerging investment opportunities in the stem cell and medical marijuana industries.

With any luxury tourism destination, the product is only as good as the people working in the sector, and the Hospitality Training Institute ensures that there is a steady stream of qualified professionals on hand. Director Ruthlyn Matthias chatted to us about what makes the institute an integral component of the tourism sector in the country.

Redonda is the often overlooked third island of the archipelago and Shanna Challenger tells us about the amazing work being carried out to restore this gem of an island to its former ecological diversity and richness. Our recurring feature on the world of philanthropy looks at the rise of female philanthropy in this often male-dominated field.

We were lucky to tag along for a round of golf with national icon and sporting hero Sir Vivian Richards who explains what he loves about his home nation. And before jetting off to her latest exhibition in London, Naydene Gonnella showed us some of the paintings that have made her one of the island's most well-known artists. While the photos of lawyer-by-day Arthur Thomas, show that sometimes people's hobbies have an artistry that even professionals may envy.

One of the country's newest citizens, South African Savannah Danson, chatted to us about her reasons for becoming an Antiguan. And of course, we mustn't forget our citizenship experts who have shared their thoughts and opinions with us on the CBI industry, including how climate emergency is demanding global and multilateral solutions for migration. Finishing our day at NOMAD restaurant to sample some of the exotic dishes and thirst-quenching cocktails available, we find out who is behind this Antiguan hot spot. We would like to give a big thanks to all our contributors - and happy reading!

CONTRIBUTORS

Carlyle Rogers

As a barrister/solicitor/legal consultant splitting his time between Anguilla and Dubai, he practices corporate and financial services law and residency by investment and owns and manages Stafford Corporate Services Ltd, which is licensed and regulated by the FSC in Anguilla. Carlyle speaks and writes on international financial services, legal issues and CBI programmes locally, regionally and internationally.



Yakof Agius

Founder and CEO for CiviQuo, the world's first investment migration marketplace. Formerly the Chief Officer for Risk and Compliance for the government agency that manages the Malta Citizenship Programme (MIIP), Yakof's contribution helped the MIIP's due diligence process to be recognised as the industry's 'gold standard'.



Anne Dimon

A long-time travel writer, industry journalist and co-founder of TravelToWellness.com, Anne is also the co-founder and President of the Wellness Tourism Association.

Talimka Yordanova

CEO of the Global Citizen Forum – a Canadian non-profit organisation committed to empowering global citizenship. She has been instrumental in the process of its establishment as a reputable and impactful initiative with firm focus and dedication to a shared quest for global citizenship and has designed and implemented numerous initiatives in the space of irregular migration, refugee crises, women empowerment, girls' education and climate change.



Tricia Greenaway

Founder of Wellness Footprints Antigua, a passionate professional in the wellness industry for the last 18 years and World Wellness Weekend Ambassador for Antigua. Serving as President of the Antigua & Barbuda Beauty Spa and Wellness Association, and VP of the Caribbean Spa and Wellness Association, her aim is to foster an authentic wellness lifestyle in Antigua & Barbuda and the Caribbean Region.



Hussain Farooq

President of HF Corporation, a citizenship advisory firm. On one hand, HF Corporation advises high-net-worth individuals on the acquisition of second citizenship and residence, by way of citizenship by investment, while on the other hand it runs a government-advisory practice that liaises with different governments to build up strategies for bolstering foreign direct investment in their countries through (re) structuring and promotion of such programmes.

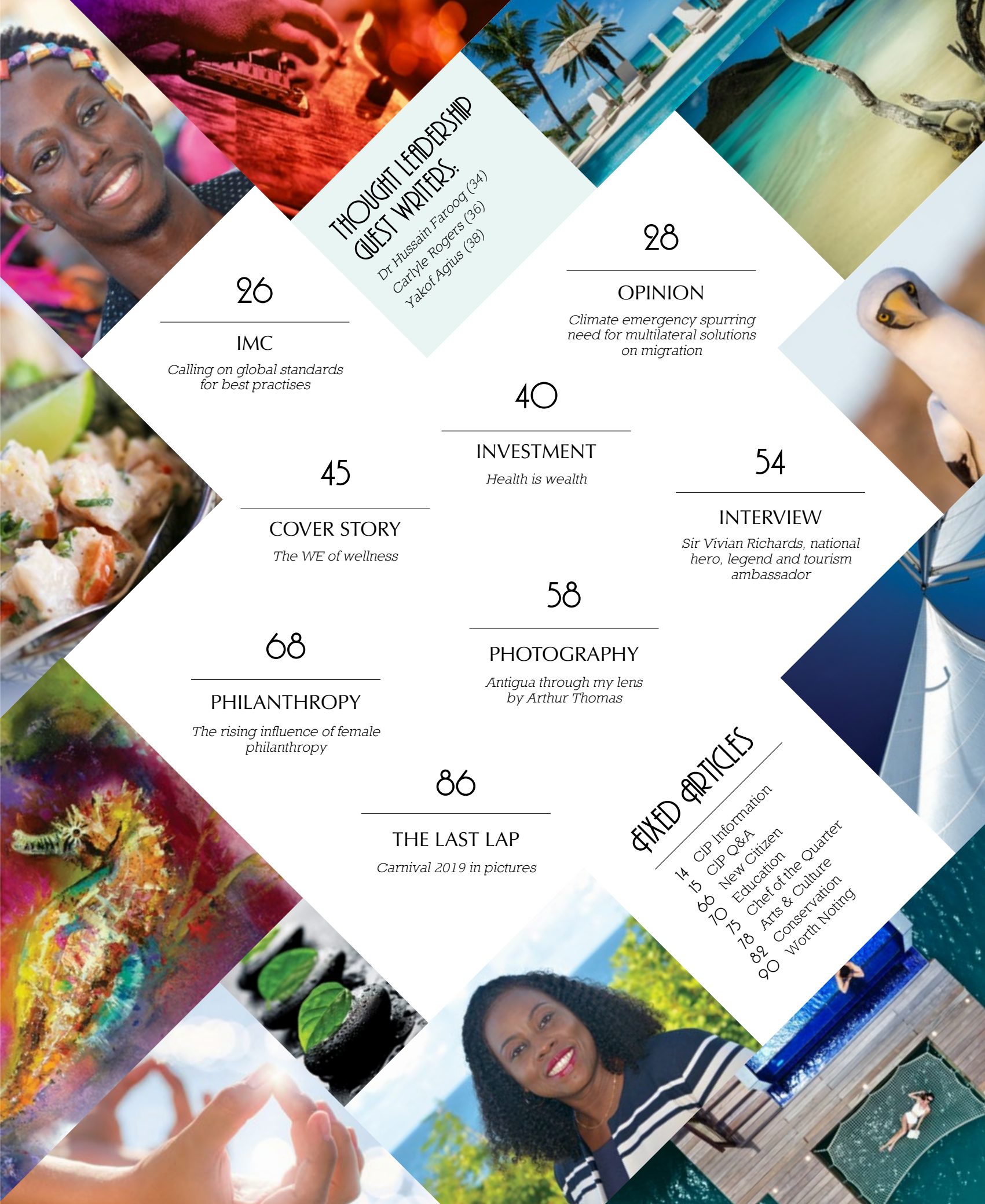
Bruno L'ecuyer

First Chief Executive of the Investment Migration Council; the worldwide association of investor migration professionals. Bruno leads the Secretariat reporting to the Governing Board and is responsible for all IMC operations. Bruno is a regular contributor to international publications and conferences in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.



Shanna Challenger

As Programme Coordinator of the Redonda Restoration Programme she has been recognised as one of the Top 25 Outstanding Caribbean Achievers Under 25. Her goal is to educate people about the importance of the fragile habitats in Antigua & Barbuda and the offshore islands and their endemic species.



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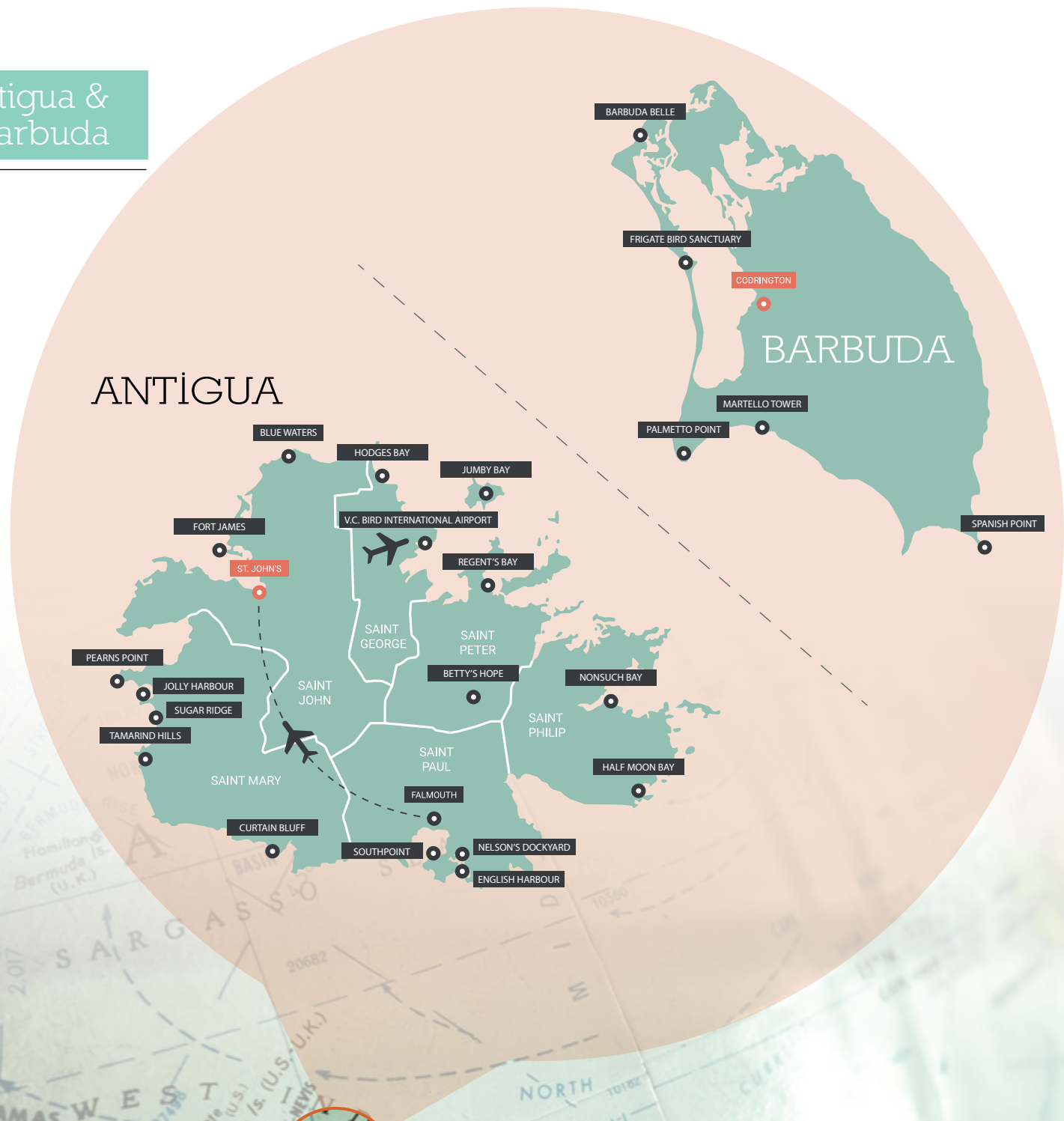
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Antigua & Barbuda





Top row: Alister Maginley, Suzette Anthony, Sandra Vozan, Patrick Maginley and Juliette Marcelle-Bailey. Sitting: Casroy James and Kirthley Maginley.

The perfect match.

Knowing the CIP business best!

We at James & Maginley provide consulting and advisory services in our core areas of investment facilitation and management, real estate development and Citizenship by Investment.

Our principals are licensed and authorised agents for persons wishing to apply for Antigua and Barbuda citizenship under the Citizenship by Investment Program (CIP).

We are committed to enhancing and strengthening the service delivery to our customers through strategic collaborations and partnerships. We effectively leverage our local knowledge of the business culture and landscape to the benefit of its CIP providers, many of whom are themselves consulting entities and advisors to ultra-high net-worth individuals.

For more information on our Group of Companies visit:
www.jamesandmaginley.com

An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The top half of the image shows deep blue ocean water transitioning into a shallow turquoise lagoon. A wide, white sandy beach curves along the shoreline. Three small sailboats are beached on the sand. In the foreground, there are several palm trees, a thatched umbrella, and some lounge chairs. The overall scene is serene and idyllic.

“ A second citizenship and property investment can be an essential component in your wealth preservation strategy ”



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA Citizenship by Investment Program

There are four types of investment which will qualify you for citizenship in the paradise islands of Antigua & Barbuda. As an applicant, you can choose between a contribution to the National Development Fund (NDF), to The University of the West Indies Fund, purchase property in a pre-approved real estate development, or invest in an approved business venture. As a candidate, you must be over 18 years of age, hold no criminal record and have excellent health.

Upon successful application, you and your family will obtain a lifetime citizenship and enjoy travelling visa-free to 165 jurisdictions.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The non-profit NDF was established to fund income-generating public sector projects, innovation in entrepreneurship and approved charitable investments. It is audited by an internationally recognized accounting firm and reports on its status are published each year.

If this is your investment of choice, you are invited to contribute USD 100,000 to the NDF, which is a one-time contribution for a family of four. Processing fees will be applied as indicated below.

For a single applicant, or a family of 4 or less:

- USD 100,000 contribution
- Processing fees: USD 25,000

For a family of 5 or more:

- USD 125,000 contribution
- Processing fees: USD 15,000 for each additional dependent over four people

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (UWI) FUND

This investment option serves as a mechanism to finance the new University of the West Indies Five Islands campus. This contribution will also entitle one member of the family to a one-year scholarship, tuition only, at the University of the West Indies.

For a family of 4 or more:

- USD 150,000 contribution

For a family up to 4:

- Processing fees: USD 25,000
- Processing fees: USD 15,000 for each additional dependant

INVESTMENT IN REAL ESTATE

You and your family can obtain citizenship by purchasing a property in Antigua & Barbuda. You may also benefit from rental revenue with this investment. To qualify for citizenship under this option, you must invest in a designated, officially approved real estate development worth at least USD 400,000. A limited time offer (LTO) allows two (2) applications from related parties to make a joint investment, with each applicant investing a minimum of USD 200,000 in order to qualify. All processing and due diligence fees remain unchanged.

You must own the property for a minimum of five years before selling it. Processing fees will be applied as indicated below.

For a single applicant, or a family of 4 or less:

- Processing fees: USD 50,000

For a family of 5 or more:

- Processing fees: USD 15,000 for each additional dependant

BUSINESS INVESTMENT

The Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU) after consulting with the Antigua & Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA) approves businesses, whether existing or proposed, for the purposes of investment in business under the Citizenship by Investment Program (CIP).

There are two business investment options:

- Invest at least USD 1,500,000 in a pre-approved business.
- Alternatively, at least two applicants can propose to make a joint investment in an approved business with a total investment of at least USD 5,000,000. Each investor must contribute at least USD 400,000 to the joint investment.

For a single applicant, or a family of 4 or less:

- Processing fees: USD 50,000

For a family of 5 or more:

- Processing fees: USD 15,000 for each additional dependant

Please note that all four options also include a due diligence fee of USD 7,500 for the main applicant and spouse, USD 2,000 for any dependent child between 12-17 years of age and USD 4,000 for any dependent child/parent between 18-28 and 58 plus years.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Citizenship by Investment Program

Frequently Asked Questions

CITIZENSHIP BY
INVESTMENT
PROGRAM

Why does Antigua & Barbuda have a citizenship by investment program?

The program was introduced to promote economic growth, attract real estate development, increase foreign direct investment to the country, support the development of infrastructure and provide for a sustainable future.

How many visa-free countries can I travel to as a citizen of Antigua & Barbuda?

You can travel to 165 jurisdictions without requiring a visa, including the EU and Schengen countries, Hong Kong and Singapore.

What is the processing time?

Processing your application should take from 3 to 6 months.

Who can apply for citizenship?

To apply for the citizenship program in Antigua & Barbuda, you must be at least 18 years of age, be of a good character with no criminal record, and have good health.

Do I need to speak English to apply for citizenship?

You don't need to speak English to be an applicant.

Who can be included on the application?

Your dependent children under 28 and dependent parents over 58 can be included within the application.

How do you conduct the due diligence and vetting of applicants?

There are no interviews. However, all applicants undergo rigorous screening prior to consideration by the Citizenship by Investment Unit. Complete files will be forwarded to an international, unbiased third-party due diligence service provider who will conduct detailed background checks on all applicants before the application is approved.

What happens once my application has been accepted?

A certificate of registration of citizenship will be issued and submitted to the passport office. Your authorized agent/representative will forward your passports and Citizenship Certificate to you.

Do I need to travel to Antigua & Barbuda to complete the process?

The application process can be made from your country of residence. Once your application is successful and you have received your passport, you must travel to Antigua & Barbuda to take your oath or affirmation of allegiance. You are entitled to take up full-time residence in Antigua & Barbuda at any time you wish.

Does Antigua & Barbuda recognise dual citizenship?

There are no restrictions on dual citizenship in Antigua & Barbuda.

For how many years will my passport be valid for?

The passport will be valid for a period of 5 years and is renewable for a period of 10 years thereafter, provided that the requirements are met, which includes spending a minimum of five days in the country during this period after becoming a citizen.

Can I invest with my Bitcoins or other cryptocurrencies?

This is in the pipeline but has not yet been established.

In addition to the citizenship by investment program does Antigua & Barbuda have a tax residency program?

Antigua & Barbuda does not currently offer a tax residency program.

For any additional questions, please contact an authorized representative, licensed agent or the CIU directly.

الحصول على جنسية أنتيغوا وباربودا عن طريق برنامج الاستثمار

ولكي تكون مؤهلاً للحصول على الجنسية بموجب هذا الخيار، يجب عليك الاستثمار في مجموعة عقارية معينة ومعتمدة رسمياً لا تقل قيمتها عن 400.000 دولار أمريكي. إلى غاية 31 أكتوبر/تشرين الأول 2019، يمكن دمج طليين اثنين (2) يقدمهما طرفان ذوا علاقة لإجراء استثمار مشترك، على أن يستثمر كل طرف مبلغاً لا يقل عن 200.000 دولار أمريكي لكي يكون مؤهلاً. وتظل جميع رسوم المعالجة والعناية الواجبة دون تغيير. ويجب عليك امتلاك العقار لمدة خمس سنوات على الأقل قبل بيعه. وسيتم تطبيق رسوم المعالجة كما هو موضح أدناه.

لمقدم طلب واحد أو أسرة مكونة من 4 أفراد أو أقل:
• رسوم المعالجة: 50.000 دولار أمريكي

لأسرة مكونة من 5 أفراد أو أكثر:
• رسوم المعالجة: 15.000 دولار أمريكي لكل شخص مُعال إضافي

الاستثمار التجاري

تقوم وحدة الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار - بعد التشاور مع هيئة الاستثمار في أنتيغوا وباربودا - بالموافقة على المشاريع التجارية، سواء كانت قائمة أو مقترحة، لأغراض الاستثمار في الأعمال التجارية بموجب برنامج الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار.

هناك خياران للاستثمار التجاري:

• استثمار ما لا يقل عن 1.500.000 دولار أمريكي في مشروع تجاري معتمدة مسبقاً.

• كبديل لذلك، يمكن لطرفين على الأقل اقتراح إجراء استثمار مشترك في مشروع تجاري معتمد بمبلغ إجمالي لا يقل عن 5.000.000 دولار أمريكي. ويجب على كل مستثمر المساهمة بمبلغ لا يقل عن 400.000 دولار أمريكي في الاستثمار المشترك.

لمقدم طلب واحد أو أسرة مكونة من 4 أفراد أو أقل:
• رسوم المعالجة: 50.000 دولار أمريكي

لأسرة مكونة من 5 أفراد أو أكثر:
• رسوم المعالجة: 15.000 دولار أمريكي لكل شخص مُعال إضافي

يُرجى الأخذ بعين الاعتبار أن جميع الخيارات الأربعة تشمل أيضاً رسوم العناية الواجبة بمبلغ 7500 دولار أمريكي لمقدم/ة الطلب الرئيسي/ة وزوجه/زوجته و2000 دولار أمريكي لأي طفل معال يتراوح عمره بين 12 و17 عاماً و4000 دولار أمريكي لأي طفل يتراوح عمره بين 18 و28 عاماً أو أب/أم يتجاوز عمره 58 عاماً.

هناك أربعة أنواع من الاستثمارات التي ستجعلك مؤهلاً للحصول على جنسية الجزر الفردوسية أنتيغوا وباربودا. عند تقديم الطلب، يمكنك الاختيار بين تقديم مساهمة لصالح الصندوق الوطني للتنمية أو صندوق جامعة الهند الغربية أو شراء ملكية في إحدى المجموعات العقارية المعتمدة مسبقاً أو الاستثمار في مشروع تجاري معتمد. وكمرشح، يجب أن يتجاوز عمرك 18 عاماً وألا يكون لديك سوابق جنائية وأن تتمتع بصحة ممتازة.

عند نجاح طلبك، ستحصل أنت وأسرته على الجنسية مدى الحياة وستستمتعون بالسفر بدون تأشيرة إلى أكثر من 150 بلداً.

تقديم مساهمة لصالح الصندوق الوطني للتنمية

تم تأسيس الصندوق الوطني للتنمية، الذي لا يهدف للربح، لتمويل مشاريع القطاع العام المدرة للدخل والابتكار في ريادة الأعمال والاستثمارات الخيرية المعتمدة. وتُراجع حساباته من قبل شركة محاسبة معترف بها دولياً وتُنشر تقارير عن وضعه سنوياً.

إذا وقع اختيارك على هذا النوع من الاستثمارات، فيُطلب منك تقديم مساهمة قدرها 100.000 دولار أمريكي للصندوق الوطني للتنمية، وهي عبارة عن مساهمة تُقدم مرة واحدة عن كل أسرة مكونة من أربعة أفراد. وسيتم تطبيق رسوم المعالجة كما هو موضح أدناه.

لمقدم طلب واحد أو أسرة مكونة من 4 أفراد أو أقل:
مساهمة قدرها 100.000 دولار أمريكي
رسوم المعالجة: 25.000 دولار أمريكي

لأسرة مكونة من 5 أفراد أو أكثر:
• مساهمة قدرها 125.000 دولار أمريكي
رسوم المعالجة: 15.000 دولار أمريكي لكل شخص مُعال إضافي على أربعة أفراد

صندوق جامعة الهند الغربية:

يعمل هذا الخيار كآلية لتمويل حرم الجزر الخمس الجديد لجامعة الهند الغربية. وستخول هذه المساهمة أيضاً حصول أحد أفراد الأسرة على منحة دراسية مدتها سنة واحدة، تشمل رسوم التعليم فقط، في جامعة الهند الغربية.

لأسرة مكونة من 4 أفراد أو أكثر:
• مساهمة قدرها 150.000 دولار أمريكي
لأسرة مكونة مما يصل إلى 4 أفراد:
• رسوم المعالجة: 25.000 دولار أمريكي
• رسوم المعالجة: 15.000 دولار أمريكي لكل شخص مُعال إضافي

الاستثمار في العقارات

يمكنك أنت وأسرته الحصول على الجنسية من خلال شراء عقار في أنتيغوا وباربودا. كما يمكنك أيضاً الاستفادة من إيرادات الإيجار بفضل هذا الاستثمار.

الحصول على جنسية أنتيغوا وباربودا عن طريق برنامج الاستثمار أسئلة متكررة

الملفات الكاملة إلى جهة دولية غير منحازة تقدم خدمات العناية الواجبة والتي ستجري تحريات مفصلة بشأن خلفيات المتقدمين بالطلب.

ماذا يحدث بعد قبول طلبي؟

سيتم إصدار شهادة تسجيل الجنسية وتقديمها إلى مكتب جوازات السفر. وسيقوم وكيلك/ممثلك المفوض بإرسال جوازات السفر وشهادة الجنسية الخاصة بك إليك.

هل يجب أن أسافر إلى أنتيغوا وباربودا لإكمال العملية؟

يمكن إجراء الطلب من بلد إقامتك. بعد نجاح طلبك وتلقيك جواز سفرك، يجب عليك السفر إلى أنتيغوا وباربودا لأداء اليمين أو تأكيد الولاء. ويحق لك الإقامة بدوام كامل في أنتيغوا وباربودا متى تشاء.

هل تعترف أنتيغوا وباربودا بالجنسية المزدوجة؟

لا توجد قيود على الجنسية المزدوجة في أنتيغوا وباربودا.

كم من سنة سيبقى جواز سفري ساري المفعول؟

سيبقى جواز سفرك ساري المفعول لمدة 5 سنوات وهو قابل للتجديد لمدة 10 سنوات بعد ذلك، شريطة تلبية المتطلبات التي تشمل قضاء خمسة أيام على الأقل في البلد خلال هذه الفترة بعد الحصول على الجنسية.

هل يمكنني الاستثمار بعملة بيتكوين (Bitcoin) أو غيرها من العملات المعماة؟

هذا الأمر ما زال قيد الإعداد ولم يتم تنفيذه بعد.

بالإضافة إلى برنامج الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار، هل لدى أنتيغوا وباربودا برنامج للإقامة الضريبية؟
لا تقدم أنتيغوا وباربودا حالياً برنامجاً للإقامة الضريبية.

لماذا تملك أنتيغوا وباربودا برنامج الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار؟

تم اعتماد البرنامج لتعزيز النمو الاقتصادي واستقطاب التنمية العقارية وزيادة الاستثمار الأجنبي المباشر في البلاد ودعم تطوير البنية التحتية وتأمين مستقبل مستدام.

كم عدد البلدان التي يمكنني السفر إليها دون تأشيرة كمواطن أنتيغوا وباربودا؟

يمكنك السفر إلى أكثر من 150 بلداً دون الحاجة إلى تأشيرة، بما في ذلك بلدان الاتحاد الأوروبي وشنغن وهونغ كونغ وسنغافورة.

كم من الوقت تستغرق معالجة طلبك؟

تستغرق معالجة طلبك ما بين 3 و6 أشهر.

من يمكنه التقدم بطلب للحصول على الجنسية؟

لتكون مؤهلاً لبرنامج الجنسية في أنتيغوا وباربودا، يجب أن يتجاوز عمرك 18 عاماً وأن تتسم بحسن الخلق وألا يكون لديك سوابق جنائية وأن تتمتع بصحة جيدة.

هل ينبغي أن أتحدث باللغة الإنجليزية لطلب الحصول على الجنسية؟

لست بحاجة إلى التحدث باللغة الإنجليزية للتقدم بالطلب.

من يمكن إدراجه في الطلب؟

يمكنك أن تدرج في الطلب أطفالك المعالين الذين تقل أعمارهم عن 28 عاماً ووالديك المعالين إذا كان عمرهما يتجاوز 58 عاماً.

كيف تُجرون العناية الواجبة وفحص الطلبات؟

لا تجري مقابلات. ومع ذلك، يخضع جميع المتقدمين بالطلب لفحص دقيق قبل دراسة ملفهم من قبل وحدة الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار. تُحال

لمزيد من الأسئلة، يُرجى الاتصال بممثل مفوض أو وكيل مرخص له أو مباشرة بوحدة الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار.

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АНТИГУА И БАРБУДА

гражданство по инвестиционной программе

Существуют четыре вида инвестиций, благодаря которым вы можете стать кандидатом на получение гражданства на райских островах Антигуа и Барбуда. Вы можете выбрать один из вариантов: безвозмездный взнос в государственный фонд экономического развития (NDF) или в фонд Университета Вест-Индии, инвестиции в недвижимость в один из одобренных правительством проектов или инвестиции в бизнес в одно из утвержденных коммерческих предприятий. Заявитель должен быть старше 18 лет, не иметь судимостей и иметь отличное здоровье.

При условии одобрения заявления, вы и ваша семья получите пожизненное гражданство и сможете наслаждаться безвизовым въездом в более чем 150 стран мира.

БЕЗВОЗВРАТНЫЙ ВЗНОС В ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ ФОНД ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОГО РАЗВИТИЯ

Некоммерческий фонд NDF был учрежден с целью финансирования предпринимательских государственных проектов, инноваций в предпринимательстве и одобренных благотворительных проектов. Деятельность фонда проверяется международно признанной аудиторской фирмой, ежегодно публикуется доклад о состоянии дел.

Если вы выбрали этот вариант инвестиций, то вам предлагается внести в государственный фонд экономического развития NDF сумму в 100 000 долларов США, это единовременный взнос для семьи из четырех человек. Ниже указана сумма сбора за обработку данных.

Для одного заявителя или семьи из четырех или менее человек:

- Взнос 100 000 долларов США
- Сбор за обработку данных: 25 000 долларов США

Для семьи из 5 и более человек:

- Взнос 125 000 долларов США
- Сбор за обработку данных: 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца свыше четырех членов семьи.

ФОНД УНИВЕРСИТЕТА ВЕСТ-ИНДИИ (UWI):

Этот вариант инвестиции создан для финансирования кампуса Five Islands Университета Вест-Индии. Это денежное вложение дает право на получение стипендии сроком на один год (только плата за учебу) для одного члена семьи в Университете Вест-Индии.

Для семьи из 4 и более человек:

- Взнос 150 000 долларов США

Для семьи до 4 человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 25 000 долларов США
- Сбор за обработку данных: 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца.

ИНВЕСТИЦИИ В НЕДВИЖИМОСТЬ

Вы и члены вашей семьи можете получить гражданство купив недвижимость в Антигуа и Барбуда. Выбрав этот вариант инвестиции, вы также сможете получать доходы от аренды. Чтобы стать кандидатом на получение гражданства в случае выбора этого варианта, вы должны вложить в один из официально утвержденных проектов недвижимости не менее 400 000 долларов США. До 31 октября 2019 года, для получения права, два (2) кандидата на гражданство могут объединиться и сделать вложение на минимальную сумму в 200 000 долларов США каждый. Все сборы за обработку данных и прохождение проверки на благонадежность остаются без изменений.

Вы сможете продать недвижимость не ранее, чем через 5 лет. Ниже указана сумма сбора за обработку данных.

Для одного заявителя или семьи из четырех или менее человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 50 000 долларов США

Для семьи из 5 и более человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца.

ИНВЕСТИЦИИ В БИЗНЕС

Подразделение по вопросам инвестиционного гражданства (CIU) после согласования с Инвестиционным департаментом Антигуа и Барбуды (ABIA) официально одобряет коммерческие предприятия для программы инвестиционного гражданства (CIP). Это может быть как новый, так и уже существующий бизнес.

Существуют два варианта инвестиций в бизнес:

- Инвестировать как минимум 1 500 000 долларов США в одобренный бизнес.
- Другой вариант - это инвестировать в бизнес несколькими заявителями, общая сумма вложений должна быть не менее 5 000 000 долларов США. При этом каждый заявитель обязан вложить в общий проект не менее 400 000 долларов США.

Для одного заявителя или семьи из четырех или менее человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 50 000 долларов США

Для семьи из 5 и более человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца.

Пожалуйста, обратите внимание, что для всех четырех вариантов необходимо оплатить сбор за прохождение проверки на благонадежность: 7 500 долларов США за основного заявителя, 7 500 долларов США за супруг(а), 2 000 долларов США за иждивенца от 12 до 17 лет и 4 000 долларов США за иждивенца от 18 до 28 лет и старше 58 лет.

АНТИГУА И БАРБУДА

гражданство по инвестиционной программе

Часто задаваемые вопросы

CITIZENSHIP BY
INVESTMENT
PROGRAM

Почему в Антигуа и Барбуда существует гражданство по инвестиционной программе?

Программа была создана для содействия экономическому росту, развитию рынка недвижимости, увеличения объемов прямых иностранных инвестиций в страну, поддержки развития инфраструктур и обеспечения надежного будущего.

Сколько стран я смогу посещать без визы как гражданин Антигуа и Барбуда?

Вы сможете посещать без визы более 150 стран, включая страны Евросоюза и Шенгенского соглашения, Гонконг и Сингапур.

Сколько составляет срок рассмотрения заявления?

Срок рассмотрения заявления может занять от 3 до 6 месяцев.

Кто может претендовать на получение гражданства?

Для того, чтобы претендовать на получение гражданства Антигуа и Барбуда вы должны быть старше 18 лет, иметь хорошую репутацию, не иметь судимостей и обладать хорошим состоянием здоровья.

Должен ли я владеть английским языком, чтобы претендовать на получение гражданства?

Для того, чтобы претендовать на получение гражданства вы не обязаны владеть английским языком.

Кто может быть включен в заявление?

В заявление могут быть включены финансово зависимые дети до 28 лет и находящиеся на иждивении родители старше 58 лет.

Как вы проводите проверку на благонадежность заявителей?

Личные собеседования не проводятся. Однако, все заявители проходят строгую проверку Подразделением по вопросам инвестиционного гражданства. Полностью укомплектованное дело передается в международную, объективную, независимую службу проверки на

благонадежность, которая проводит тщательную проверку личных данных всех заявителей.

Что происходит после того, как мое заявление получает одобрение?

Выдается справка о регистрации гражданства, которая передается в паспортную службу. Затем ваш уполномоченный агент / представитель отправляет вам ваши паспорта и свидетельство о гражданстве.

Для окончательного оформления дела мне необходимо лично приезжать в Антигуа и Барбуда?

Подача документов возможна из страны вашего проживания. После успешного разрешения вашего дела и получения паспорта, вы должны приехать в Антигуа и Барбуда, чтобы принять присягу или подтвердить подданство. Вы имеете право установить место постоянного проживания в Антигуа и Барбуда в любое время по вашему желанию.

Признает ли Антигуа и Барбуда двойное гражданство?

В Антигуа и Барбуда нет ограничений для двойного гражданства.

Сколько лет будет действителен мой паспорт?

Паспорт действителен 5 лет и он продлевается на 10 лет, при выполнении всех требований, таких как минимальный срок пребывания в стране после получения гражданства – пять дней.

Могу я инвестировать в Биткойнах или других криптовалютах?

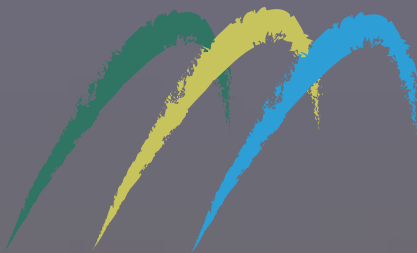
Пока этот вопрос находится в работе, но пока ещё не разрешен.

В дополнение к программе инвестиционного гражданства существует в Антигуа и Барбуда программа налогового резидентства?

В данный момент в Антигуа и Барбуда не существует программы налогового резидентства.

Если у вас возникли любые другие вопросы, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с уполномоченным представителем, лицензированным агентом или напрямую с Подразделением по вопросам инвестиционного гражданства.





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如果这是您的投资选择,您需要向国家发展基金捐款十万美元,这是四口之家一次性的捐款数额。办理费用如下所示。

适用于单个申请人,家庭成员四人及以下:

- 十万美金捐款
- 办理费用:两万五千美金

适用于家庭成员五人及以上:

- 十二万五千美金
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- 十五万美金捐款

适用于家庭成员四人及以下:

- 办理费用:两万五千美金

适用于家庭成员五人及以上:

- 办理费用:每个增加成员需缴一万五千美金

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您和您的家人可以通过在安提瓜和巴布达购买房产来获得公民身份。您也可以通过此投资从租金收入中受益。为通过此项投资获得公民身份,您需要投资一个指定的,经官方批准的价值至少为四十万美元的房地产开发项目。截至2019年10月31日,来自关联方的两 (2) 份申请可以进行共同投资,每位申请人至少投资二十万美元才能获得资格。所有办理费和尽职调查费保持不变。

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- 办理费用:每个增加成员需缴一万五千美金

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申请公民身份需要我会说英语吗？

申请人不需要会讲英语。

谁可以被包括在申请中？

您抚养的年龄小于28岁的孩子和赡养的超过58岁的老人可以被包括在申请中。

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我需要亲自到安提瓜和巴布达来完成手续吗？

申请环节可以在您的居住国完成。一旦您的申请成功并收到护照,您需要亲自到安提瓜和巴布达来宣誓或承认效忠。您随时可以定居在安提瓜和巴布达。

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by
Bruno L'ecuyer
Chief Executive
Investment Migration Council

PUTTING OUR HOUSE IN ORDER

The development of global standards for the investment migration industry needs to be an urgent priority for the sector. Long-term success will only be brought about if international institutions and civil society have confidence in the industry.

Investment migration is a US\$2 billion industry responsible for significant investment, job creation and societal development, and it accounts for billions of direct and indirect revenues in some smaller sovereign states.

However, there are currently no established global standards for investment migration. Setting such standards has always been of exceptional importance for the Investment Migration Council (IMC); while having a clear and coherent framework is now probably more important than ever. There are at least two reasons for that. Firstly, all involved parties should follow a set of harmonised and well-established rules which would certainly contribute to better compliance with global financial regulations. Secondly, having global standards would contribute to an improved understanding of the investment migration industry and build trust with the outside world.


The lack of global standards and good understanding of both citizenship and residence programmes may not only be confusing, but also a source of distrust towards the entire industry.

Finding the Right Balance

While well-designed investment migration programmes imply that the interests of the clients and those of the governments are aligned,

this is where key issues usually arise. Plenty of mistakes can be made undermining the interests of both the government and the clients. For example, the due diligence requirements established by the government eager to cash in on the programme could be too lenient. While this can be presented as a positive feature, since a visa or a nationality is easier to acquire, it is highly problematic in the long run. When such leniency is discovered, it undermines the trust of other states in the nationalities granted, reducing the value of investment for all clients and ultimately undermining the financial viability of the programme. Similarly, programmes lacking transparency, or where rules are not sufficiently clear and strict, can suffer from corruption, which in turn undermines trust and value of investments.

On the other side of the coin, the attractiveness of a most diligently designed programme can be radically different from real life. Studies show that the added value of some reputable programmes is far from clear, as the investments they generate are not providing sufficient added value to the countries' economies in order to justify the level of resources required to run the programmes. All in all, very serious individual scrutiny of the components of each residence and citizenship-by-investment programme (RBI/CBI) is required before any conclusions are drawn.



Addressing criticism and contributing to professionalism

The investment migration industry has been loudly criticised by several international institutions and organisations. Aiming to contribute to various improvements in the field of investment migration, the IMC takes criticism seriously. It is fair to say that most criticism is largely due to the lack of global standards under which the entire industry should be operating, as well as a lack of understanding of the application and assessment procedures. In such circumstances, the European Commission's view of citizenship programmes as a 'risk to security' should not come as a surprise.

In fact, three recent reports have shed light on a number of aspects which could indeed be problematic in the absence of global investment

"THE LACK OF GLOBAL STANDARDS AND GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH CITIZENSHIP AND RESIDENCE PROGRAMMES MAY NOT ONLY BE CONFUSING, BUT ALSO A SOURCE OF DISTRUST TOWARDS THE ENTIRE INDUSTRY."

migration rules. The integrity of the applicants' background checks and due diligence are highly prioritised by the European Union (EU). This has been discussed along similar lines in all three documents. Thus, the Special Committee on Financial Crimes, Tax evasion and Tax Avoidance noted in their TAX3 Report that 'citizenship or residence could be granted through these schemes without proper or indeed any customer due diligence having been carried out by the competent authorities.' The European Parliament Research Service's (EPRS) Study emphasised that CBI/RBI schemes 'enable false statements to be made on residency and can thereby undermine due diligence procedures.' Finally, the European Commission also expressed its concern noting inter alia that 'in most

Member States the family members of investors are not subject to enhanced due diligence, which could entail security risks.' Other problematic aspects emphasised by EU institutions include transparency issues and governance of the programmes, risk of money laundering, corruption and tax evasion, lack of genuine link etc.

All concerns deserve proper attention and deeper clarification. The most recent attempts of the European Commission to initiate a wider discussion on the topic by inviting experts, civil society and industry representatives is a major step forward to a better understanding of the industry and hopefully setting appropriate standards in the near future. The IMC has addressed criticism directed towards the industry on multiple occasions. We will participate constructively in

future discussions aimed at the clarification of citizenship migration and at the building of trust and confidence with international institutions and civil society. Furthermore, the IMC has built a strong platform for formal education of those working in the investment migration industry. The new framework for education and training will provide for all levels of background and experience. The courses aim to promote integrity, ethics, transparency and best practices, and will be delivered by IMC Education and Training. A good education is the foundation of qualified professionals. The IMC's goal is to shape future professionals by helping them improve their understanding of the industry and enabling them to develop valuable skills and knowledge. ●



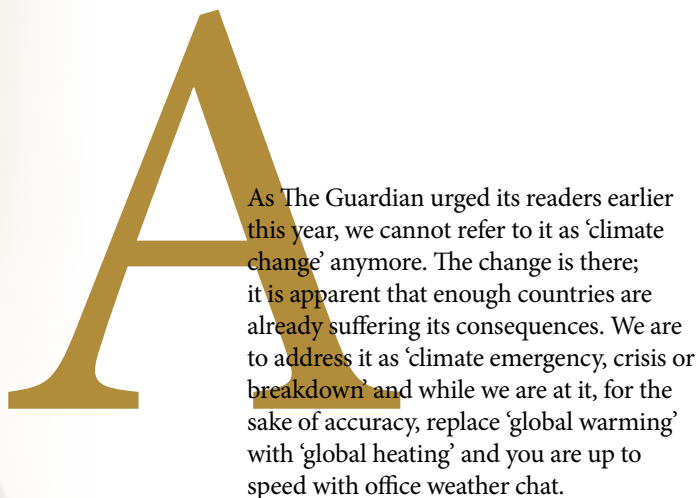
OPINION

by
Talimka Yordanova
CEO
Global Citizen Forum

CLIMATE EMERGENCY SPURRING NEED FOR MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS ON MIGRATION

We have just shaken off from the madness of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) week in New York and a few weeks later, there are two words that resonate in the mind of every single person actively or passively involved in global issues. Even for those that are trying very hard not to be involved, every time they turn their televisions on, Greta will be there looking at them reminding them that they have failed her. With millions of students joining forces in the streets of a dozen cities across the globe, the 'climate crisis' has become the elephant in the room we can no longer ignore.





As The Guardian urged its readers earlier this year, we cannot refer to it as 'climate change' anymore. The change is there; it is apparent that enough countries are already suffering its consequences. We are to address it as 'climate emergency, crisis or breakdown' and while we are at it, for the sake of accuracy, replace 'global warming' with 'global heating' and you are up to speed with office weather chat.

The world is changing at an unprecedented rate and while climate is the one making the headlines at the moment, it will, sooner than expected, be replaced by the immediate consequences that the crisis brings about. In some parts of the world this is already happening. Rising sea levels, a growing number of devastating hurricanes, coastal erosion, unpredictability and the blaring fact that there is nowhere to go is the everyday reality for more than 65 million people living in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) spread around the world's oceans. As resilient as these communities are to harsh conditions and extreme weather, the local population knows that this is not a battle they can win. With less than 3.5 percent of their total area being land and with a third of their population living in areas that are merely a few meters above the sea, phenomena such as rising sea levels and coastal erosion become an existential threat that can be only confronted by moving to a safer and less exposed geography. How these countries perceive the notion of relocation in the context of these piercing circumstances is what the Global Citizen Forum, as the leading platform for dialogue and action on issues related to mobility and migration, is interested in.

In his address to the UNGA, Prime Minister Browne spoke with vehemence about the urgency and inevitability of the effects of the climate breakdown which

have been apparent in his country for some time. The economies of small island nations are deeply rooted in tourism and agriculture which are directly dependent on stable weather conditions. With devastating storms like hurricane Irma, two years later Antigua & Barbuda is still suffering the dire consequences. The reality is that for these countries the point of no return has already been reached. As the Prime Minister repeatedly underlined; even if the 'small level of ambition' of reducing temperature rise to 1.5°C is reached, the climate effects will continue for at least another thousand years. One thousand years! This means that the next 30 or so generations of Antiguan and Barbudans will be marked by multiple storms and with limited, if any, resources to recover, adapt or even survive.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, there have been more than 24 million people internally displaced as a result of abrupt weather since 2008; while the World Bank estimates that another 143 million will follow by 2050. In order to maintain the geographic focus, I would just add that some studies argue that by 2100, 48 islands will completely sink as a result of a rising ocean. Yet the United High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recognizes the term 'refugee' only in the context of conflict and political upheaval. Climate is still debated as a legitimate force and as such, has not been legally acknowledged. In essence, what this means is that international law does not provide for environmental migrants; leaving them with little to no direction, protection or status whatsoever.

Today, this is a problem. In a couple of years, it will be an issue. In a decade or so, it may very well be an emergency. At

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AS A CONCEPT IS BUILT ON THE CORE BELIEF THAT WE, AS PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES, NATION STATES AND GOVERNMENTS, OPERATE IN A SYSTEM OF COMPLETE INTERCONNECTEDNESS

present, we lack the necessary systems to ensure that we leave no one behind. The most likely receiving countries are not only unprepared to process these migrants by documenting them, putting them into new school systems, securing their healthcare, safety, and employment; they don't want to. The current narrative on immigration policies has taken a deep dive into the dangerous waters of nationalism and xenophobia. But we cannot afford this.

Global citizenship as a concept is built on the core belief that we, as people, communities, nation states and governments, operate in a system of complete interconnectedness. The climate crisis is a painfully accurate example of that – small island nations contribute less than one percent to the global consumption of fossil fuels, yet they are the first ones to suffer the consequences of the reckless behaviour of countries that geographically, culturally or politically are completely irrelevant to them. Global cooperation is the only way we can tackle this issue. The only way to secure national interests, as Prime Minister Browne rightly pointed out in his address, is by cooperating on a global level. A new

wave of migrants will soon hit us and unless the key global players collaborate on the design and implementation of a multilateral solution, the 'refugee crisis' we experienced a couple of years ago will be followed by a 'refugee catastrophe'.

The international community must adapt its legal framework to either expand the definition of 'refugees' to provide for those fleeing extreme weather conditions or create a new legal category altogether. And the key players in the international political arena need to endorse, fund and integrate these solutions.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all UN member states in 2015 as a universal call to action addressing the most pressing global challenges the world is facing today – 'to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.'

Even though issues related to migration appear in 15 out of the 17 Global Goals, not having a goal dedicated to migration itself is self-explanatory. Migration is not a development problem. It is a mechanism that can contribute to the achievement of many of the SDGs. It contributes significantly to all aspects of economic and social development and as such, especially in the context of this climate emergency, needs to be endorsed and harnessed by governments. Starting from SIDS and the countries that put them in this condition in the first place, and guided by the moral principles of global citizenship and the practical solutions migration policies can offer, the international community must stand together to demonstrate that firstly, we learn from our mistakes, and secondly, we do believe in global cooperation and the protection of human lives. ●



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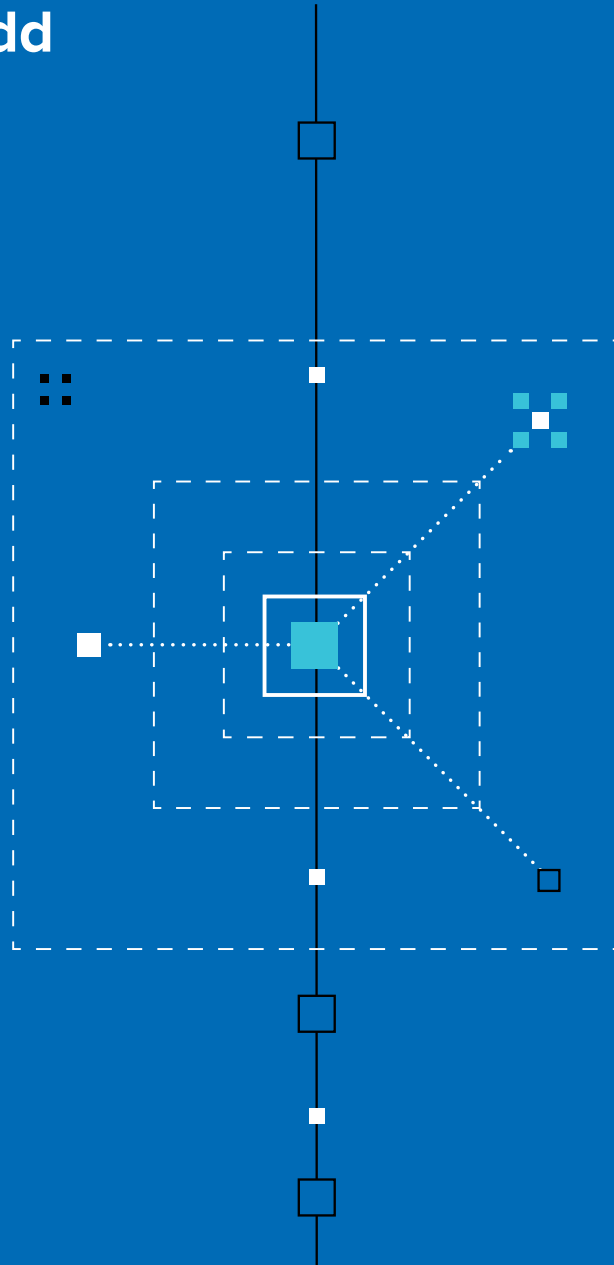


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THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

by
Hussain Farooq
President
HF Corporation

CAN WE ACHIEVE GLOBALISATION IN THE TRUE SENSE WITHOUT FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT?

he world we are living in has indeed become a global village. The 20th century saw a rapid increase in one trend — that of globalisation. Communication and travelling became easier. Countries joined forces to form inter-governmental organisations. The establishment of supranational organisations such as the European Union (EU), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and Organisation of African Unity (OAU) led to closer integration of regional countries. The EU set an example in terms of regional cooperation by not only allowing free trade between the member states, but also by affording undeniable rights of settlement to nationals of one member state into another. The initial years of the 21st century witnessed globalisation at an even greater pace with businesses expanding at an exponential rate. Social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and LinkedIn played a great role in connecting people across the world.

However, despite all these advancements and international cooperation, we still witness major differences in the value of nationalities of different countries. For some nationalities, this value continues to rise, while it maintains a downward trend for certain other nationalities. Some economies continue to grow at exponential rates, while economies of some developed countries are bracing for economic slowdown in the coming times.

Passport holders of certain countries continue to enjoy ever-increasing privileges of visa-free travel while international travel continues to become even more cumbersome for nationals of some countries.

‘African trade meeting has no Africans after US visa denials’, was one of the most important pieces of news published in Voice of America on March 17 2019. The news, later reported by many other widely read publications, including The Guardian and The Independent, may have come as a surprise to some in the so-called developed world, but to people in Africa and certain Asian countries this is their everyday story.



“Passport holders of certain countries continue to enjoy ever-increasing privileges of visa-free travel while international travel continues to become even more cumbersome for nationals of some countries.”

Approximately 350,000 babies are born each day around the world - according to a UNICEF estimate - with most of these births taking place in Asian and African countries. A newborn doesn't get to choose their place of birth, but this, along with their parents' citizenship, is one of the prime factors in determining the newborn's nationality.

At international borders, individuals are treated not on the basis of their talent but on the basis of their nationality - something which is beyond the control of an individual. Let's analyse some real-life situations:

An exporter from a South Asian country sends a textile shipment to his buyer in East Asia. The shipment reaches its final port, but for some reason the buyer refuses to pick up the shipment and the shipment gets stuck at the port of entry. To resolve the matter, the exporter decides to travel to that East Asian country. However, it takes him more than a month to do so, just because his passport doesn't allow him visa-free access to the destination country, and processing of his visa application takes around 30 days.

Now take the situation of a dentist from a Middle Eastern country who decides to attend an advanced dental course in London. To attend this course, the gentleman needs to get a UK visa first, but there is no British Embassy or High Commission in his home country. Upon enquiring, he finds out that in order to apply for the UK visa he must visit the British High Commission in his neighbouring country. But the problem doesn't stop there; in order to visit the neighbouring country, he first must apply for its visa and only after acquiring a visa from that country, he can visit the High Commission. His fellows from the so-called developed world could simply book a flight to London without going through any visa difficulties. The gentleman, in pursuit of acquiring excellence in his field, finally goes

through all the hassle. He, however, can never forget this cumbersome process and starts exploring an alternate citizenship solution for himself and, most importantly, for his children.

Borders are not the problem. The problem arises when geographical borders become boundaries.

According to Article 1 and Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the UN, all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and no distinction shall be made on the basis of political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs. However, despite all the talks of justice, equality and globalisation, the individuals at international borders are not treated equally.

The question is: can we achieve globalisation in the true sense without freedom of movement?

We are already experiencing a reverse trend of globalisation in the past few years. The global financial crisis, and the power of populist electioneering — Brexit, elections in the US and in some developed European countries — have contributed an anti-global tinge to our world; the extent of which is debatable.

Global citizenship currently seems like a far-fetched idea, but alternatives to global citizenship - in the form of dual or multiple citizenship - are very much practical. A growing number of individuals are willing to trade their skills or investments in return for a better citizenship and, by extension, a better passport - and this class of aspiring global citizens is fuelling the multi-billion-dollar citizenship by investment bonanza from the Caribbean, to Europe and the Pacific. ●



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

by

Carlyle Rogers
Barrister
CARLYLEROGERS

WHERE SHOULD CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT (CBI) SIT WITHIN A HIGH-NET-WORTH INDIVIDUAL'S (HNWI) WEALTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY?

he answer to this question is plain and simple: CBI should sit at the centre of a HNWI wealth management strategy as opposed to being on the periphery where it has always traditionally been. In other words, consideration of CBI options should be the driving force, or at least one of the central driving forces of any such strategy. While in the past, tax rates and financial privacy issues were vital in the crafting of a wealth management strategy, recent changes in the international tax architecture have made that approach unfeasible. Therefore, in order to understand why CBI must and can only sit at the centre of a HNWI wealth strategy, one must examine these changes.

Driven by the European Union, G20 and promulgated through the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's BEPS (Base-Erosion and Profit Shifting) project, economic substance rules in the jurisdictions of domicile for companies engaged in activities such as banking, insurance, fund management, financing and leasing, shipping, intellectual property business, distribution and service centres business, headquarters etc, have been implemented. Saying that, I predict that in the future, all companies, irrespective of the activity they are engaged in, will have to comply with these newly implemented economic substance rules.

In the past, the wealth management industry and CBI didn't exist side by side but in two parallel and separate



"Everything considered, Caribbean jurisdictions are ideally suited to take advantage of the growing synergies between the CBI sector and the provision of international financial services."

universes. This is even though some jurisdictions, especially those in the Caribbean like Antigua & Barbuda, have active financial services/offshore sectors and a low-tax structure, which are often the basis of any wealth management strategy.

The introduction of these rules presents an opportunity for players - both the jurisdictions themselves and the service providers - to work in tandem in order to give clients more holistic wealth management and citizenship planning advice. However, because of the new tax infrastructure demanding economic substance to access low, or in some cases, zero-tax structures, it will likely be CBI driving the process and not the tax rates. Although the new rules are too complex to discuss in an article of this length, suffice to say that the days of HNWI's using low-tax jurisdictions for shell entities with no real economic activity in order to legally minimise their tax obligations as part of a wealth management strategy - or dare I say, to engage in evasion - are over.

Nevertheless, it must be noted that at the time of writing, economic substance rules are mainly in force in places such as Anguilla and the other British Overseas Territories as well as the UK's Crown Dependencies. They are not currently in force in the Caribbean CBI jurisdictions, but it is only a matter of time before these jurisdictions are forced by the EU to implement them or else be blacklisted.

The economic substance test that these entities are subjected to, demands that the companies have mind and management as well as qualified employees to execute the entities' activities and be physically present within the jurisdictions of domicile. Additionally, the companies must have office space and physical assets to carry out their activities whether they be leased, rented or owned. Furthermore, their core income generating activities must be executed from within the jurisdiction where they are incorporated.

What this therefore means for HNWI's is that if they are to make legal use of company structures in low-tax jurisdictions to conduct certain activities, they must ultimately spend sufficient time there. It therefore becomes a natural fit between low-tax jurisdictions with CBI programmes and HNWI's interested in establishing a company structure where they could also become eligible for citizenship and a passport. In other words, the same jurisdiction would enable a HNWI to "kill two birds with one stone".

Everything considered, Caribbean jurisdictions are ideally suited to take advantage of the growing synergies between the CBI sector and the provision of international financial services. As a consequence, the CBI will drive any wealth management strategy going forward and there can be no doubt that it should therefore sit at the centre of it. ●

by
Yakof Agius
Founder and CEO
CiviQuo

THE 'ICY ROADS' OF RCBI APPLICATIONS: SAFER NAVIGATION THROUGH A COMMON RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

any stakeholders in the industry believe that having a common risk assessment framework for the residency and citizenship by investment industry (RCBI) would be very beneficial, but also very difficult to achieve, since every country has its own risk appetite.

However, in May 2019, the European Union invited industry representatives to give their input to a group of member state experts who had been given this exact same responsibility; to address the concerns identified in the Commission's report on Investor Citizenship and Residence Schemes, including the development of a common risk management process.

To give context to this challenge, it is important to understand how such risks are identified. Countries undertake a periodical process called a national risk assessment whereby the country's priority concerns relating to money laundering and terrorist financing are identified. This exercise looks at how different risks could impact the country, the probability of those risks materialising and the consequences if they did.

An analogy to this would be driving a car in different weather conditions. The risks involved with driving a car are the same everywhere. However, in conditions where roads are prone to icing, there is a higher risk of losing control of a vehicle as opposed to driving on a dry road. So, based on the probability of there being ice on the roads and the possible accidents that may arise due to this, countries put in place accident-



“Even though tax evasion is a risk that applies to all countries, it may be less of a risk in countries where tax rates are low, enforcement is strict, the tax regime is simplified, and information reporting is easy.”

mitigating factors like for example, regularly de-icing the roads.

A practical example of this would be where a country identifies that tax evasion is an illegal activity which threatens the country's prosperity. Enforcement agencies would analyse the most vulnerable sectors and focus efforts and resources to mitigate this threat. Even though tax evasion is a risk that applies to all countries, it may be less of a risk in countries where tax rates are low, enforcement is strict, the tax regime is simplified, and information reporting is easy. In this example, the risk of tax evasion is constant, whilst the chances of there being instances of tax evasion and their impact are variable and dependant on several factors.

Having a common risk assessment framework for the residency and citizenship by investment industry would clearly identify the associated risks (constant). However, because probability and consequence (variables) are country-dependent, any viable framework must be flexible enough to allow different mitigating factors to be applied, thus enabling every country to mitigate the risks posed by

an applicant who is seeking residency or citizenship in that country, in line with its own risk appetite.

In its summary note from the stakeholders' consultation, the European Commission highlights that the risk categories that were identified as part of a possible common risk assessment framework include:

- (i) intent, identification and verification;
- (ii) political exposure, watchlists and sanctions;
- (iii) regulatory compliance and legal conduct;
- (iv) beneficial ownership and corporate affiliations;
- (v) sources of funds and wealth;
- (vi) taxation;
- (vii) reputational risk; and
- (viii) social structure and interaction;

These categories represent the constant risk categories which - as suggested by the stakeholders and reported by the Commission - every country who has a residency or citizenship by investment programme should take into consideration when reviewing applications.

The CiviQuo Risk Assessment Framework not only provides a structured framework which highlights the risks, but also provides recommendations on how to effectively inform the risk assessment process, whilst leaving the flexibility of how to do this to the practitioner in line with the risk appetite being observed.

Establishing a common risk assessment framework for the residency and citizenship by investment industry is a significant development because it allows for the objective and systematic evaluation of an application, hence bringing a high degree of transparency across the industry. Furthermore, it enables government institutions, immigration service providers and due diligence agencies to align their efforts for more effective reviews, and thus better outcomes all round. Through further research, this framework can be improved, but for the time being if you are looking for a better grip on an RCBI application's risk assessment, this is probably the safest option. ●

HEALTH IS WEALTH

W

With one of the most robust economies in the Caribbean region and enjoying five consecutive years of economic growth, as you would expect, investment opportunities abound in the dual-island nation of Antigua & Barbuda. Given that the tourism sector is the backbone of the economy and accounts for 60 percent of the country's GDP, unsurprisingly around 40 percent of investments are in this crucial industry.

As the government is committed to diversifying its tourism offer and reducing seasonality through the creation of niche markets, the twin islands have once again put themselves on the international map; this time as the first wellness destination in the Caribbean.

The islands naturally provide the necessary ingredients associated with well-being, and investors are flocking to the islands to build luxury properties with a gamut of wellness facilities, increasing the offer in this booming sector.

However, this small-but-mighty country's plans go well beyond the wellness attractions of the incredible climate, beaches, spas, sporting facilities and healthy cuisine. A frontrunner in innovation; whether that be the first country in the Caribbean to ban single-use plastics, or the recently-launched innovation centre, Antigua & Barbuda's bid to make the islands a regional centre for stem cell research and a major player in the medical marijuana industry may not be the first things that spring to mind when thinking about a small island nation of just 100,000 people.

However, with the legislation on stem cell and medical marijuana that have come into force recently, the islands are preparing themselves for an influx of investment in these sectors where the worlds of medicine and wellness overlap.

“As the islands gain a name for themselves in these niche and technical markets, it is expected that more businesses in the medical sciences sector will be attracted.”



The cannabis industry is experiencing unprecedented global growth fuelled by worldwide legislative changes and scientific advances which demonstrate the potential therapeutic use of specific cannabis derivatives in treating a number of medical conditions. Antigua & Barbuda has a great deal to offer within the cannabis space, including ideal weather and soil conditions and cultivation expertise. With regulations in place to control the cultivation and production of medical-grade cannabis, the government is currently considering the first applications for licenses for production in the twin islands and anticipating many more. The economic potential for the islands is huge. With former world heavyweight boxer, Mike Tyson having recently visited the shores of the twin islands to explore investing in a luxury hotel, where guests will be able to enjoy medical marijuana treatments during their stay, the islands are finding themselves in the international spotlight and gearing up for increasing interest in this field. To provide a framework and help garner investment in another worldwide medical and wellness revolution, the 2019 Stem Cell Bill was passed by parliament earlier this year. The new legislation will regulate stem cell research and therapy and the licensing of these facilities. With the first stem cell medical centre about to open, it is expected to pave the way for further investment in stem cell medical

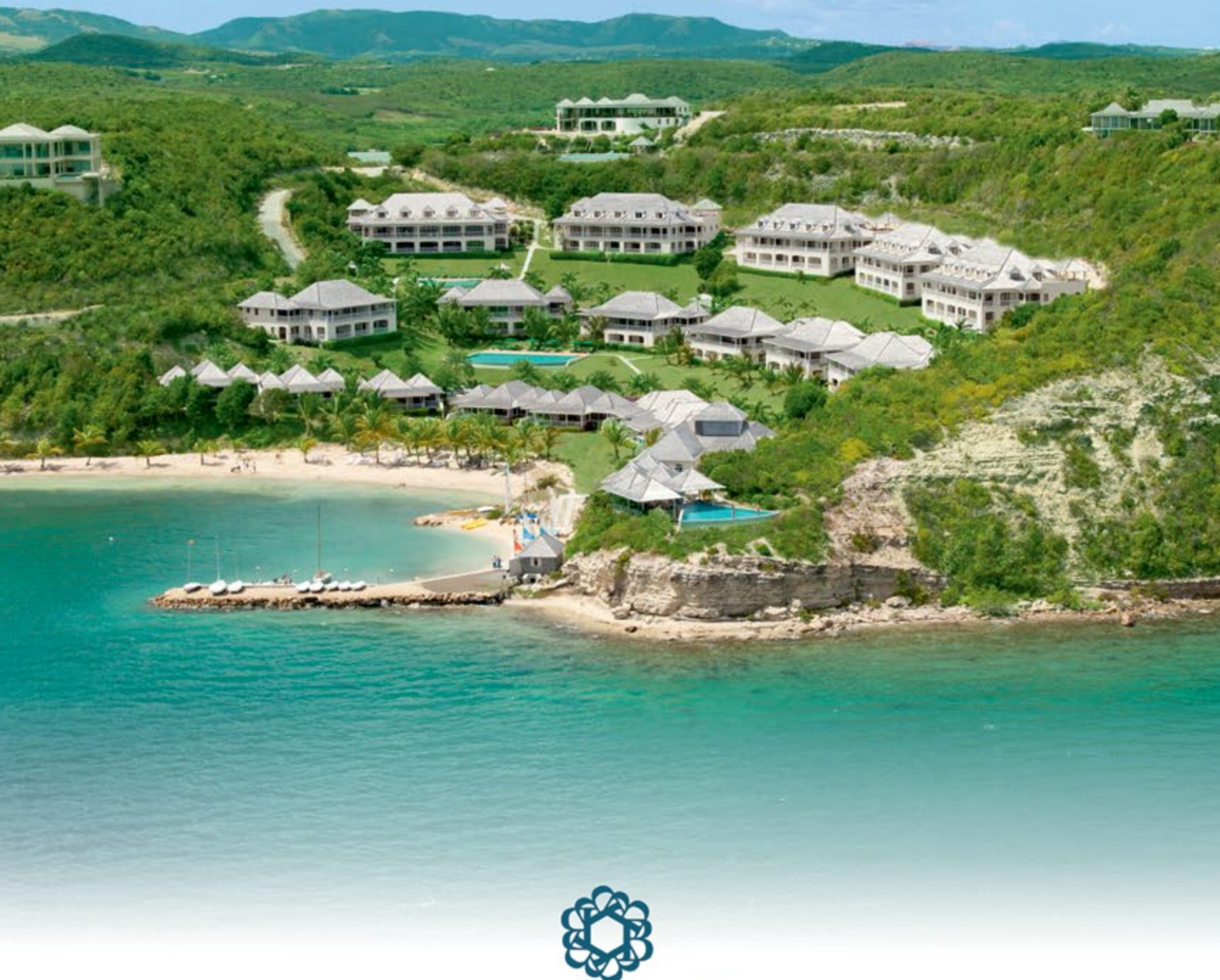
centres on the islands. Antigua & Barbuda is positioning itself to become a leading nation for stem cell treatments and research and a business cluster in this field will increase productivity and economic reward.

And it doesn't have to stop there. As the islands gain a name for themselves in these niche and technical markets, it is expected that more businesses in the medical sciences sector will be attracted – a virtuous circle of investment begetting further investment along with talent and innovation.

Education being at the heart of the government's development strategy, finding qualified employees is not difficult either. In addition to the three medical schools, the University of the West Indies have recently opened their fourth campus in Antigua providing a steady stream of highly educated graduates. And let's face it, who wouldn't want to relocate to these gorgeous islands for the right job opportunity in any case? Daily flights to New York, Miami, London ensure that the islands are anything but remote. And for investors who choose to start their business through the country's Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP), the benefits can also qualify them for citizenship to a nation with visa-free travel to 165 jurisdictions. All going to show that in spite of its small size, Antigua & Barbuda just never stops surprising. ●



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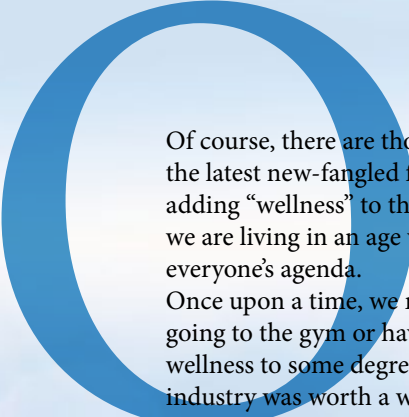
“ Where health is the destination,
wellness is the journey ”



COVER
STORY


Wellness means different things to different people. According to the Global Wellness Institute (GWI), the broad definition of wellness is “the active pursuit of activities, choices and lifestyles that lead to a state of holistic health.” Unquestionably, some activities such as incorporating fitness and eating healthily are universally linked to wellness, but since the idea of wellness is all encompassing, it is often open to the choices, lifestyle and all-round interpretation of the individual.

THE WE OF WELLNESS



Of course, there are those who scoff when they hear the word “wellness” and relate it to the latest new-fangled fad - and indeed there are those who’ve jumped on the bandwagon adding “wellness” to their business model for a fast buck - but the truth of the matter is that we are living in an age where good health, whether that be of mind, body or soul is high on everyone’s agenda.

Once upon a time, we may have had a more occasional relationship with wellness - perhaps going to the gym or having a massage from time to time. Today, everyone dabbles in wellness to some degree and it permeates all aspects of people’s lives. In 2017, the wellness industry was worth a whopping US\$4.2 trillion. To put this in perspective, this represents 5.3 percent of the total global economic output and relates to a growth that is nearly twice as fast as the global economy. And this is a bubble that shows absolutely no sign of bursting. Wellness is now ubiquitous and recognised into ten different wellness sectors; personal care and beauty, healthy eating/nutrition/weight-loss, wellness tourism, fitness/mind-body, preventative medicine, traditional and complementary medicine, wellness real estate, spa economy, thermal/mineral springs, and workplace wellness. Three of these; real estate, workplace and tourism are those that are inextricably entwined in how we live our life – our “wellness ecosystem” so to speak. However, as GWI state in last year’s Global Wellness Monitor; “Wellness sectors are no longer siloed industries. They will increasingly converge as we integrate wellness into our homes and communities, our work, and our travel.”



More importantly, as wellness progressively forms part of our lifestyles, it is changing from something that is no longer simply personal and moving towards something that recognises that we are part of something bigger; that our personal wellness cannot be at the cost of the wellness of our environment and the planet we live in.

Nowhere is this truer than in the tourism sector. As more travellers become conscious of their impact, not only on the environment, but on local communities, they are seeking ways to minimise their footprint. In other words, they no longer want to make it a one-sided consumptive and commercial transaction, but rather on a mutually beneficial and minimally evasive basis.

A few years ago, the term Free Independent Tourists (FIT) was unknown. But thanks to technology and a thirst for new experiences, a new segment of traveller has been born; one who wishes to avoid mass tourism in favour of an individualised, independent approach and seeks experiences to sample the local food, architecture, history, and culture of the places they visit.

Although wellness travellers and FITs are not synonymous, there are many overlapping characteristics.

A phenomenon that was barely mentioned half a decade ago, wellness tourism is now worth US\$639 billion a year, according to the Global Wellness Institute. These wellness visitors are seeking activities such as hiking, nature, volunteering, art and culinary experiences – very much the same experiences that responsible tourism companies offer – and with a similar mindful attitude towards the footprint they leave behind.

With international wellness tourists spending on average 53 percent more than typical tourists, and domestic wellness travellers spending 178 percent more than regular domestic tourists, these are high-yield visitors and attractive for any tourism destination to harness.

More than 1.3 billion people travel internationally each year and considering the money this industry moves, it is undeniable that the tourism industry has the potential to transform the livelihoods of millions. However, according to Euromonitor, 46 percent of these travellers visit just 100


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WELLNESS VERSUS MEDICAL TOURISM

Wellness and medical tourism often go hand in hand. But in reality, these two sectors have two very different functions and two very different visitors to take into consideration.

According to the Global Wellness Tourism Economy report published last year, although the two sectors are often confused - not just by individuals, but also by the media, governments and marketing of destinations - there are clear differences.

Medical tourism primarily relates to “poor health” or “feeling better”. In other words, it



destinations; meaning that a vast majority of these travellers are all crammed into the same places with the consequent negative impact on both environment and communities. Destinations are becoming true victims of their own success. This phenomenon of overtourism has become a pressing matter in the top tourism destinations worldwide (the Oxford

Dictionary even placed overtourism on its annual Word of the Year list in 2018). To this end, wellness has been touted as a way to help combat overcrowding, seasonality and consequently sustainability. By promoting activities and destinations off the beaten track, visitors can be dispersed over a much larger area with so-called “spreading”, thus bringing economic benefits to a larger portion of the country without the negative effects of overcrowding. For nations like Antigua & Barbuda where overtourism is not a problem and sustainability is already high on

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the agenda, wellness tourism can reap other socio-economic benefits. Having ensured that its tourism product already attracts high-yield visitors and that overdevelopment hasn’t taken place, wellness tourism can nevertheless help solve the seasonality of Caribbean tourism which has traditionally been based on escaping the cold winters of Europe and North America.

The Wellness Tourism Institute’s 2018 report shows that the Latin America and Caribbean region accounts for just under 10 percent of global wellness spending – demonstrating that there is huge potential there, not least because of places like Antigua & Barbuda’s natural attributes to create the perfect wellness destination; rest and relaxation, biodiversity, adventure, ecotourism, beauty and medical tourism.

Focusing on the “we” of wellness can be highly beneficial for countries, visitors, investors, and other stakeholders. As wellness becomes ever entwined in our daily lives and the tourism offer, this is a mindset that is here to stay. ●

encompasses patients who visit a destination for a medical procedure or enhancement such as cosmetic surgery, dental procedures, orthopaedic surgery and the like. Destinations are usually chosen because of better quality, price, or simply the availability of the treatment. And destinations generally market themselves depending on the government regulations in place, the medical sector itself and other important issues such as the ease of travel that surround the medical practise in that particular country.

Wellness tourism, on the other hand, is at the other end of the scale. This sector is for visitors who are looking for activities to improve or maintain their health and well-being. Generally speaking, it is often to prevent the very conditions that require medical interventions. This could be disease prevention, reducing stress, improving lifestyle habits or simply just having an authentic experience that makes them feel good. Wellness is driven by a different industry culture and consumer; at the same time as being more connected to the

hospitality and leisure sectors.

In other words, medical tourism is reactive towards existing medical conditions and wellness tourism is proactive and preventative. Naturally, as in most things, there is an overlap with many treatments that can be both curative and preventative. The marijuana and stem cell industries that are about to blossom in Antigua & Barbuda are a prime example of this overlap; bringing the twin islands two whole new niche markets for their tourism offer.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA FOR THE WELLNESS-MINDED TRAVELLER

Wellness vacations, wellness retreats, wellness travels. Around the world of travel, wellness is a hot topic, and Antigua & Barbuda is ideally positioned not only to host the wellness-minded traveller for a wellness vacation, but to become a key player in one of the fastest growing sectors of the global tourism industry.

So how can travel help us maintain, promote or kick-start a healthy lifestyle? Sometimes, we just need to get away from the stress of work, of home and of the countless little annoyances that surround us on a daily basis and silently erode our sense of well-being. And what does Antigua & Barbuda offer those travellers intentionally seeking ways to sustain or maintain, promote or kick-start a healthier lifestyle? There are many hotels and resorts, including Curtain Bluff, Sugar Ridge and Barbuda Belle, that cater to those travellers who want to incorporate elements of wellness into their travels with features and amenities such as fitness activities, healthy food options, daily yoga sessions - and in the case of Barbuda Belle, blissful peace and quiet. But beyond those, when it comes to wellness travel, the three things that stand out for Antigua & Barbuda are the following:

THERE IS A FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE PLANET

Both wellness tourism and wellness living include wellness for the planet and wellness-minded travellers lean towards supporting those destinations espousing ecotourism and responsible-tourism philosophies and with practices

in place. Antigua & Barbuda was the first country in the Western Hemisphere to ban plastic bags in 2016 and styrofoam a year later. One of the results of the ban is that straws are now made from plant-based products. Other sustainability practices have also been launched since then.

THERE IS AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES SURROUNDED BY NATURE

Science tells us that being immersed in nature tends to lift our spirits and increase our sense of well-being. But it goes beyond simply enjoying a beachfront vacation or a sunset cruise, which are available and easily accessible anywhere in the Caribbean.

Part of Antigua's Green Corridor and a point of distinction for the island, Wallings Nature Reserve, is the ideal place to truly "bathe" in nature. Opened in the fall of 2018 and built around a man-made reservoir dating back to 1890, the reserve offers guided history and

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA IS IDEALLY POSITIONED NOT ONLY TO HOST THE WELLNESS-MINDED TRAVELLER FOR A WELLNESS VACATION, BUT TO BECOME A KEY PLAYER IN ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING SECTORS OF THE GLOBAL TOURISM INDUSTRY

nature tours as well-maintained walking and hiking trails of up to 14 miles in length.

Another nature immersive option is the frigate sanctuary just off the island of Barbuda. A 30 to 40-minute kayaking excursion from the luxury boutique hotel, Barbuda Belle, the sanctuary is a refuge for the national bird – the frigate. These massive birds, with a wingspan of up to six feet, travel all the way here from the Galapagos Islands once a year between February and August to mate. There are hundreds of them soaring through the air, swooping down into the waters and hovering over newly born chicks.

THE DESTINATION OFFERS AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

"Authentic experiences" can include anything that is true and natural to a destination. When it comes to wellness vacations, authentic experiences around food is crucial as farm-to-table, eating locally, eating seasonally, food-as-medicine, and plant-based philosophies continue to spread. One example of an authentic experience is a visit to Antigua's Colesome Farmer's Market and a meal at its onsite vegan restaurant, epitomising the farm-to-table concept. Another example is Nicole's Table; the popular, hands-on cooking class and lunch with the overriding theme of "people coming together over food".

Incorporating elements of wellness into our vacations is not simply a trend. As many more of us become proactive with our own health, wellness travel will continue to be here for the long term.

by Anne Dimon

AUTHENTIC WELLNESS

Wellness or well-being often holds a vast difference of feelings to individuals but can be defined as something that brings you balance, relaxation, and rejuvenation. But in Antigua & Barbuda wellness goes beyond its outstanding facilities and capitalises on its unique Caribbean culture.

Nature tours, charming local restaurants and vendors, and a vast range of other services means we have a homegrown network which creates an offer that is authentically Antiguan and tailored to you, the individual.

Our island life and environment cannot fail to stimulate your five senses, and only then can authentic wellness be truly achieved.

SIGHT

Antigua is blessed with views that encompass the azure ocean and the rolling green hills like a picture-perfect painting. These stunning panoramas, the exotic flora and fauna, the unique culture and historical architecture mixed with modern enhancements provide a special and unforgettable setting. Gaze on a pristine white-sand beach or hike to one of our historic landmarks and marvel at the vista.

SOUND

The soothing sounds of the native birds and the trade winds swaying the trees can be experienced anywhere on the island. By the coast, there cannot be anything more relaxing than listening to the gentle waves break on the beach and the magical and unique melody of the tropics at night will lull you to sleep. Even the cultural rhythms and beats of steel drums are often used as relaxation music during the many therapies offered on the island.

SMELL

With the ocean and nature surrounding you, inhale the sweet smell of the lush foliage, the sea breeze and tropical fruits. The heady aroma of essential oils made from locally sourced ingredients such as lemon grass and coconut evokes the true smell of the tropics while you are being pampered.

TOUCH

What could make you feel better than experiencing thalassotherapy in the warm turquoise water lapping one of our stunning beaches? Just being on the beach and feeling the soft powdery sand between your toes can provide a sense of serenity and tranquillity. Or enjoy the physical touch during therapy leaving you

relaxed and rejuvenated – the epitome of peace, joy and happiness.

TASTE

As well as the availability of healthy fresh fish and delicious seafood to tempt your taste buds, the warm tropical climate means fruits, herbs and vegetables are sowed and harvested all year round, including products that are indigenous to the region such as the famous black pineapple, guava, papaya and pineapple. When you visit Antigua & Barbuda, make sure you enjoy a farm-to-spa experience whereby luxurious spa treatments are accompanied by mouth-watering fresh fruit, juices and stimulating herbal teas.

You do not need to look further than our ubiquitous sun, sea and sand – just beyond the expectations of their use. Health and well-being are synonymous with Antigua & Barbuda and by engaging your five senses through creatively incorporating natural and indigenous elements into our services, products and experiences, we are cementing our twin-island nation as the premier wellness destination in the Caribbean where you can experience an authentic wellness like no other.



WHAT COULD MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER THAN EXPERIENCING THALASSOTHERAPY IN THE WARM TURQUOISE WATER LAPPING ONE OF OUR STUNNING BEACHES?

by Tricia Greenaway

Wellness is the active pursuit of activities, choices and lifestyles that lead to a state of holistic health.

The seven dimensions of wellness are: social, emotional, spiritual, environmental, occupational, intellectual, and physical well-being.

The ten sectors in the global wellness economy are personal care/beauty/anti-aging, healthy eating/weight loss, tourism, fitness, preventative medicine, traditional and complimentary medicine, real estate, spa economy, thermal/mineral springs and workplace wellness.

The global wellness economy has an annual growth of 6.4 percent - which is nearly twice as fast as the global economic growth of 3.6 percent.

Wellness tourism is a US\$639 billion global market.

The global wellness economy is worth US\$4.2 trillion representing 5.3 percent of the global economic output.

Secondary wellness travellers are those who partake in wellness activities during either a business or leisure trip.

Today, more than 100 countries market themselves as wellness destinations, up from 65 in 2013.

Wellness real estate is a fast-growing US\$134 billion industry, thanks to a desire to bring wellness into the places where we spend the majority of our time.

Primary wellness travellers are those whose trip is primarily motivated by wellness.



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INTERVIEW

Lauded as one of the best batsmen ever to have played in international cricket, Antigua & Barbuda's national hero, Sir Vivian Richards is currently the country's tourism ambassador. His international cricket career started in 1973 spanning two decades, including captaining the West Indies team and playing league cricket in England. He is now based back in his beloved Antigua but travels extensively promoting the numerous attractions of his home nation.

You are regarded as one of the best batsmen of all time. What would you say was the highlight of your career?

I've achieved many things and many accolades in life, but these are all thanks to the people who have helped me along the way.

And without doubt, teamwork has been the most rewarding part of that. Winning the very first World Cup that was held in England and then repeating it in 1979 was a wow! The fact that we had assembled such a successful team of players from all different Caribbean islands absolutely united the region and sent a message to everyone that we can all get on and achieve things together.

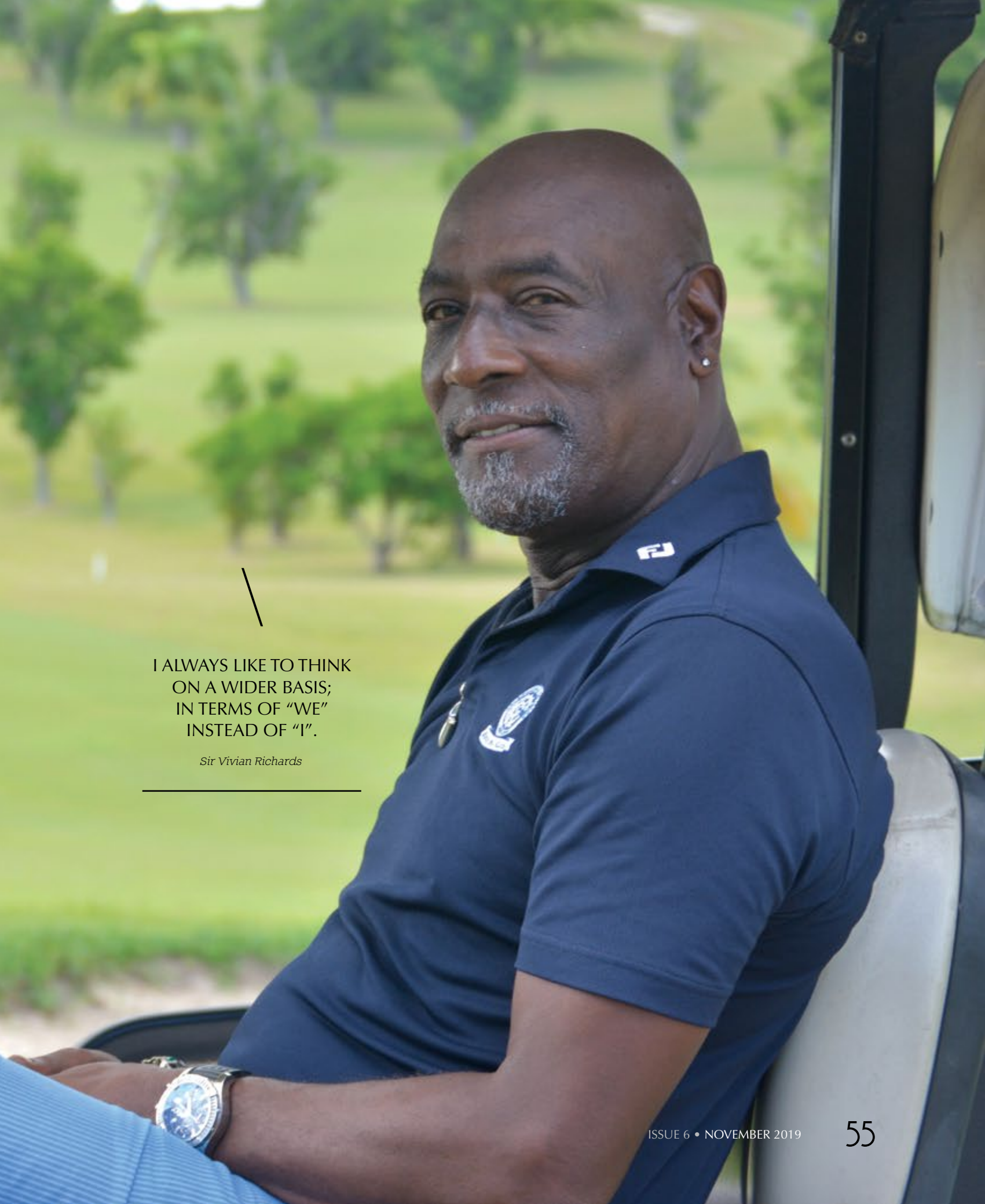
I always like to think on a wider basis; in terms of "we" instead of "I". I love thinking that we can accomplish things together.

What is your goal in life now?

I've always been a pretty simple person and am not one to run away with accolades. I try to be as grounded as possible and have respect for people so that people have respect for me. I have always felt that some people are unlucky not to be successful in something they have talent in, while there are some of us that are lucky and were given an opportunity in life.

Even though I am retired now, I am able to continue my professional journey thanks





I ALWAYS LIKE TO THINK
ON A WIDER BASIS;
IN TERMS OF “WE”
INSTEAD OF “I”.

Sir Vivian Richards

to all the opportunities I was given when I was a player. I'm just a little guy from down the road and now, wow, I'm the Laureus Sports Awards' founding member and have so many other opportunities opened up for me around the world. But generally, I want to live my life as peacefully as possible.

I keep it very simple – that is best way - and it has kept me in good stead along the way. I've been able to make the decisions that I think are justified to myself, my family and the people I'm close to.

Do you still enjoy exploring Antigua?

Yes! On Sundays, and whenever I get an opportunity, I love playing golf. After a round of golf, I'll go for a drive. I enjoy going up to Shirley Heights, which is a favourite spot of mine. When it's the mango season I love it as all the little villages have stalls where people sell some of the best mangos you can buy. The same goes for pineapples during the season. I've been around the world and I have never tasted such sweet-tasting pineapple as we have here in Antigua.

I love all these little things! I like going to the market and buying my own fish. And visiting the little eateries on a Sunday when the ladies are selling their local ice cream. I love stuff like that! It takes me back to when I was a young boy.

What would you like people to know about Antigua & Barbuda?

I think it's important for them to know that our twin islands are unique. People sometimes don't realise that every Caribbean island is very different - with different languages and cuisines. Antiguanians are vibrant people and we want to make visitors feel welcome. Also, as it is said; "the beach is just the beginning". Truly, I've been around the globe and of course seen some nice beaches, but ours are incredible and up there with the best in the world.

There are lots of high-end investments coming into Antigua & Barbuda. What is your take on that?

Our country needs investors and I welcome those who genuinely believe that they can contribute to the good of the islands because of their love of the country. We want to encourage those who think in terms of quality and class and not quantity. Therefore, it's about finding the right individuals who can do justice to this beautiful little island nation. I also believe that the establishments themselves mustn't alienate themselves from the locals. We want partnerships rather than divisions.

Who are your heroes?

I met Nelson Mandela once at our Laureus Sports Awards held in Monaco. We connected over a decision I made years ago.

During the period that Mandela was in prison in South Africa, I was offered a million dollars to go to the country to start a cricket squad. They wanted me to become an "honorary white". I declined because of my conscious beliefs – I couldn't go to a country where most people of my colour had no rights; not for any money in the world! My beliefs and principles are very important, and I outright refused.

Years later, when I met Nelson Mandela at this event, he thanked me for refusing. People repeatedly ask me questions about all the great things I've achieved in sport – but all that is secondary to this. My decision not to go to South Africa is one of my greatest achievements. If I had gone there, there would also have been an exodus of players going with me. I played a small part in bringing an end to apartheid. That was why Nelson Mandela stopped to say thank you and I was very proud. You can't really get any bigger than that!

Can you tell us about your recent event – The Team Antigua Island Girls with Sir Vivian Richards Golf Tournament?

I am so impressed with the Team Antigua Island Girls (who rowed the Atlantic in the Talisker Whisky Challenge as the first all-black team and first all-female Caribbean team to do so). It was a marvellous sight to see them coming in at the end of the race. It gave me goosebumps! As I do a lot of motivational stuff with teams, I wanted to give them a little pep talk before they left to help them. I tried to impress on them that even before you have accomplished your goal, making the decision to do it is a win-win situation. My father used to say things like; "He or she who knows the way, leads the way, goes all the way". I told them that they would get a lot of knocks from people wondering how and why they think they are going to beat men - folk with small minds and small talk. I told them that they could open the door for people that do not believe. That is a great inspiration to everyone.

The tournament's aim was to raise money for the charity that they support – the Cottage of Hope. I grew up going to the Anglican church, and the cathedral in St John's is also a historical monument of the island. Therefore, we also raised funds to finish its restoration work. That church really prepared me for the future, and I am very grateful for that and want to do everything I can to support it. ●



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As a Partner of Thomas, John & Co, Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Citizenship by Investment Agent and previously having served as President of the Bar Association in Antigua & Barbuda and President of the Rotary Club in the islands, Arthur Thomas is undoubtedly a busy man. However, his passion for photography ensures that in his spare time he will be found with his trusty Sony A7M3 in hand capturing the essence of his beloved island and the people who live there.



ANTIGUA THROUGH MY LENS



Arthur Thomas







*To view more of Arthur Thomas' work, go to
www.atphotostore.com*

A partner in your law firm by day, Ambassador to the Czech Republic and photographer in your spare time. What does photography give you that your professional life doesn't?

It has proved a way to escape the rigours of professional life and in fact provides a balance. While my professional life is fulfilling in its own right, photography and art completes me.

Have you always been interested in photography - how and why did you get so interested in in this particular artform?

As a young man I always had a passion for art, and I drew and painted quite efficiently then. It seems that now that same eye and talent has been transferred to the camera as I am able to render imagination in this intangible form.

What constitutes the perfect shot for you?

The most important element of a good shot is the ability of the photographer to communicate with the viewer and to convey the emotions of the moment it was taken. The photo should be able to tell a story through its composition, lighting, and most importantly, its subject matter.

Your photos clearly demonstrate your love for your country. What makes Antigua & Barbuda so special for you?

The Antiguan landscape is like nowhere else I know and to be able to share its beauty with the rest of the world through my lens and through my own unique perspective is simply a joy!

Can you share a secret spot on the islands with us?

A secret spot would be without doubt Azure Bay, Seaforth's Estate on the western side of the island – truly virgin and untouched.

If you could photograph anyone or anything in the world – what would you choose?

I recently came back from the Galapagos Islands which is a photographer's dream. I would love to return fully equipped for that. Iceland is also on my bucket list.

What is your life motto?

Live fully, love boundlessly, die regretted. ●



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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



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**ANTIGUA
AND
BARBUDA**
The beach is just the beginning...

NEW CITIZEN

In our continuing series chatting to new citizens about their journey to becoming to Antigua & Barbuda passport holders, we recently met up with entrepreneur and businesswoman Savannah Danson. Born in South Africa, she studied both in the UK and the US. As well as founder and executive chairperson of Bunengi Group, Savannah also serves on the board of other international companies.



"Being a global citizen to me means freedom to travel, invest and trade with any democratic country in the world."

You are the executive chairwoman and founder of Bunengi Holdings and Bunengi Investment Group. Can you tell us more about your businesses?

The Bunengi Investment Group is a company that operates and invests in companies that are in resources (mining, water, oil and gas), infrastructure, agriculture, technology and financial services. The companies that Bunengi operates or invests in are in Africa, Australia, the United Kingdom and North America.

You've been described as having experience in the mining, finance, infrastructure and media sectors. How would you best describe yourself?

Yes, I do have experience in these sectors. I would describe myself as a person who is invested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) focused companies. I like to be at the forefront of innovation and operating in these kinds of firms allows me to do so.

You have obviously got an international profile and many countries offer the possibility of a second citizenship. Why did you choose Antigua & Barbuda?

The Antigua & Barbuda programme was the most interesting to me because of how stringent it was, which showed me that it was a very serious and secure programme. I also felt a kindred connection with the country based on our histories and the historical relationship it held with my continent and my country of birth. It certainly felt like coming home.

What are the advantages for you of having a second citizenship?

There are many, but certainly the diversification of one's life, and the capacity to travel to more countries with a visa-free mechanism.

How did you find the application process to become an Antigua & Barbuda citizen?

I found the process to be very professional and very requiring, which to me communicated that a thorough job was being done. It was also very efficient. It was a pleasure to be a part of the process and clear that those administering the process knew what they were doing.

You have invested in a property in Antigua. Are you planning to spend a lot of time in the Twin Islands?

I certainly am planning to spend more time in Antigua. Who wouldn't? It's such a beautiful and peaceful place filled with amazing people.

Antigua & Barbuda is a growing economy with many different business opportunities. Are you looking for new ventures to invest in here?

As a businesswoman, I am always looking for investment opportunities and I believe that Antigua & Barbuda represents an exciting investment destination.

Would you recommend the Twin Islands as an investment destination to friends?

I would absolutely recommend Antigua & Barbuda as an investment destination to friends and plan to do so.

What does being a global citizen mean to you?

Being a global citizen to me means freedom to travel, invest and trade with any democratic country in the world. It also means understanding more people and being more diverse. It has certainly taught me that we are more alike than we think. It's a precious gift to me.

Anything else you would like to add?

I am very excited to be a citizen of Antigua & Barbuda and look forward to working with my new home country on development wherever I can. ●

SAVANNAH
DANSON

THE RISING INFLUENCE OF FEMALE PHILANTHROPY

Women in philanthropy is nothing new. Throughout history, women have joined together to solve problems in society, whether this was helping soldiers' families during times of war, aiding widows and children or helping the plight of refugees. Although many people perceive that philanthropy is the work of visible rich, white men like Bill Gates, John Rockefeller and the like, philanthropy has in fact always been comprised of large and small financial contributions together with contributions of time and talent from people across all the different demographics – men and women alike.


Historically, being a philanthropist was a “respectable” occupation for women, although the money employed in this philanthropy was generally that belonging to their family or their husband. Women were often thought of as invisible. However, according to The Women's Philanthropy Institute at Indiana University, philanthropy was often a way for them to make change behind the scenes: “Women in the last 300 years used creative, clever, and canny means to effect social change during times when they could not vote, hold public office, or manage property they may have brought into a marriage.”

Today, the distribution of wealth is changing, and female billionaires are at an all-time high. Indeed, on the Forbes' list of billionaires this year, there were 242 women billionaires compared to just 91 in the list just nine years previously – a record number, albeit still far behind their male counterparts. Nevertheless, this shift is ensuring that the face of philanthropy is changing.

And it is not just the increasing numbers of the world's super-rich females bringing about this change; women in general are becoming wealthier in their own right. In the past 30 years, their median income has risen by 60 percent, thus making them more independent and cementing them as important donors in the world of philanthropy.

In fact, research shows that women, regardless of wealth, outpace men of a comparative income level in their charitable giving. Statistics published in Forbes show that women give almost twice as much of their wealth away as men; 3.5 percent and 1.8 percent respectively.

Another strong trend is that females are much more likely than men to support women's and girls' causes – making their donations crucial in making long-term systemic changes in these fields. Of course, many donors



Increasing numbers of women are forming giving circles to support causes in their local community after realising that pooling their money has a greater impact.

of either sex give to these causes as part of a broader philanthropic portfolio, but traditionally throughout history, women have been attracted to solving issues that disproportionately affect their own sex. With today's #MeToo and #TimesUp movements, these causes are more visible than ever and with research demonstrating that women are in general more emotionally attached to the causes they engage in, they are increasingly becoming involved in funds and foundations directed towards female issues.

And “involved” is the operative word. Women often want to do more than simply write a cheque and sit back. According to the *All in for Women & Girls* report published by the IUPUI Women's Philanthropy Institute this year, females, in comparison to general donors – especially those committed to women's causes – are more motivated to give by being on the board or volunteering for an organisation.

Demonstrating this, there are those that suggest adding to philanthropy's widely recognised acronyms of the three Ts of time, talent, and treasure with another T; that of testimony to reflect how donors support the causes they give to, not just in financial terms, but through their time and expertise. As well as this propensity for a more holistic approach to giving, *All in for*

Women & Girls also identifies that women's fund and foundation donors are likely to have donated to these initiatives for a longer period of time and as such can be considered loyal to their causes. There is no denying that management studies have continuously shown that women are more inclined to be cooperative in work teams, and the same theory seems to be applied in the realms of philanthropy. Collaborative giving is a strong characteristic of female philanthropy. The Women Moving Millions initiative founded in 2007, has inspired over 320 women who have made a minimum one-million-dollar commitment to the foundation to benefit female causes worldwide.

In fact, since the 1970s, this trend of “giving circles” has been growing exponentially, and by 2016 nearly half of the giving circles in the United States were women-only groups. Allison Fine, author and founder and CEO of Network of Elected Women is of the opinion that giving circles “are particularly well suited to women, because they are both social and philanthropic.” And this trend has trickled down to those who don't have the capacity to give away a million dollars. Indiana University's studies show that in fact those with a lower income status, tend to donate more of their net worth to charity than those of a higher income. In this way, increasing numbers are forming giving circles to support causes in their local community after realising that pooling their money has a greater impact.

And it's not all results driven either. There is evidence that women may be more comfortable than men with intangible results. Of course, creating impact is their overall priority, but a woman's personal engagement with a foundation or charity is often how they truly measure their results.

With women giving more, engaging more and for longer periods of time, there is no mystery why experts are advising that a women-focused strategy should be woven into all fundraising and philanthropic efforts, both large and small. ●

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

RUTHLYN MATTHIAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA HOSPITALITY
TRAINING INSTITUTE (ABHTI)

The Antigua & Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI) is considered the premier hospitality institution in the Eastern Caribbean and prides itself on training individuals for excellence in the country's most important economic sectors; tourism and hospitality. Offering associate degrees in subjects such as resort management, culinary arts, food and beverage management, a variety of shorter courses are also available. We spoke with Executive Director, Ruthlyn Matthias, to find out more about the institute.

Tourism dominates the economy in Antigua & Barbuda. Can you give us a brief introduction about ABHTI and its role in this important industry?

ABHTI has the challenging but rewarding role of contributing to the country's human capital in its most important sector.

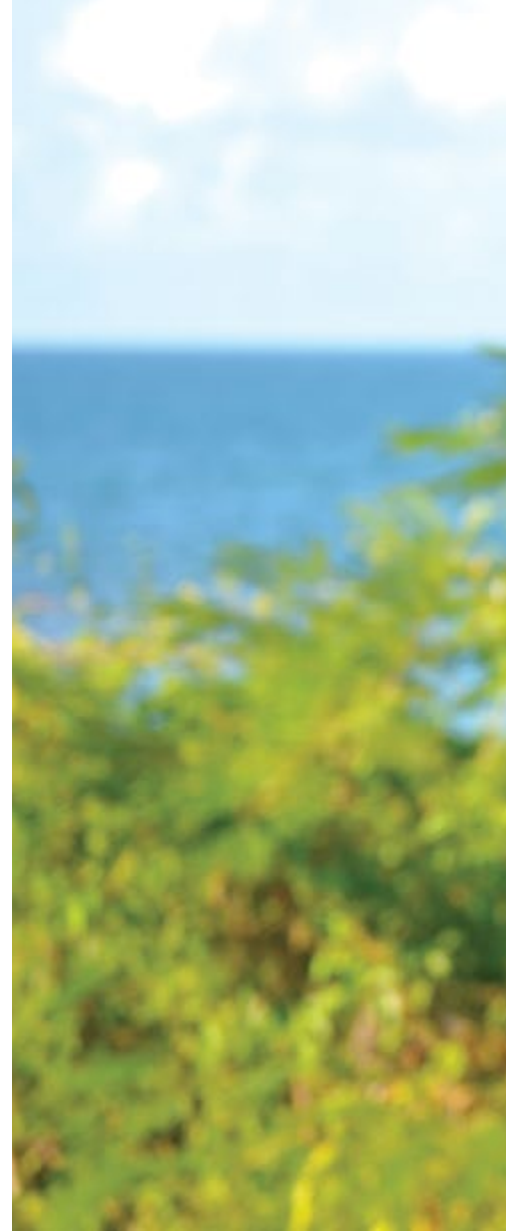
The institute provides academic training and practical instruction for the promotion and encouragement of ethical and professional standards in the hospitality and tourism industry, and thus caters to the changing needs and advances in the sector. We continue to build on the great insight

of our industry pioneers and as such we are able to provide industry-focused training to youths (or even the older demographics) who are eager to become movers and shakers in the tourism industry.

ABHTI is considered the premier hospitality training institution in the Eastern Caribbean. What would you consider the forte of your school?

Our forte lies in several areas. Firstly, in creating the spirit to excel. We create opportunities for faculty and students to pursue excellence. They get opportunities to exhibit or

showcase skills in local and regional competitions, conferences etc. This helps foster the spirit of maintaining excellence in the hospitality sector. Sustainability is also key. The institute has built on an early start in hospitality training as it was the only training facility of its kind in the Eastern Caribbean for a very long time. The mandate has always existed to improve on its offerings with a focus on maintaining the vision of the ABHTI as the premier hospitality training institute in the Caribbean region and beyond. Another area of strength is that of industry-driven offerings in luxury





accommodations. We ensure that the curriculum supports the current needs of the markets in the region. And not forgetting our blended training offerings in which we provide a balanced approach to training containing a mix of theory and practical in the various courses.

What are your priorities to make the institute even more attractive and strengthen the curriculum in line with diversified tourism offerings such as culinary and wellness?

One of my top priorities is to invest in marketing. The ABHTI is one of

Antigua & Barbuda's best-kept secrets. We need our nationals, neighbouring citizens and beyond to recognise the ABHTI as the number one choice for hospitality training. Another aim is to widen the curriculum to ensure that it supports diverse tourism offerings such as cultural literacy and flexibility in culinary needs to meet the requirements of wellness. Most importantly, focus will be given to areas of customer service and the soft skills - the development of interpersonal skills - given that our ultimate goal is to provide training that will give guests to our shores a positive experience by helping them

to enjoy their stay and make them happy. By doing this, the ABHTI will actually be supporting the hallmarks of hospitality. Also, plans are being made for the further beautification and possible expansion of the campus. It is important to ensure that the surroundings of the institute exude the excellence which is being imparted within its walls. However, for these plans to become a reality, funding is required. My team and I will be working to secure funding from donor agencies to ensure that ABHTI continues to be the leading hospitality institute in its field in the Caribbean.

→

Antigua is famous for its luxury resorts. How is ABHTI preparing itself for higher demand for a trained and skilled workforce to cater for increased tourism-related activities?

Actually, this is an area that was identified for implementation in conjunction with the Eastern Caribbean Institute of Tourism (ECTI) in the recent past and is even more relevant now with the increasing luxury offer on the island. Research is ongoing for tutors to help us to meet the needs of the luxury market such as butler service, etiquette and protocol to ensure that our students leave the institute ready for this expanding niche market that Antigua & Barbuda will be required to serve. The training of students for

to receive certification in various areas. We like to call them “service ambassadors” and this includes training for taxi service providers. This ensures our visitors receive the level of service associated with the luxury resort experience upon entering our shores.

The hospitality industry is growing at a faster rate than any other sector in the economy. How do you envision ABHTI in the coming years?

ABHTI will rise to the challenges and use the very modalities of change to propel its programmes and offerings. I can see the institute using technology to reach more students online, both locally and regionally or anywhere for that matter, once the

relationships, making service and personalisation a priority, as well as ensuring value, uniqueness and quality is offered overall. Our relationship with ABHTA has produced many initiatives and we will continue doing this to identify and to assess the needs of the training. There are already opportunities for a holistic approach in our curriculum-specialised training with a focus on key markets for romance and wellness in Antigua & Barbuda. Areas for curriculum development could include specialised training for spa employees, fitness and yoga instructors in those areas which are branded in relaxation and health. The possibilities are intriguing, and we will encourage our team to think

“ABHTI has the challenging but rewarding role of contributing to the country’s human capital in its most important sector.”

the luxury resort market expands to the culinary arts. ABHTI offers a fine-dining experience at its Atlantic View Restaurant and students in the culinary arts programme receive first-hand training in this area. This helps to put them on the path to becoming executive chefs at luxury resorts and to even provide this service in a private capacity.

I also must not fail to mention that the institute offers a number of professional development courses for those who are unable to pursue an associate degree. Our partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels & Tourism Association (ABHTA) has resulted in the institute also being able to fill any need for human resources in the tourism industry. Through initiatives such as the hospitality job fair we are able to connect with and provide opportunities for more people

programmes are industry focused and the demand exists for them. I also envision additional course offerings to support career pathways in the hospitality industry such as travel and tourism management, events management, and entertainment and recreation.


How have the requirements of the luxury hospitality industry evolved over the past few years, and how are you working with the industry to ensure the right level of training?

The requirements of luxury are complex and constantly redefining themselves. By monitoring trends, we have observed that “ultra-luxury” could mean a “back-to-basics” approach with a focus on authenticity. This could be achieved by establishing true one-on-one

outside the box to develop additional products to sustain the luxury hospitality industry.

What are the three key words that sum up what you are trying to achieve at the ABHTI?

It is important that all citizens and key stakeholders understand the mandate of the ABHTI so they can support it and it can consequently fulfil its mandate. The key words that come to mind are respect, financial support and accountability. Respect for each other’s views, expertise and experience, and financial support to implement our objectives as we keep each other accountable to meet our goals. These are the cornerstones I would like use to move ABHTI forward so that it will be the premier hospitality training institute, not only in the OECS, but beyond. ●



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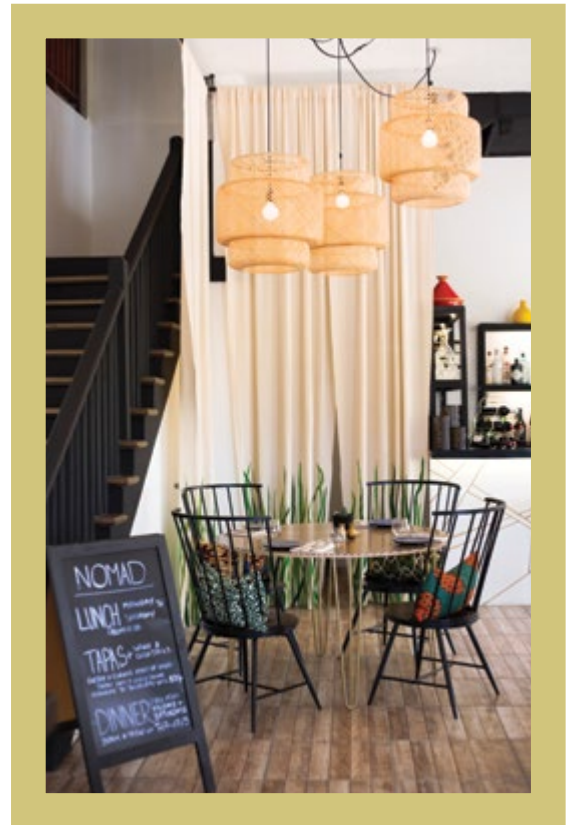
CHEF OF THE QUARTER

NOMAD **ANTHONY** **SEVERIN**

*Chef Anthony Severin
makes up one half of the
global-inspired restaurant
NOMAD with Front of House,
Karine Pecquet-Vidal.*

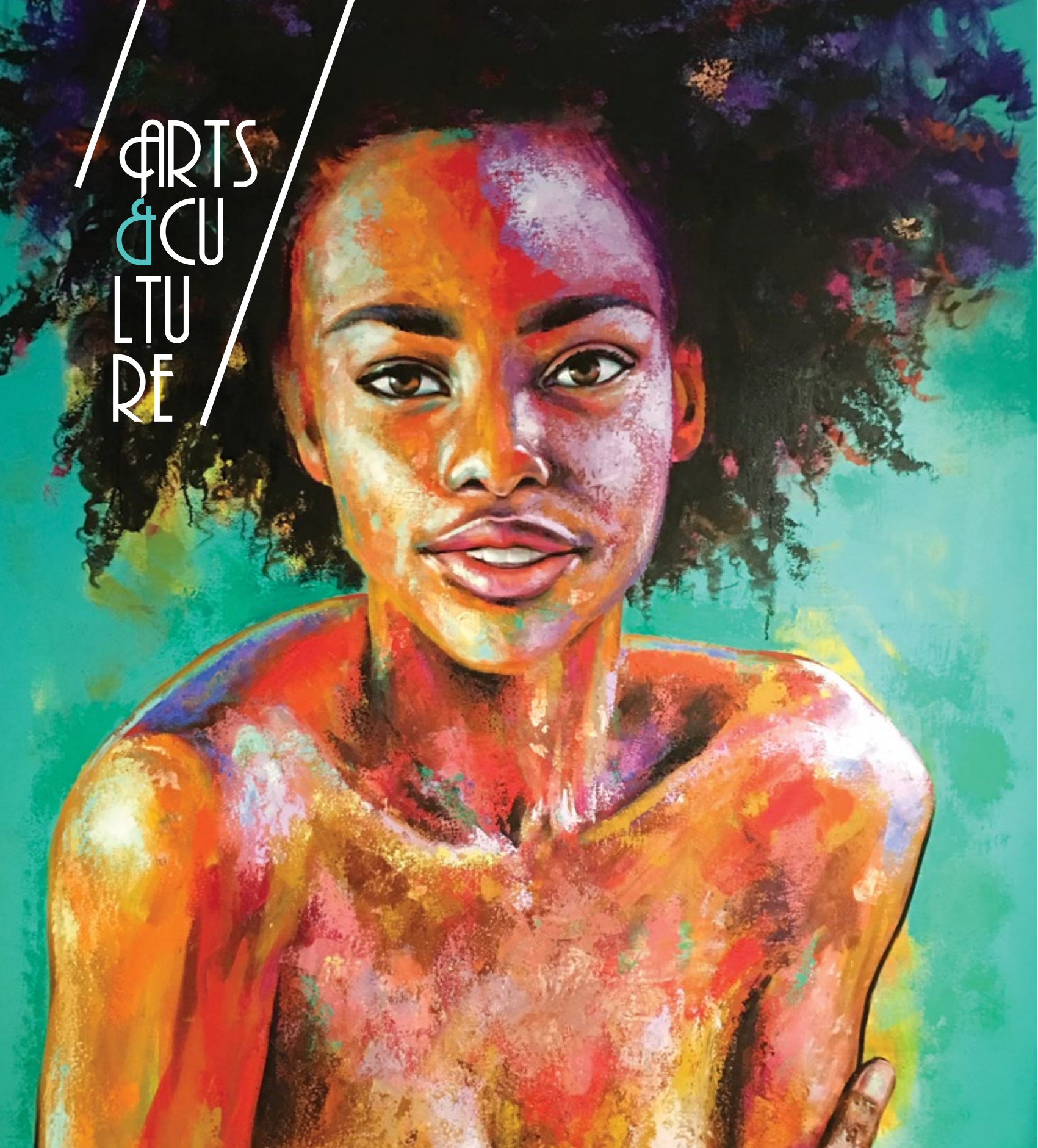


The name NOMAD reflects the hospitality industry's ever-evolving trends and the diversity of the restaurant's cuisine and clientele. Anthony has brought his experience garnered over the past 20 years to this exciting establishment. Having started his culinary career at the Royal Antiguan Hotel where he eventually took the position of Head Chef, he then moved to The Cove at Blue Waters Resort as sous-chef, followed by The Beach restaurant. He has also been a private chef for a residence on the exclusive Jumby Bay Island. Today at NOMAD, diners are spoilt for choice with an eclectic fusion of regional and exotic flavours with the menu featuring intriguing dishes such as goat cheese nougat, Creole-style spicy boudin, passionfruit and ginger ceviche, Moroccan tagines and fragrant Thai seafood coconut soup. All this is complemented by staples such as gourmet signature burgers as well as great steaks and seafood from the grill. The restaurant itself is cool and airy and a welcoming spot whether you want to dine at leisure, grab a bite on the go or kick back with a cocktail in the evening. Anthony's love for cooking is only matched by his passion for boxing. After having competed as a boxer for several years, he trained as assistant coach with world champion Maurice Hope. He now runs The Uprising Boxing Gym to promote fitness, health and a sense of community, providing a healthy outlet for local youth.





ARTS
& CU
LTURE





Canadian-born Naydene Gonnella is one of Antigua & Barbuda's most well-known artists and her paintings can be found hanging in prestigious galleries around the world from North America to Europe. Although she has diverse subject matters ranging from local characters, famous personalities, landscapes and the nature and wildlife that surround her in her adopted island of Antigua, her work is always instantly recognisable. A vibrant use of colours such as blues, yellows and red evoke the exotic nature of the twin islands where she has lived for the past 15 years.

Naydene's unique paintings have won her numerous awards and adorned several magazine covers. Her upcoming exhibition in December at London's iconic nightclub Tramp to celebrate its 50-year anniversary will feature portraits of the hotspot's most celebrated members from past and present, including Frank Sinatra, Rod Stewart, Rihanna and Drake. ●



Naydene Gonnella





CONSERVATION

REDONDA

**A ONCE DYING ISLAND
GIVEN A SECOND
LEASE ON LIFE**



*Masked
boobies are
just one of
the species of
seabirds that
calls Redonda
their home*

About Redonda

A trip to Montserrat from Antigua either by air or sea always gives the traveller the opportunity to view Antigua & Barbuda's third and lesser-known island; Santa Maria la Redonda, as named by Christopher Columbus in 1493. Its aboriginal name is Ocanamanru, and it is thought that weary prehistoric seafarers migrating or trading between the islands used Redonda as a way station. This tiny island of only 205 walkable hectares is a globally designated Key Biodiversity Area and Important Bird Area due to the significant population of nesting seabirds and number of unique animals, including three species of critically endangered lizards. The island also holds immense significance in world history but had been nonchalantly filed away in the back of the minds of most Antiguan and Barbudans as the 'tiny rock with goats'. However, over the years, it has consistently been featured in fanciful tales of writers with fantastical imaginations.

Perhaps this is why it has always maintained its mysterious allure. This collapsed extinct volcanic dome juts from the sea, abruptly and fiercely, with steep, imposing cliffs reaching a height of 296 metres. And while it is officially part of the state of Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda, it lies between Montserrat and Nevis; the former being its closest neighbour with only 22 kilometres between them.

What happened, and why?

The island has undergone dramatic changes in the past century. Historic records reveal a forested island home to hundreds of thousands of nesting seabirds, and a host of land birds, including burrowing owls. Other creatures that called Redonda home were unique species of reptiles including iguanas, skinks, geckos, and ground and tree lizards.

In the 1860s, Redonda, despite its precarious landscape, hosted a small settlement of miners who took advantage of the immense bird population to mine guano, which was then used to make fertilisers and was also an important component for the manufacture of gunpowder. At the time, Redonda was the second most significant guano mine in the Western Hemisphere. Following the mass production of artificial fertilisers and the end of World War I, Redonda was no longer a booming mining community. The last remaining human inhabitants vacated the island in 1929, leaving behind an established population of invasive alien rats and a small herd of goats, that had been used as a food source for the community. The abandoned island lost its vitality. This historic image of Redonda, with lush vegetation and bustling animal life, is in stark contrast to what is most known of the island in





Redonda in 2017, before Invasive Species Removal

recent history. Instead, Redonda's barren landscape became quite reminiscent of the moon.

The fresh start begins

From 2010 the gears began turning slowly as the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), its partners and funders began to do the groundwork for what today has become the globally successful Redonda Restoration Programme. Baseline surveys were carried out to determine what the ecological state of the island was. A feasibility study was completed to determine the practicality of relocating the small herd of goats and removing the thousands of rats that had all but annihilated Redonda's ecosystems. Furthermore, government decision-makers were engaged to determine their interest in revitalising this dying island.

All hands on deck!

In 2016, the first steps to initiate the historical restoration took place. Strongly backed by the local government, particularly the Minister of Health, Wellness & the Environment, this operation enlisted the expertise of a highly skilled and dedicated team. Project staff and volunteers camped for two gruelling months on the unforgiving island. A running joke was "You don't fall on Redonda, you fall off!" Mountaineers, invasive species specialists, botanists, entomologists and herpetologists were just a few of the people that made up the team. This was a promised 'chance of a lifetime' to witness and be a key player in the rejuvenation of an island that some scientists deemed too dire to save. The goats that had called Redonda home for over a hundred years were airlifted to Antigua and given to the care of the government's livestock division. This was a humane act as the goats, though very hardy, had an extremely high mortality



Redonda in 2019, after Invasive Species Removal

rate. Food on the island was scarce, and there was no source of fresh water.

Rats were also removed from the island. The rats had heavily preyed on chicks and lizards and were directly charged with the extinction of the burrowing owl, iguana and skink species previously found on the island.

The rats and goats together degraded the island that was already left unstable by the mining. Vegetation did not have the chance to grow because the goats were hungry. By 2016, only five trees were found on the island, and the unsteady ground continually cascaded down the slopes and into the sea, smothering coral.

An amazing success story!

In 2017, both rats and goats had been completely cleared from the island. The whole country cheered as the progress of the operation was closely followed by all. Within a few months, the island experienced an amazing transformation. It began to look green again!

These are still very early days in the island's recovery, but this once badly overgrazed moonscape is steadily becoming cloaked in a rich variety of grasses, herbs, cacti, ferns, shrubs and trees. With the removal of over 6,000 rats and the translocation of 50 goats, a 2019 assessment of vegetation and flora revealed over 88 species of plants are on the island, a major improvement from the mere 17 species that were observed in 2011. The increasing vegetation cover and consequent stabilisation of the soil has helped to reduce runoff into the marine environment below.

As the island continues to recover, intensive wildlife monitoring is underway to record the impact of the habitat restoration. On the last trip in March 2019, birds, reptiles, invertebrates, vegetation and soil were all monitored with

specific protocols by a team of technical experts and local volunteers. Within 24 months of the goats and rats being removed, populations of at least two of the three lizard species have increased by more than threefold and species of land birds and invertebrates, not seen in decades, have returned. Terrestrial invertebrates in general - and beetles in particular - have increased by more than fivefold since 2017. For the first time in centuries, a new generation of seabirds (including frigatebirds, boobies and tropicbirds) is growing up in an invasive predator-free environment!

Marine surveys performed in 2018 have already identified Redonda's seas as an important foraging area for the critically endangered hawksbill turtle, and site for the critically endangered elkhorn coral. Further research into the impact of the island restoration on the marine environment is planned. Even at this early stage, Redonda is a model for island restoration. It is sure to provide valuable lessons for other biodiversity conservation and climate resilience-building projects in the region.

All these accomplishments could not have been possible in the first place had there not been local backing. Residents continue to show keen interest in the restoration of Redonda. A second knowledge and perception survey undertaken across the island by the programme team revealed that 98 percent of respondents agree that Redonda and its surrounding seas should become a protected area to preserve the indigenous biodiversity found there and to secure Redonda's future as a national and international treasure.

Plans for the future

With Redonda's rapid recovery a current reality, plans are being put in place to ensure that this island remains a strong beacon of our country's commitment to caring for nature and history. Presently, the island and its surrounding seas are being set to be declared as a protected area under the Environmental Protection and Management Act (2019). The island itself will be classified as A Strict Nature Reserve (Category 1A) according to IUCN categories and its management plan will be finalised by the end of this year. The proposed Redonda Ecosystem Reserve is set to be one of the largest protected areas in the Eastern Caribbean covering a total of 29,587 hectares.

Further research into the reptiles, and the seabirds' ecology, foraging and breeding success are priorities within the proposed management plan.

The Redonda Restoration Programme is a collaboration of the government of Antigua & Barbuda, the Environmental Awareness Group, Fauna & Flora International (FFI), British Mountaineering Council, Global Wildlife Conservation, Wildlife Management International Ltd and Island Conservation, with support from the Darwin Initiative through UK government funding, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Betty Liebert Trust, Global Environmental Facility, Waitt Foundation, Caribbean Helicopters Ltd and Syngenta Crop Protection AG. ●




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THE LAST LAP CARNIVAL 2019

Antigua & Barbuda's 12-day carnival festivities are a riot of colour and joy. This year's celebration was no exception with visitors from all over the world joining in the biggest jump-up of the year.





WORTH NOTING

ERIC CLAPTON'S GUITAR FESTIVAL RAISING FUNDS FOR CROSSROADS CENTRE IN ANTIGUA

The 2019 Eric Clapton's Crossroads Festival took place on September 20th and 21st in Dallas, Texas. Clapton, widely considered as one of the best guitarists of all time, founded the Crossroads Centre in Antigua in 1998; a substance-abuse rehabilitation centre for drug and alcohol addiction. The festival raised funds in aid of the centre and as well as performing both days, Clapton welcomed world-renowned musicians such as Jeff Beck, Sheryl Crow, Peter Dinklage and John Mayer amongst many others. Since 2004, the event has been organised every three years, with the exception of 2016.

BLUE WATERS UPS ITS ECO CREDENTIALS

Blue Waters Resort and Spa is pulling out all the stops to reduce its environmental footprint. With plans in the near future to ban all single-use plastics, they will be the first in the twin islands to take this step. All guests are already provided with BPA-free water bottles to use during their stay and take home with them, with refillable water stations available across the property. Together with other initiatives such as energy-saving equipment, the use of solar energy to illuminate exterior areas and its own water treatment plant to utilise recycled water to irrigate the gardens, the resort is finding new and innovative ways to protect the environment.

MORE FLIGHTS TO THE TWIN ISLANDS

JetBlue has announced two additional flights from New York to V.C. Bird International Airport each week, bringing the number of flights up to five per week.

Virgin Atlantic will also be adding an additional daily flight from the United Kingdom and British Airways will be offering a daily service all year round beginning in the summer of 2020.

Furthermore, American Airlines has announced it will be resuming its second daily flight from Miami starting on December 18th. It is expected that 2019 will be a record year for the country's air visitor arrivals.



COOL CARD – A NEW PASSPORT FOR TWIN-ISLAND ATTRACTIONS

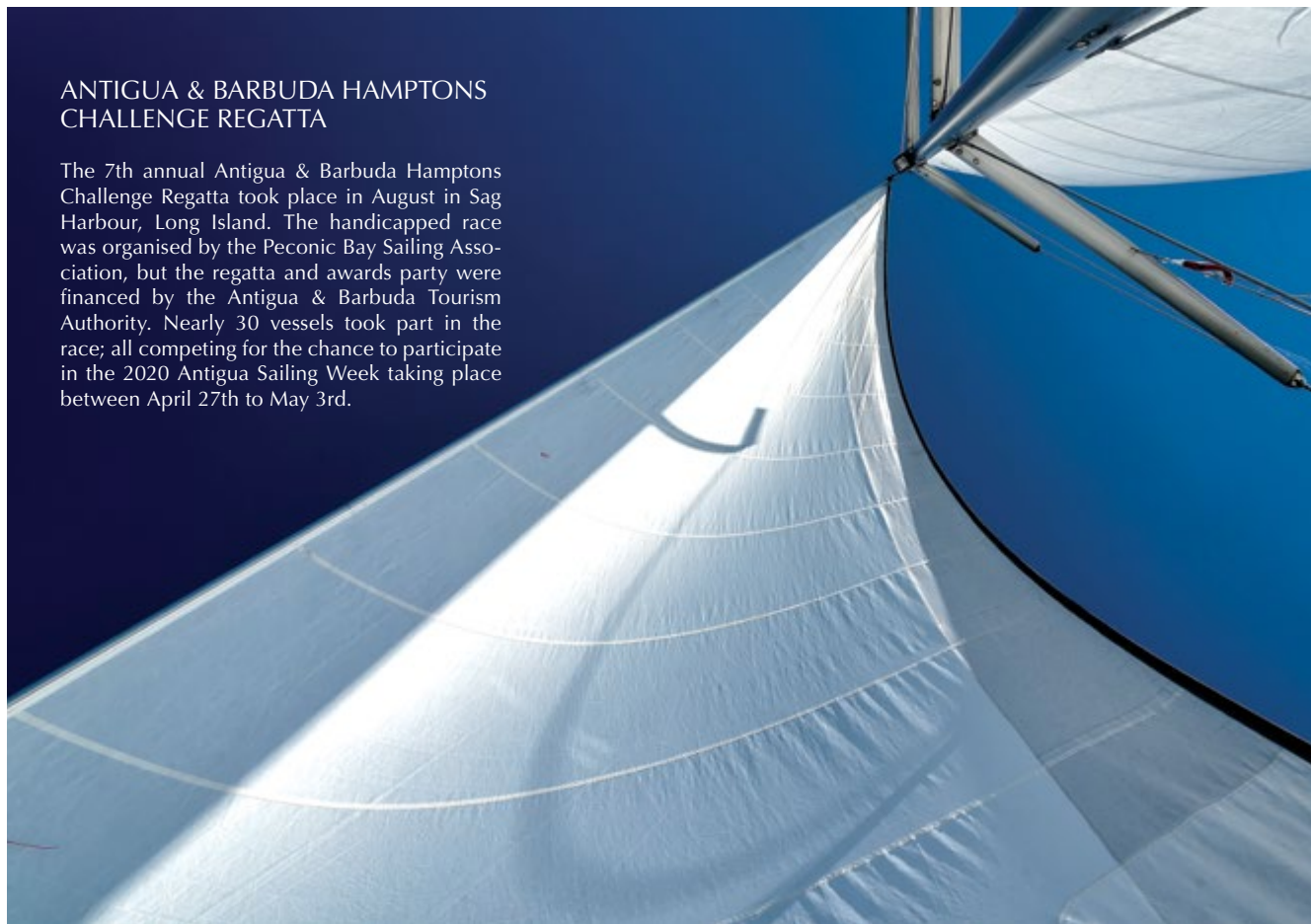
ABTA have launched its new “Cool Card” which can be downloaded on the ABTA site. These cards give access to exclusive offers and benefits at participating hotels, restaurants and tour companies around the islands. By presenting their cards at any participating outfit, travellers will receive discounts on activities such as walking tours of St John’s, horse-riding excursions, rain-forest canopy tours as well as selected restaurants and shops.

CARIBBEAN TOURISM ORGANISATION’S FORUM IN ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

President and CEO of Royal Caribbean International, Michael Bayley, and Mike Pezzicola of JetBlue Travel headlined the Caribbean Tourism Organisation’s (CTO) forum held at the Royalton Antigua Resort at the beginning of October. The first Caribbean Tourism Sector Outlook Forum was open to CTO government members and CEOs of destination management organisations amongst others. A Caribbean Tourism Youth Congress also took place with 14 “junior members of tourism” presenting their visions of the future of the tourism industry.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA HAMPTONS CHALLENGE REGATTA

The 7th annual Antigua & Barbuda Hamptons Challenge Regatta took place in August in Sag Harbour, Long Island. The handicapped race was organised by the Peconic Bay Sailing Association, but the regatta and awards party were financed by the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority. Nearly 30 vessels took part in the race; all competing for the chance to participate in the 2020 Antigua Sailing Week taking place between April 27th to May 3rd.



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TO HOST CARIFESTA XV IN 2021

The 15th Caribbean Festival of Arts (Carifesta) will be held in Antigua & Barbuda for the first time in 2021. The international and multicultural festival celebrates the ethnic and racial diversity of Caribbean countries gathering artists, authors and musicians together. As Carifesta XIV came to a close in August, the baton was passed to the twin islands. The formal launch will be held before the end of the year and is widely anticipated, not least due to the fact that it will coincide with the country's 40th anniversary of independence in 2021.

FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (UWI) OFFICIALLY OPENS

The ceremonial opening of the UWI Five Islands Campus in Antigua & Barbuda took place at the beginning of September. Formal launch activities began with a public service at St John's Cathedral and continued two days later with the formal opening ceremony in front of hundreds of residents, alumni and faculty members. The campus is the UWI's fourth landed campus and its establishment forms part of Antigua & Barbuda's mandate to build an economic powerhouse. The Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony took place on September 27th during which 147 students were formally recognised and accepted as members of the university. They represent the Schools of Humanities and Education, Management, Science and Technology, and Health and Behavioural Sciences.





ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TO BECOME FIRST "FUTURE ISLAND NATION" IN THE CARIBBEAN

At the 2019 Global Citizen Festival, which took place in New York's Central Park on September 28th, Prime Minister Gaston Browne announced in front of over 60,000 people that Antigua & Barbuda will become the first "Future Island Nation" in the Caribbean through the adoption of the non-profit Parley for the Oceans' AIR system.

The revolutionary AIR system stands for avoid, intercept and redesign, and aims to tackle plastic waste at its source, clean up existing plastic pollution and encourage new plastic alternative designs. As Prime Minister Browne explained; the country is committed to "building a Parley Air Base – a recycling station that actually works – which will intercept approximately 27,000 tons of plastic on the beaches and from polluting the environment by 2030, thereby helping eliminate plastic pollutants from our shores."

AWARD FOR ABTA'S TOURISM CAMPAIGN

ABTA's #WhatCoolLooksLike campaign was awarded a Silver Winner in the prestigious 2019 Travel Weekly Magellan Awards. These awards honour the best in travel and salute the outstanding travel professionals behind it.



#WHATCOOLLOOKSLIKE CAMPAIGN A GREAT SUCCESS

Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) have ascribed the country's summer marketing campaign to the double-digit increase in tourist arrivals to the islands. The twin islands experienced a 10 percent year-over-year increase in air arrivals in May and provisional figures for June and July are reflecting similar growth. Growth in tourist arrivals during the summer months is "proving that Antigua & Barbuda is more than a winter destination" according to ABTA officials.



GOVERNMENT SIGNS MOU WITH GLOBEX FOR GOVERNMENT-BANK BACKED DIGITAL SECURITIES MARKETPLACE

The Antigua & Barbuda Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance (MFCG) has signed an MOU with Globex in partnership with Julius Capital Bank to launch a digital securities issuance and secondary trading platform built on the Ethereum blockchain. This will allow investors to trade, deposit and withdraw funds in fiat currency through a government bank, thus minimising the risk of price fluctuations by avoiding the volatility of cryptocurrencies. Prime Minister Browne expressed his pleasure at becoming a hub for digital securities and believes that the technology will also be used for blockchain-based real estate transactions.



ROYALTON ANTIGUA RESORT & SPA HOUSES FIRST OVERWATER BUNGALOWS IN THE TWIN ISLANDS

The first overwater bungalows in Antigua & Barbuda are to be found in the 294-room Royalton Antigua Resort & Spa. Each bungalow is equipped with king-size bed, living room, dining room, a swim-out infinity plunge pool, over-water hammock, Bluetooth speakers and jacuzzi soaker tubs, amongst other amenities. Guests also enjoy the services of a personal butler and a complimentary dinner served in their room.





THE “DAVOS OF CANNABIS” COMING TO ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Former Heavyweight Champion boxer Mike Tyson’s cannabis wellness company will partner with the Antigua & Barbuda government to bring the first annual Antigua Cannabis Conference to the island in April 2020. The three-day event which has been dubbed “The Davos of Cannabis” would bring together the industry’s top innovators and experts for a series of symposiums and events. There would also be concerts and other activities with international industry leaders in medicine, finance and politics. Tyson Ranch also has plans to invest in a luxury hotel on the island.

CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE DISCUSSED AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

During the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York which took place at the end of September, Prime Minister Browne and his counterparts of St Lucia and St Vincent & the Grenadines met with Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), to review progress on the Debt for the Climate Adaptation Sway Initiative which aims to respond to the region’s most pressing developing needs: its high level of debt and susceptibility to climate change and natural disasters. Bárcena also proposed that the countries establish a Caribbean Resilience Fund (CRF) to “attract resources from countries and agencies that want to support climate resilience building in the region.”

DIGITAL VERSION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN DOLLAR

A pilot digital version of the Eastern Caribbean dollar has been launched by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) using the DXCDCaribe app. People in the eight member countries of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) will be able to use their smartphones to spend or transfer money.

As the governor of the ECCB, Timothy Antoine, outlined “This is not an academic exercise. Not only will the digital EC Dollar be the world’s first digital legal tender currency to be issued by a central bank on blockchain, but this pilot is also a live Central Bank Digital Currency (CCDC) deployment with a view to an eventual phased public rollout. The pilot is part of the ECCB’s Strategic Plan 2017-2021 which aims to help reduce cash usage within the ECCU by 50 percent. It will promote greater financial sector stability and expedite the growth and development of our member countries. It would be a game-changer for the way we do business.”

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ANTIGUA GYMNASTICS CLUB DREAM FOR THE OLYMPICS

Antigua Gymnastics Club has launched its first ever Women's Competitive Artistic Gymnastics Team with the aim of representing Antigua in the Pan Ams and eventually the Olympics. Two Canadian national level coaches have now relocated to Antigua to develop its most talented gymnasts. In total 20 girls have been selected, ranging in age from 5 to 12. Outside of training, the first step will be to take the girls to inter-island competitions in Trinidad and Jamaica and then to the USA and Canada.

STUDENT PROGRAM FOR INNOVATION IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING IS A GREAT SUCCESS

More than 150 top science and mathematics students from the Caribbean region have graduated from the Caribbean Science Foundation's (CSF) Student Program for Innovation in Science and Engineering. The non-profit CSF promotes science and technology in the Caribbean. In total 152 students have graduated since its establishment in 2012; with students, including those from Antigua & Barbuda, going on to attend some of the world's top universities, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard, Stanford, Princeton, amongst others.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR BARBUDA

The United Arab Emirates is joining with the CARICOM Development Fund and others to build a hybrid solar-diesel power station equipped with hurricane-resilient battery storage. It is the largest renewable energy initiative of its kind in the Caribbean region. The plant is hoped to transform Barbuda into the first truly climate-resilient community in the region and will serve as a model for other Caribbean small island developing states.

PRIME MINISTER BROWNE SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH THE INVESTMENT MIGRATION COUNCIL (IMC)

As well as being feature speaker at the IMC Forum at the beginning of June, Prime Minister Browne also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the IMC. The MOU sets out the mandate of the IMC to conduct research, prepare reports, lobby organisations and governments, and handle communications on the issues related to the investment migration industry. Prime Minister Browne said that it is expected that "this initiative will strengthen the outreach to those whose policies can affect the industry for good or ill."

CARIBBEAN SAILING WEEK – NEW EVENT IN ANTIGUA

A new format event, Caribbean Sailing Week, was hosted in Antigua in October - a combination of conference, regatta and training session. The Caribbean Sailing Association (CSA) conference at Antigua Yacht Club was organised to discuss the 16 key regattas being held in the Caribbean in 2020. At the same time, the Caribbean Dinghy Championship took place in Falmouth Harbour during which 15 races were held with competitors from islands across the region including St Maarten, Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, St Kitts & Nevis, as well as local crews.



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A man and a woman are walking hand-in-hand on an airfield. The woman is wearing a beige cardigan over a white top and a matching skirt, carrying a large white and orange tote bag. The man is wearing a brown V-neck sweater over a light-colored shirt and khaki pants. They are both smiling and looking at each other. In the background, a private jet is visible on the tarmac under a clear blue sky.

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