

ISSUE 13 • APRIL 2022

# Antigua & Barbuda

THE CITIZEN



## The ins and outs of cricket

Getting to grips with  
Antigua's national game

## Wyclef Jean

The Prince of  
Port-au-Prince

## Sadhguru

A journey to Save Soil

## Antilles Stillhouse

Raising Antigua's spirits



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# WELCOME



*Caribbean cricketers are among the best in the world, with their athleticism and agility making for fascinating viewing.*

I welcome to Antigua & Barbuda those who simultaneously have an interest in enjoying natural beauty and investing in our dynamic twin-island nation. Furthermore, for those interested in sport, our Caribbean cricketers are among the best in the world, with their athleticism and agility making for fascinating viewing.

Each year, during the winter and spring seasons, cricketers from many of the world's most outstanding nations come to the island to play matches of varying lengths in Antigua's two professional venues. This national sport, initially brought to Antigua & Barbuda by the British, has been mastered by youngsters in schools' sporting programmes and parish clubs that encourage non-professionals to continue their quest for excellence and their passion for the game.

At a recent international cricket test match held in Antigua—England vs West Indies—more than 5,000 Britons travelled to Antigua to cheer on their team, boosting the island's economy accordingly. Eight years ago, my Government decided to partner with the managing West Indies Cricket Board and subsequent profits and other tangibles flowing to Antigua & Barbuda have been very satisfactory.

In due course, the Government may privatise its investment in the West Indies Cricket Board (now Cricket West Indies) providing an investment opportunity to those who may wish to buy into a profitable, healthy business. Franchise buying is not unheard-of in places where teams are purchased and sold.

That future awaits Antigua. Come join us.

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

Honourable Gaston Browne  
Prime Minister



ANTIGUA

BARBUDA



# T

To understand a country, you have to understand its culture. And in the case of cricket-crazy Antigua & Barbuda, you cannot understand the country without understanding its national sport. Brought to the West Indies by the colonists, it is now integral to the heart and soul of the islands.

Cricket can be mystifying to the uninitiated, but there is nowhere better to learn more about this game than watching a test match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (named after Antigua's national hero and indeed one of the world's best players), Coolidge Cricket Ground, or chilling on a white-sand beach, cocktail in hand, watching the locals play a game of beach cricket.

And although cricket may be the islands' national sport, there are plenty of other ways to work up a sweat. How about a round of golf, playing a tennis match on one of the courts found at resorts around the island, or going for a spectacular hike in verdant hills overlooking stunning turquoise waters? For an exhilarating, wind-in-the-hair experience, trying out the world-class sailing conditions should be on anyone's agenda. Fabulous diving, snorkelling, windsurfing and even kitesurfing in the balmy translucent waters surrounding these paradise islands shouldn't be missed.

If all this is rather too energetic, every April, you can sit back and enjoy watching some of the most outstanding sailors in the world take to the water in events like Antigua Sailing Week. The even more laid-back alternative is simply relaxing and enjoying one of the islands' breath-taking beaches, followed by a delicious rum punch and a fabulous dinner at one of Antigua's many restaurants.

And if your leisure time is at a minimum, Antigua & Barbuda is just a few hours from business centres in North America and only eight to London, meaning you are never far away from that important business meeting. Good healthcare and excellent communications complete the mix, making the islands a fabulous place to work (and play!)

Antigua & Barbuda's CBI programme is one of the best in the Caribbean and is in the top five of the Professional Wealth Management's CBI 2021 Index carried out by the International Financial Times Group. Citizenship to the islands allows visa-free travel to 165 jurisdictions, including Hong Kong, Singapore, the UK and Schengen area. ●

# Antigua & Barbuda

## THE CITIZEN

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*Susan Brophy*  
Editor



Welcome to the 13<sup>th</sup> issue of The Citizen!

Although 13 may be unlucky for some, we feel very fortunate to have the continued support of our readers and our wonderful contributors and interviewees who never fail to astonish us.

Cricket is more than a passion for Antiguans – it is part of their national identity. In this issue's cover story, we explain the ins and outs of this sport to the uninitiated, why it means so much to the region's people and meet with some of the islands' cricketing heroes.

Having caught up with Sadhguru, world-renowned yogi, mystic and founder of Conscious Planet, during his recent visit to Antigua, it is our privilege that he has contributed to this issue by writing about how saving the world's soil is literally life or death for us all. Another legend, this time from the music world, Wyclef Jean of Fugees fame, met with us to talk about how a young boy from Haiti became the superstar he is today.

Antigua & Barbuda's US Director of Tourism, Dean Fenton, destresses from his daily life by writing poetry. We talked to him about his two published poetry books and what influences his writing.

There is nothing like enjoying a refreshing sundowner when in Antigua. And what better than enjoying an aromatic spirit made using one of the botanicals found on the island's shores? We visited Antilles Stillhouse, and after sampling a dram or two of their mouthwatering concoctions, we chatted with the owners to find out how they are raising the island's spirits.

Every year, yachters descend on the twin islands for their world-class sailing and yachting conditions. We look at why Antigua & Barbuda Ship Registry is global yacht owners' preferred registry.

Bert Kirchner had never painted in his life. This all changed when a bump on his head activated something known as 'savant syndrome', and Bert became an accomplished artist. He shares some of his best work with us.

Alexis Andrews is no stranger to the magazine world, with his magnificent yachting photos having adorned the pages of magazines and adverts across the globe. We look at a variety of his work, both on and off the water.

One of Antigua's newest citizens, Vivek Rao, talked to us about why he and his family becoming citizens of the twin islands has been one of the best decisions in his life.

Once again, citizenship by investment experts and thought leaders share their knowledge about the CBI industry at large.

And last but certainly not least, threats to animals are unfortunately multifold. Our philanthropy article sees how charitable organisations may be the only hope of many species around the globe.

Thank you again to everyone. Happy reading!

# CONTRIBUTORS

## *Patterson Thompson*

Is the Chairman of the West Indies Retired Players Foundation. He played for the West Indies cricket team in 1996/1997 as well as in England and Jamaica as a right-hand fast bowler and was considered one of the fastest during that era. Patterson is also a professional airline pilot.



## *Armand Arton*

Is a visionary entrepreneur, philanthropist and the founder and president of Arton Capital, a global citizenship financial advisory practice with offices around the globe. Arton is also the curator of the Global Citizen Forum and the architect of The Passport Index, the global reference on passport ranking.

## *Nelecia Yeates*

Is a strategic thinker, focused on revenue generation; with over 17 years of experience in commercial and event management of regional and international events. Currently the General Manager of Coolidge Cricket Ground, responsible for commercialising Cricket West Indies, 20-acre property to optimise revenues in both cricket and non-cricket events.



## *Brian Greco*

Is a consultant, traveller and advocate of free movement and the investment migration industry based in Istanbul, Turkey. He focuses on investigating new possibilities for expanding one's lifestyle in global cities, especially in frontier markets. Brian is a believer in the power of citizenship by investment to expand economies and promote choice.

## *Sadhguru*

Yogi, Mystic and Visionary, Sadhguru is the founder of Conscious Planet and the Save Soil movement. One of the most influential people of our times, he is an Enlightened Master of enormous capability. Raising Human Consciousness, his movement is supported by over 16 million volunteers worldwide. He has been awarded three presidential awards for distinguished service.



## *Kevin Hosam*

Is the Principal and Managing Director at Exclusive Concierge. He has been providing consulting and advisory services in real estate and citizenship by investment for over 15 years. Kevin is also a licensed agent and a frequent contributor, presenter, panellist, and workshop facilitator at immigration and real estate conferences globally.





THOUGHT  
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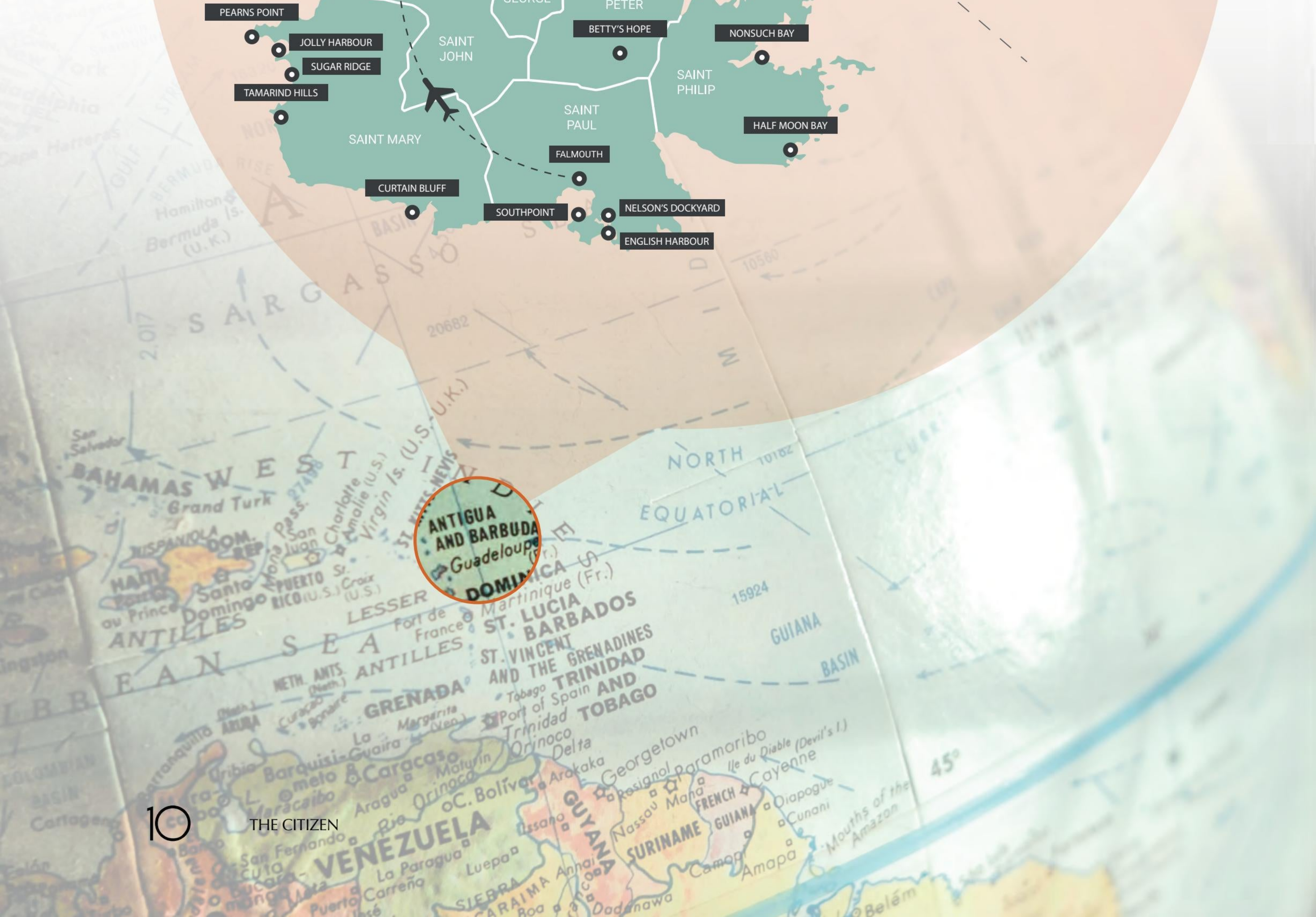
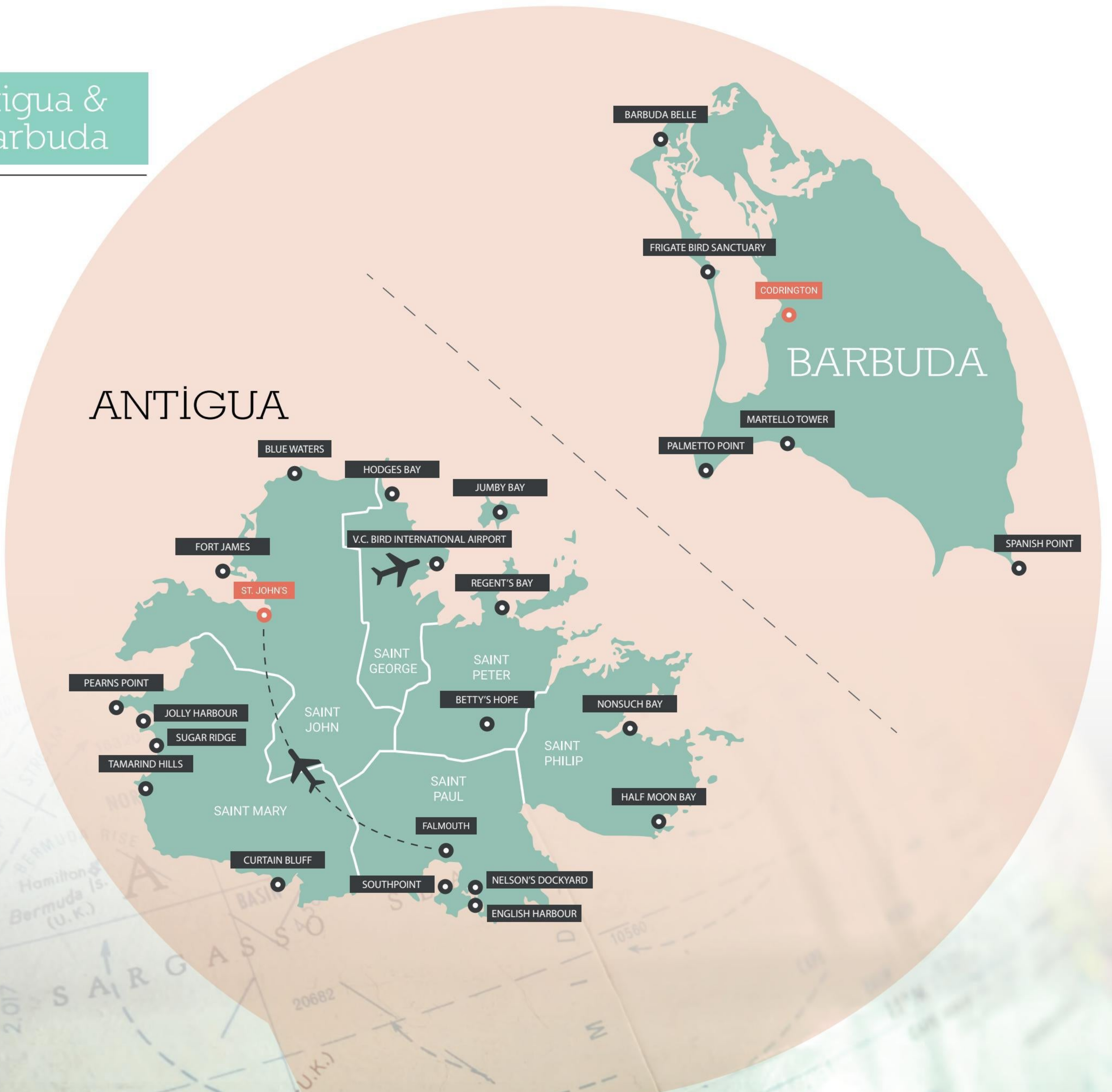
PHILANTHROPY

*Protecting all creatures, big or small*

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# Antigua & Barbuda





- Citizenship approved ✓
- Passports received ✓
- Ease of global travel ensured ✓
- Real estate purchase complete ✓
- School admission confirmed ✓
- Health and medical insurance sorted ✓
- Driver's license and social security card secured ✓
- Tax and estate plan finalised ✓
- Investment portfolio reviewed ✓
- Contingency plan in place ✓
- New lifestyle on the horizon ✓
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# WHAT IS YOUR PLAN B?

Does *your* plan B  
let you decide where you live?

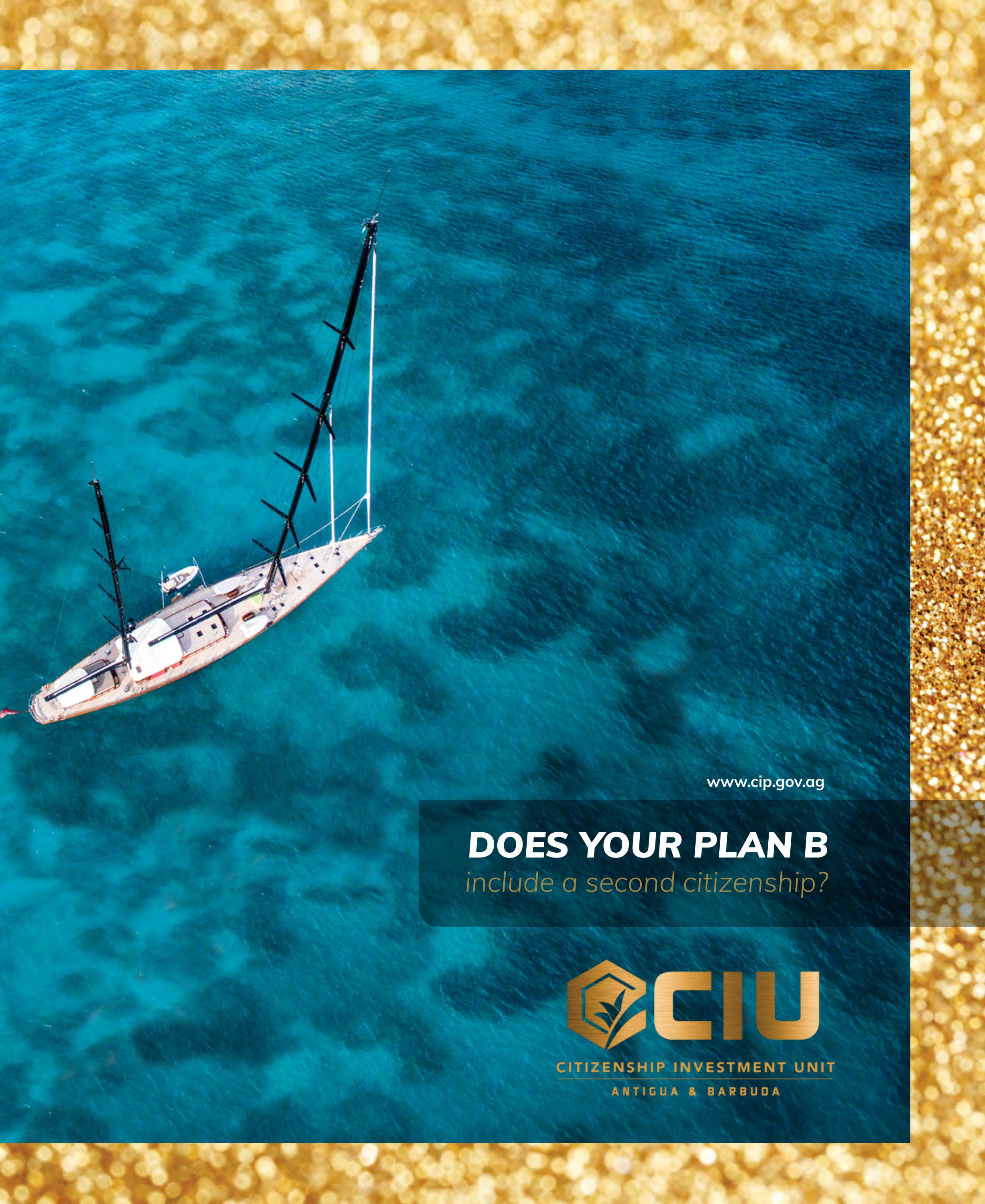
Does *your* plan B  
allow you to easily access  
healthcare in another country?

Does *your* plan B  
mean that you can travel  
to a business meeting on  
the other side of the world  
at a moment's notice?

Does *your* plan B  
protect your children's  
inheritance?

Does *your* plan B  
give you wealth  
management options?

Does *your* plan B  
allow you to relocate  
your family in the event  
of a national disaster?



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**DOES YOUR PLAN B**  
*include a second citizenship?*



CITIZENSHIP INVESTMENT UNIT  
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

## ANTIGUA & BARBUDA Citizenship by Investment Programme

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 recognised 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:

- US\$ 100,000 contribution
- Processing fees: US\$ 30,000.\*

#### For a family of 5 or more:

- US\$ 125,000 contribution
- Processing fees: US\$ 45,000, US\$ 15,000 for each additional dependent over five 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 6:

- US\$ 150,000 contribution
- Processing fees: US\$ 15,000 from the seventh additional dependent onwards.

### 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 US\$ 400,000, undertake a joint investment of US\$ 200,000 between two (2) related parties/applications, or minimum US\$ 200,000 for a unit/share in an approved property.

You must own the property for a minimum of five years before selling it. At this time, owners may resell their units or shares to subsequent applicants as eligible investments. Processing fees will be applied as indicated below.

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

- Processing fees: US\$ 30,000.\*

#### For a family of 5 or more:

- Processing fees: US\$ 45,000, US\$ 15,000 for each additional dependent over five people.

### 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 Programme (CIP).

There are two business investment options:

- Invest at least US\$ 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 US\$ 5,000,000. Each investor must contribute at least US\$ 400,000 to the joint investment.

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

- Processing fees: US\$ 30,000.\*

#### For a family of 5 or more:

- Processing fees: US\$ 45,000, US\$ 15,000 for each additional dependent over five people.

*Please note that all four options also include a due diligence fee of US\$ 7,500 for the main applicant and spouse, US\$ 2,000 for any dependent child between 12-17 years of age and US\$ 4,000 for any dependent child/parent between 18-30 and 55 plus years.*

\* Processing fees for additional dependents: US\$ 10,000 for children under 5 years, US\$ 20,000 for children aged 6-17 years, US\$ 50,000 for adults over 18 years. For a future spouse of the principal applicant, a fee of US\$ 50,000 is payable upon application.

# ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

## Citizenship by Investment Programme

### Frequently Asked Questions

CITIZENSHIP BY  
INVESTMENT  
PROGRAMME

#### **Why does Antigua & Barbuda have a citizenship by investment programme?**

The programme 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 programme 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 authorised 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 programme does Antigua & Barbuda have a tax residency programme?**

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

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

## الحصول على جنسية أنتيغوا وباربودا عن طريق برنامج الاستثمار

### 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. 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، إجراء استثمار مشترك بقيمة 200.000 دولار أمريكي لكل طرف/طلب من طرفين/طلبين (2) مترابطين، أو ما لا يقل عن 200.000 دولار أمريكي لوحدة/حصة في عقار معتمد. ويجب عليك امتلاك العقار لمدة خمس سنوات على الأقل قبل بيعه. ويجوز حينئذ للمالكين إعادة بيع وحدتهم أو حصتهم لمقدمي طلبات لاحقين كاستثمارات مؤهلة. وسيتم تطبيق رسوم المعالجة كما هو موضح أدناه.

#### لمقدم طلب واحد أو أسرة مكونة من 4 أفراد أو أقل:

• رسوم المعالجة: 30.000 دولار أمريكي. انظر الخيار لفترة محددة\*

#### لأسرة مكونة من 5 أفراد أو أكثر:

• رسوم المعالجة: 45.000 دولار أمريكي، 15.000 دولار أمريكي لكل شخص مُعال إضافي على 5 أشخاص.

### 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: 30.000 دولار أمريكي انظر. الخيار لفترة محددة\*

#### لأسرة مكونة من 5 أفراد أو أكثر:

• رسوم المعالجة: 45.000 دولار أمريكي، 15.000 دولار أمريكي لكل شخص مُعال إضافي على 5 أشخاص.

رسوم المعالجة للأشخاص المُعالين الإضافيين: 10.000 دولار أمريكي للأطفال دون سن 5 أعوام، 20.000 دولار أمريكي للأطفال الذين تتراوح أعمارهم بين 6 و17 عاماً، 50.000 دولار أمريكي للبالغين الذين تتجاوز أعمارهم 18 عاماً. بالنسبة للزوج/ة المستقبلية/ة لمقدم/ة الطلب الرئيسي/ة، يُدفع رسم قدره 50.000 دولار أمريكي عند تقديم الطلب.

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 165 ولاية قضائية.

### 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.

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 تُقدّم 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: 30.000 دولار أمريكي. انظر الخيار لفترة محددة\*

#### لأسرة مكونة من 5 أفراد أو أكثر:

• مساهمة قدرها 125.000 دولار أمريكي  
رسوم المعالجة: 45.000 دولار أمريكي، 15.000 دولار أمريكي لكل شخص مُعال إضافي على 5 أشخاص.

### 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 6 أفراد:

• مساهمة قدرها 150.000 دولار أمريكي  
رسوم المعالجة: 15.000 دولار أمريكي من الشخص المُعال الإضافي السابع فصاعداً.



## الحصول على جنسية أنتيغوا وباربودا عن طريق برنامج الاستثمار أسئلة متكررة

**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 165 ولاية قضائية 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

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

**ماذا يحدث بعد قبول طلبك؟**

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.

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

If there's one thing that 2020 has shown you, it's that life can be unpredictable. Never has it been more important to have a robust Plan B in place for the unexpected – no matter what life throws at you.

If your Plan B doesn't already include a second citizenship, perhaps now is the time to think about it to protect those you care about the most.

Investing in the Antigua & Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Programme means that whatever happens in life, you and your family can feel secure with the knowledge that you have options for where to live and where to go. With flexibility for your wealth management needs, no tax on your worldwide income nor inheritance tax, you can rest assured that your family's best interest is served both now and in the future.

Furthermore, not only is Antigua & Barbuda amongst the fastest-growing economies in the Caribbean region and an international financial centre whose legal system is based on British Common Law, but there are countless investment and business opportunities available in a variety of sectors.

Visa-free access to over 150 countries across the globe allows you to jump on a plane to that business meeting or conference at a moment's notice. The world is indeed your oyster.

And should you wish to relocate to these safe, peaceful and beautiful twin islands, you will find yourself in a multicultural society with world-class education opportunities, a strong healthcare system and business-friendly environment. The country's strategic geographic location in the Eastern Caribbean together with regular flights to major business hubs in North America and London means you will always be well connected, whether for business or leisure.

**THE IDEAL PLACE  
FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY  
TO DROP ANCHOR.**





[www.cip.gov.ag](http://www.cip.gov.ag) | [info@cip.gov.ag](mailto:info@cip.gov.ag)

So, is second citizenship of  
Antigua & Barbuda part of  
**YOUR PLAN B?**



CITIZENSHIP INVESTMENT UNIT  
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

## 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 165 юрисдикционных территорий.

### 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: 30 000 долларов США.

#### Для семьи из 5 и более человек:

- Взнос 125 000 долларов США

Сбор за обработку данных: 45 000 долларов США, 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца свыше пяти 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 6 человек:

- Взнос 150 000 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 объектов недвижимости не менее 400 000 долларов США, или два (2) ассоциированных лица/кандидата на гражданство могут сделать совместное вложение, минимальная сумма взноса каждого участника составляет 200 000 долларов США, также возможно минимальное вложение в 200 000 долларов США в долю официально утвержденного объекта недвижимости.

Вы сможете продать недвижимость не ранее, чем через 5 лет.

По истечении этого срока, собственники могут перепродать объекты недвижимости или их доли последующим кандидатам на гражданство, как один из утвержденных вариантов вложений. Ниже указана сумма сбора за обработку данных.

#### Для одного заявителя или семьи из четырех или менее человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 30 000 долларов США.

#### Для семьи из 5 и более человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 45 000 долларов США, 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца свыше пяти членов семьи.

### 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: 30 000 долларов США.

#### Для семьи из 5 и более человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 45 000 долларов США, 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца свыше пяти членов семьи.

Сбор за обработку данных для дополнительных иждивенцев: 10 000 долларов США за детей младше 5 лет, 20 000 долларов США за детей от 6-17 лет, 50 000 долларов США за взрослых старше 18 лет. За будущего супруга/супругу основного заявителя сбор в 50 000 долларов США подлежит уплате по заявлению.

# АНТИГУА И БАРБУДА

## гражданство по инвестиционной программе

### Часто задаваемые вопросы

CITIZENSHIP BY  
INVESTMENT  
PROGRAMME

#### **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 165 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 приехать 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.

## 通过投资项目获取安提瓜和巴布达公民身份

有下列四种投资方式,可以让您有资格获得天堂般的安提瓜和巴布达岛国的公民身份。作为申请人,您可以选择向国家发展基金(NDF)捐款,向西印度群岛大学基金会捐款,在预先批准的房地产开发项目中购买房产,或投资于经批准的商业企业。作为候选人,您必须年龄超过18岁,无犯罪记录,身体健康。

申请成功后,您和您的家人会获得终身公民身份,并享有在超过165个国家旅行免签的优势。

### 向国家发展基金捐款

非盈利性质的国家发展基金的成立是为了为创收公共部门项目、创业创新和经批准的慈善投资提供资金。它由一家国际公认的会计师事务所审计,并且每年都会公布其财务状况报告。

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金,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: 三万美金 请查阅限期价格\*。

适用于家庭成员五人及以上:

- 十二万五千美金
- 办理费用:四万五千美元,五人之外每增加一人需多缴一万五千美元。

### 西印度群岛大学(UWI)基金会:

这一投资选项用于为西印度群岛大学的五岛新校区提供融资。这一捐款将使捐款家庭的一员可以获得一项为期一年的奖学金,即免除在西印度群岛大学一年的学费。

对于六口之家:

- 十五万美金捐款

第七位起:

- 办理费用:每个增加成员需缴一万五千美金。

### 房地产投资

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,可两(2)个关联方或申请人共同投资,每人投资至少二十万美元,或在被批准的房

产项目中每人至少投资二十万美元购买一个单元/份额。在出售房产前,您需要拥有它至少五年。在此期间,业主可以向后续的申请者转售房产单元或份额,作为后者的投资房产。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:

- 办理费用: 三万美金请查阅限期价格\*。

适用于家庭成员五人及以上:

- 办理费用:四万五千美元,五人之外每增加一人需多缴一万五千美元。

### 商业投资

在与安提瓜和巴布达投资局(ABIA)协商后,投资公民部门(CIU)批准现有或提议的商业项目,以便外国人在投资公民计划(CIP)下投资。

有两个商业投资选项:

- 投资至少一百五十万美元给一项预先批准的商业活动。
- 或者,至少有两个申请人可以提议对经批准的企业进行联合投资,总投资至少为五百万美元。每个投资者至少支付四十万美金。

适用于单个申请人,家庭成员四人及以下:

- 办理费用: 三万美金请查阅限期价格\*。

适用于家庭成员五人及以上:

- 办理费用:四万五千美元,五人之外每增加一人需多缴一万五千美元。

每增加一人的办理费用:5岁以下的孩子一万美元,6-17岁的孩子两万美元,18岁上成人五万美元。

主申请人的未来配偶申请费为五万美元,需在申请时支付。

# 通过投资项目获得安提瓜和巴布达的公民身份

## 问&答

CITIZENSHIP BY  
INVESTMENT  
PROGRAMME

### 为什么安提瓜和巴布达推行通过投资获得公民身份项目?

这个项目旨在增进经济发展,促进房地产开发,增加外国对本国的直接投资,支持基础设施建设并提供可持续发展。

### 作为安提瓜和巴布达公民,我可以免签到多少个国家旅行?

您可以去往超过165个司法管辖区,包括欧盟和申根国家,香港和新加坡。

### 处理时间有多长?

处理您的申请通常需要三至六个月。

### 谁可以申请公民身份?

申请安提瓜和巴布达的公民身份,您至少需要18周岁,无犯罪记录并且身体健康。

### 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。

### 如何进行尽职调查和审查申请人?

没有面试环节。但是,所有申请人在获得公民身份前都要经过公民投资部门严格的筛选。完整的文件将转交给国际上公正的第三方尽职调查服务提供商,该服务提供商将对所有申请人进行详细的背景调查。

### 我的申请被接受后会发生什么?

将颁发公民身份登记证书并提交给护照办公室。您的授权代理人/代表将转发您的护照和公民身份证明给您。

### 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。

### 安提瓜和巴布达承认双重国籍吗?

安提瓜和巴布达对于双重国籍没有限制。

### 我的护照有效期为几年?

护照有效期五年,此后可续期10年,续期的前提是符合要求,包括在成为公民后在护照有效期间在该国度过至少5天。

### 我可以用我的比特币或其他虚拟货币投资吗?

这还在筹备中,但尚未实行。

### 除了投资计划获取公民身份外,安提瓜和巴布达还有税务定居计划吗?

安提瓜和巴布达目前不提供税务定居计划。

如有任何其他问题,请联系授权代表,许可代理或直接联系投资公民部门(CIU)。

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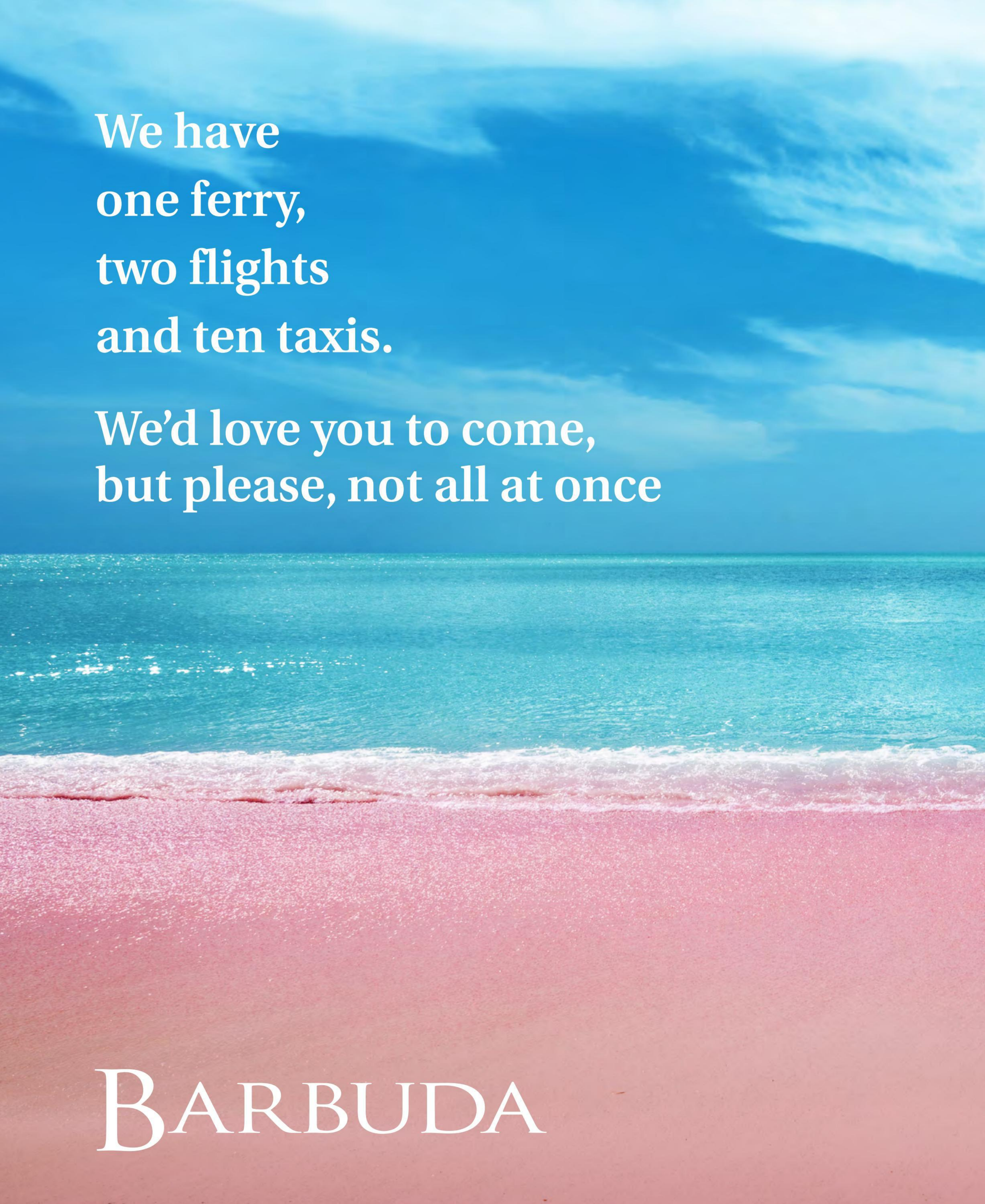
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# OPINION

by

Armand Arton  
Founder & President  
Arton Capital

## THE END OF THE GOLDEN PASSPORT OR THE SIGN OF A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY?

Many have cast doubts about the future of citizenship by investment programmes in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But increased oversight in Europe signals a promising new era for the industry.

**B**BlackRock Chief Larry Fink made headlines last month when he warned of a monumental shift in global economics, supply chains, currencies and climate change goals in his [annual letter to shareholders](#) on 24th March. In summary, he wrote that Russia's invasion of Ukraine triggered punishing Western sanctions that "put an end to the globalisation we have experienced over the last three decades."

Justifiably, global powers have isolated Russia from financial markets while many private companies have pulled out of the country or halted unnecessary business relationships. The sanctions have simultaneously spurred fresh scrutiny over another important element of globalisation: Citizenship by Investment programmes (CIP). As the conflict in Ukraine continues, legislators in Europe question whether such programmes have enabled powerful and wealthy Russians who are supporting the war in Ukraine to evade sanctions via European citizenship.

On 28th March, the European Commission urged member states to end CIP – so-called 'golden passports' – citing concerns over Russian and Belarussian nationals and the risks they pose to European society. The disquietude has prompted at least one state, Bulgaria, to terminate its programme. Meanwhile, Cyprus and Malta have committed to halting their programmes in the near future.

For some in the CIP industry, increased calls for regulation and oversight signal a death knell. For others, like Arton Capital, it's a positive turning point – one that will lead to an honest, transparent and sustainable future for the industry.

"Policymakers, citizens and investors alike must share a foundation of trust. Increasing oversight makes CIP programmes safer and, ultimately, more sustainable for participating countries and applicants," says Armand Arton, President and CEO of Arton Capital. "By investing in regulation, governments can eliminate any lingering doubts about who gains access to citizenship and by what means. It also legitimises the process



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and paves the way for honest, talented people to access a better future for themselves and their families.”

It’s not the first time Arton has advocated for increased security and transparency around investor applicants. Speaking at a panel on [foreign direct investment in 2015](#), the CEO called for better cooperation between industry leaders and lawmakers, outlining several solutions. For instance, he has suggested enhanced information sharing, such as an international database to track rejected applicants and bad actors, alongside a “common framework for delivering sustainable investor programmes where transparency and security are rudimentary”.

If governments are willing to establish international information-sharing agencies, standardise requirements and enhance due diligence mechanisms, major players in the CIP industry are ready and willing to collaborate. It’s crucial to work together – after all, much could be lost if such initiatives are widely repealed. Countries like St Kitts & Nevis, Dominica, and Antigua & Barbuda have relied heavily on CIP revenues to rebuild after natural disasters and survive the disastrous effects of the pandemic.

“Countries use CIP to diversify their economies and foster independence,” says Arton. “When these programmes fail, it affects everyone – from drastically reduced departmental budgets and lost infrastructure all the way down to small businesses and local communities.”

Rather than run from increased oversight and regulation, Arton says industry players should embrace stricter requirements. “This debate is long overdue and actually opens up the floor for collaboration with more motivated stakeholders,” he says. “It’s a welcome change and the next phase of evolution for the industry.”

The conversation comes at a poignant time. As millions of Ukrainian refugees flee their homes, the value of a second or third passport to safeguard one’s security cannot be underestimated. And while Fink may fear the end of globalisation, Arton believes current crises underscore the need for global relationships with the power to shape the world into a safer, healthier and more equitable place for all. ●

# THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

by  
Brian Greco  
International Consultant

## THERE'S MORE TO A CARIBBEAN PASSPORT THAN THE SCHENGEN AREA - WAY MORE, ACTUALLY

The CBI industry is at a precipice in a post-2020 world order, and it is time we start asking new questions. For too long, the focus on passports has been on one thing alone: the total number of visa-free destinations, especially to the EU. While this is ONE marker that makes an Antiguan passport attractive, it is far from the only one.

In an age where the EU is becoming increasingly hostile to citizenship by investment, I think the next level of our industry can finally be unlocked when we stop centering everything around a dusty old 20th-century perspective. Europe has long clung to a conceit that it is the only arbiter of the “good life”, but this is far from true.

The industry was shaken when news of Vanuatu’s partial suspension of visa-free access to Europe broke. The change marked an existential crisis: Who are we without our visa-free access?

Of course, visa-free access to Europe matters. It is undeniable that it has been a critical selling point for many investors. I certainly believe everything should be done to encourage decision-makers to see the net good that citizenship by investment brings to all (including Europe): a legal, efficient way for people to invest in a better future for themselves and their families.

However, we live in an increasingly multipolar world that is zooming into the future with or without the blessing of the EU. This new world will call on the savvy investor to obtain a portfolio of targeted citizenship and residency options, of which Antigua & Barbuda can stand as a key component.

As a newer entrant into this industry looking ahead at the next 50 years, I, for one, want citizenship by investment to grow and prosper into the amazing vehicle of freedom and change that it deserves to be. I focus intensely on post-



*“I certainly believe everything should be done to encourage decision-makers to see the net good that citizenship by investment brings to all (including Europe): a legal, efficient way for people to invest in a better future for themselves and their families.”*

Western geopolitics and finding lesser-commonly known programmes and reasons to internationalise. So when I was asked to speak on this issue here at THE CITIZEN, I was happy to take up the opportunity.

Our industry can truly flourish once it stops orienting itself around the ever-changing goalposts and moral posturing of bureaucrats. The market can begin to see that EU access is just one part of a whole slew of benefits, ranging from regional travel to Commonwealth access, to financial freedoms and privacies and more options for investors. The Caribbean has been the consistent provider of that optionality for global citizens now for over three decades.

Antigua & Barbuda has so much to offer: its regional connectivity, excellent value proposition for families, rich cultural history, attractive climate, and sophisticated citizenship apparatus are all major draws.

Antigua's growth point is in helping people create real connections to their new country as well as expanding access to more destinations in the non-Western world. Other key opportunities include highlighting the CARICOM single-market access, strengthening ties with

leading economies such as the UK, and reaching out to mega-markets like China, India, Nigeria, Vietnam, and Indonesia to promote deeper ties.

What new lifestyle opportunities can becoming a CARICOM citizen and being able to access over a dozen new member states present? Yes, shocker—you can actually LIVE in the country you are a citizen of. What new needs can be addressed when we are no longer obsessed with what the EU will think?

While I have enjoyed travelling to Europe and make no moral judgments on anyone's personal choice of destination, let's look closer. Europe seems to be the one region that is not allowed to be criticised - while people rush to critique places like Turkey, for example (my adoptive home) and a country with another wildly successful citizenship by investment programme. Regardless of not having Schengen access, Turkey's passport is one of the strongest in the world and is well respected across the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and so much more.

What about wonderful destinations that an Antiguan passport offers, such as Singapore, South Africa, Brazil, the UK, or two of my favourite countries in Europe—Albania and Serbia—which offer some of the freshest, most available European vibes left. No EU visa needed.

I am not against Europe, nor against the EU visa waiver. I want more options for everyone. It's an “and”, not an “or” for me. I simply want to question the notion that EU access is the be-all, end-all for the world of Caribbean citizenship.

If we keep letting it be that, it will. But if we start seeing what is possible beyond the limits of traditional destinations, we see that Antigua & Barbuda is its own country, with its own destiny and a citizenship worth investing in. ●



# THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

by

Kevin Hosam  
Managing Director & Licensed Agent  
Exclusive Concierge

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CIP TO HOST COUNTRIES

More than any period in the life of CIP/CBI programmes, the last two years have emphasised the need for this significant non-tax revenue source for Caribbean economies. The five countries in the region which offer citizenship by investment programmes primarily rely on tourism receipts to fund government operations. However, for most of 2020, commercial aircrafts were grounded globally with the consequence that tourism revenue was zero. For these small island nations, the governments were able to meet most of their financial obligations from the revenue generated through their respective citizenship by investment programmes.

Over the past seven years, in the case of Antigua & Barbuda and Grenada, and for more than a decade in the case of Dominica and St Kitts & Nevis, CBI programmes have played an increasingly vital role in the fiscal life of these countries. It is estimated that CBI contributes upwards of 40 percent of Dominica's and St Kitts' GDP and 10 to 15 percent of Antigua's, Grenada's and St Lucia's. The funds are also used to support much needed social programmes and the budget of some government departments, including social security and pension disbursements.

Apart from the direct cash that flows to the government, the programmes also contribute to the economy through real estate and construction projects, supporting the maintenance of existing jobs and creating new ones in those sectors. Following the 2008 global meltdown caused by the collapse of the USA sub-prime mortgage fiasco, financial institutions shifted away from lending to hotel projects in the Caribbean region. Financing for such projects largely dried up as a result. Currently, 99 percent of hotels being constructed, renovated, refurbished or expanded are doing so under CIP/CBI. In St Kitts, there are over 120 approved developments, whilst in Antigua,





*It is undeniable that the hundreds of millions of dollars generated by the CIP/CBI programmes provide vital support to governments to assist with recurrent expenditure, meet loan payments, and support infrastructure development and capital projects.*

that number is more than 40. In Grenada, there are more than 20 approved developments; in Dominica, ten, and in St Lucia two. It is reasonable to deduce that these projects would not have been possible without the existence of citizenship by investment.

Additionally, these small island developing states (SIDS) do not have raw materials or commodities that they can trade; hence, their economies are largely dependent on tourism, together with the service sectors. For several years, Antigua & Barbuda had a thriving online gaming sector, employing thousands of locals in full-time and part-time jobs, which fostered a budding middle class. In time, the US enacted legislation making it illegal to use US-based financial services such as credit cards to pay for online betting. This caused the industry's demise, with some operators closing their businesses and others moving to different jurisdictions outside of the Caribbean. Needless to say, many individuals lost their primary income or secondary income. Antigua & Barbuda, for instance, was able to provide more than 3,000 relatively high paying jobs during the peak of the gaming industry; more than 90 percent of these jobs were lost, resulting in a severe impact on the middle class. Another service sector that was for the most part wrecked by the actions of external forces is

the offshore banking sector. Here again, thousands of families relied on the income from full-time jobs, which disappeared over an abbreviated period of time. Currently, there are only a handful of offshore banks operating in Antigua & Barbuda.

There are few options available to these SIDS to support a burgeoning government budget deficit. If not CIP/CBI programmes to attract foreign direct investments and raise government revenues, then what? There is no fossil fuel, diamond, gold, silver, copper or bauxite to mine. There is no competing with Chiquita, Dole or farmers in the USA, Central and South America. We just do not have the landmass, population size or farming technology to produce at a competitive rate.

It is undeniable that the hundreds of millions of dollars generated by the CIP/CBI programmes provide vital support to governments to assist with recurrent expenditure, meet loan payments, and support infrastructure development and capital projects. I am willing to listen to alternative solutions to meet this funding gap. Given the above, it should become evident that the survival of these programmes is essential to the viability of these economies. As such, in the face of the threat of the end of the Schengen visa waiver, it may be time to restructure the programmes and approach the problem as a united front in an effort to retain access to the Schengen area. After all, all citizens of these CIP/CBI countries will suffer the inconvenience of having to apply to each EU country they wish to visit.

It is important that we lobby the EU to ensure that the visa waiver is maintained. It is instructive that as of the end of 2022, the EU will be implementing the ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System). This new compulsory visa waiver will become a mandatory requirement for visa-exempt citizens to visit the Schengen area. This in itself will provide a level of security guarantees and, at the same time, afford OECS countries to maintain the privileges of the visa waiver.●

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COVER  
STORY

**THE INS  
AND OUTS  
OF CRICKET**

**GETTING  
TO GRIPS  
WITH  
ANTIGUA'S  
NATIONAL  
GAME**

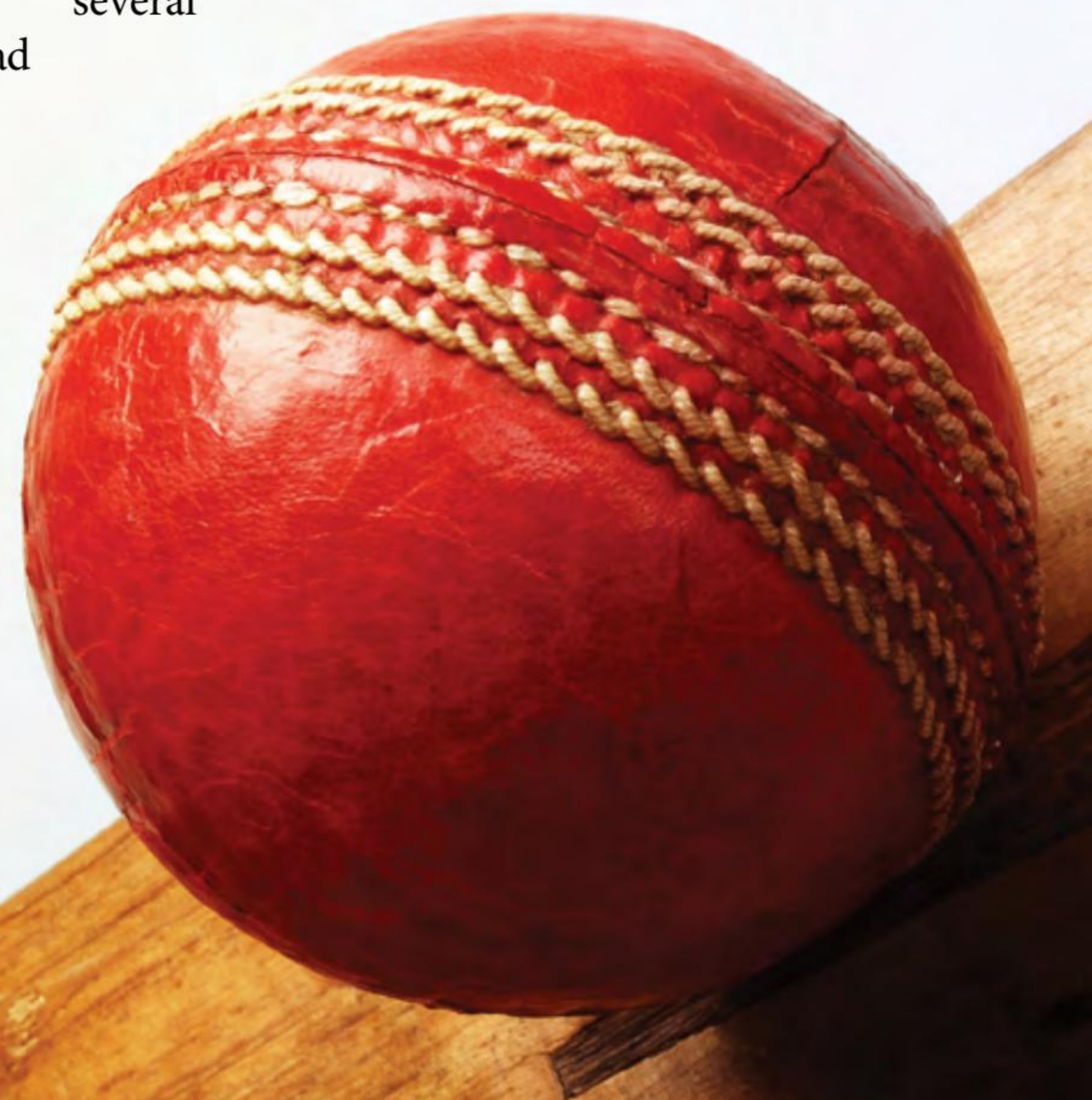
## THE INEXTRICABLE LINK BETWEEN CRICKET AND THE DECOLONISATION OF THE WEST INDIES

Cricket plays such a significant role in the lives of West Indians today, but its history can be traced back to the white plantation owners who imported the game from England in the 18th century. As a so-called 'gentlemen's game', the white colonists ensured that only they themselves had the right to bat and bowl, whilst their slaves' role would be to merely retrieve the ball from the dense sugarcane fields as and when needed. As time went on, the physical strength that years of hard, enforced labour had given the enslaved people meant their sheer power made them rather good at fast bowling. And so, they were eventually brought into the game itself. But let's not be fooled by this inclusion. It was tiring to bowl in the heat of the Caribbean sun, and as batsmen were the ones heralded in the game at that time, the enslaved bowlers were simply used as fodder to provide their masters with batting practice. Unfortunately, things didn't change for a long time. Despite the abolition of slavery, even in early Test matches between England and the West Indies at the beginning of the 20th century, both sides were still predominantly white. As the subject of decolonisation of Caribbean countries heated up in the 1960s and 1970s, cricket took on a whole other dimension for the West Indian people. The team had changed from a white-dominated to a Black-dominated one and in the years before the nations became independent, cricket gave the people hope, escape and self-determination. This wasn't just the case for those living in the region itself. The game played a crucial role for the Windrush generation who had

crossed the Atlantic to help rebuild a post-war Britain. Many of these emigrants were struggling with racism and xenophobia in the so-called "motherland". The success of their home team could mean the difference between entering their often-hostile workplaces with their heads held high or alternatively being subject to a torrent of racial abuse if their team lost. In the mid-1970s, Clive Lloyd, captain of the West Indies team from 1974 to 1985, was extremely unhappy with the West Indian cricketers being dubbed "calypso cricketers", which implied that the team had a lack of seriousness and professionalism. Rightly finding the expression condescending and unappreciative of the talent and determination of the West Indians, Lloyd conveyed to his team that they were representing the Black Caribbean people, who had been repressed for centuries through slavery and colonisation. The team was transformed, and they became an irresistible force that few could withstand, let alone beat. 1976 was a pivotal moment for the West Indian team. On the cusp of the Test match between England and the West Indies, England cricketer (but crucially hailing

from apartheid South Africa) Tony Greig declared his intention to make the West Indians 'grovel'. The term 'grovel' had unhappy connotations of repression and punishment for the players, given their forefathers' enslaved pasts. The determination to win against the English had never been greater. Earlier in 1976, Antigua had held an unsuccessful referendum on independence from the United Kingdom, and with several

*West Indies cricket, at its best, has always been a representation of the hopes and aspirations of the people of the Caribbean and has demonstrated time and time again how small Caribbean nations can work together and achieve great things.*





Antiguan players, including Viv Richards and Andy Roberts, on the team, emotions were running high. There is no doubt that throughout this time, the theme of decolonisation was inextricably connected with the success of the West Indian side. The players entered the Test match as soldiers going to war. They beat England in that hot summer of 1976 and went on to beat them another six times in a row.

This was just the beginning of the golden age of West Indian cricket.

Reigning supreme on the world stage throughout this whole period of decolonisation and anti-apartheid struggles in southern African countries, after 1979, the team did not lose a series for 15 years straight and won the first two One Day International Cricket World Cups to boot. These 'calypso cricketers' had well and truly become the 'Caribbean Colossus'.

## ANTIGUA & BARBUDA – THE HOME OF CRICKET WEST INDIES

Cricket is truly the heart and soul of communities all around the West Indies, and, simply speaking, cricket matters much more to West Indians than most outsiders can understand. The sport brings incredible emotions of celebration, frustration, elation, pride, and anxiety to the people. But not only that, it brings economic benefit to islands, as was recently seen when thousands of British fans descended on Antigua for the international Test match.

West Indies cricket is unique. It is the only team that represents a group of nations, not only in the cricket world but in all international sports. This gives rise to both national and regional pride as the islands are brought together with one goal and passion in mind. Cricket West Indies (CWI) is there to grow, guide and protect cricket throughout these 16 English-speaking Caribbean countries, which form the West Indies for the men's, women's and age-group teams. Its job is an important one as it isn't an exaggeration to say that the on-field performance of these teams shapes the mood of the people of the region. West Indies cricket, at its best, has always been a representation of the hopes and aspirations of the people of the Caribbean and has demonstrated time and time again how small Caribbean nations can work together and achieve great things. Although each island has its own distinct personality and character, cricket has been one of the few areas of a common West Indian culture and experience where together they have been able to punch above their weight and achieve great things over a period of several generations.

With the headquarters of CWI being based at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) in Antigua, cricket is literally at the heart of the twin-island nation. Already bringing much employment and career development to the island, this facility has advanced plans in place for the CCG to become the region's centre for high-performance cricket academies, coaching education and sportainment. Not only will the facility tell the story of the rich legacy of West Indies cricket, but it will focus is on finding and developing the talent of young West Indies cricketers in whose hands this legacy falls for future generations.

*By Nelecia Yeates*

## AN IDIOT'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING CRICKET

The beautiful game of cricket was believed to be invented in the 13th century in the English countryside. The game is widely considered the country's summer sport when the weather is most conducive to outdoor activities.

Cricket is played with a bat made from willow wood and a ball made from cork covered with leather. The 'hard ball', as it is commonly called, can be used as a weapon and has inflicted some serious damage to the head, forearms, fingers, and real pain in the groin area - yet they say it's a 'gentleman's game'. You will require (if you love yourself) pads to cover your legs, gloves to cover your fingers and a helmet to preserve your face as it is now.

There are basically three versions of the game. These are, namely, Test cricket (which takes place over five days and can be a trifle boring at times), One Day cricket (which involves fifty overs a side) and T20 cricket (twenty overs a side). The cricket purist usually goes for Test cricket, whilst those who like quick action prefer T20 and One Day cricket.

Cricket is played on an oval field with a rectangular playing surface, called a pitch or wicket, in its centre. There are creases that are white lined and are roughly twenty yards apart. Then, there are six cylindrical wooden poles called stumps or wickets, which have four small cylindrical grooved pieces of wood called bails placed on top of them. Three stumps and two bails are placed opposite each other 22 yards apart. The batsmen reside at either end of the pitch or wicket, and one bowler bowls an over at a time, whilst another bowls from the other end.

So, what's an 'over'? An over has six bowls in it, provided the bowler has not offended the rules of bowling with a 'no-ball' or a 'wide' - very technical terms.

Each team has eleven players, not including substitutions in case of injury.

What is the object of the game? The fielding or bowling side must 'get out' or dismiss the batting side for as few runs as possible. Then, the side that was previously bowling will become the side that is batting to score the runs by the first batting side - confused yet?

How do we get out the batting side? We must get ten wickets or get out ten batsmen of the batting team - easy to understand. But how do we score runs? First, the batsman must hit the bowl and attempt to make a run depending on where it goes. The two batsmen must cross each other and ground their bat or person behind the crease (white lines on the opposite side of the pitch or wicket) to score or make a run.



## TWENTY20 CRICKET – FAST AND FURIOUS

By now, you may have realised that some words in cricket have a duality of names and meaning. You can run between the wickets or stumps for as long as the fielder has not thrown the ball back in to break the stumps or the wickets. Confused now?

There are boundaries that act as limits to the playing field, and if the ball bounces before crossing the boundary, you will automatically get four runs. If the ball goes over the boundary, you get six runs automatically - a type of bonus score.

There are several ways to get out a batsman. Firstly, you can bowl them by hitting their stumps. Or, if they hit the ball in the air, you can catch it before it hits the ground. You can 'run them out' by throwing the bowl at the stumps while they are running between the stumps. Another way is 'LBW', which is purposely preventing the ball from hitting the wicket or the stumps with your leg (covered with pads, hopefully). Or finally, a batsman can be struck and made to retire injured, although he can come back later and resume his innings.

In a nutshell, if my team scores one hundred runs and your team scores a hundred and one runs, you win the game!

*By Patterson Thompson*

Also called T20, Twenty20 cricket is a shortened form of the game that has taken the cricketing world by storm. Introduced in 2003 with an emphasis on hitting and scoring, it has made cricket fast, furious and instant. Thanks to this, it has gained a whole new audience, especially for the younger crowd for whom a five-day-long Test match can simply be too long. Although some purists of the game aren't so keen on T20, the general feeling is that anything that encourages people to take an interest in cricket can only be good.

The game is played on a standard cricket ground with traditional one-day rules, with some exceptions. Bowling teams are forced to complete their 20 overs (120 balls) inside the 75-minute time limit, meaning they have an average of three minutes and 45 seconds per over.

England was the first country to officially adopt a T20 tournament back in 2003, and today, all major nations have their own domestic T20 competitions. The Caribbean is no exception. The Caribbean Premier League is an annual month-long T20 cricket tournament that combines a colourful carnival experience with the region's most loved sport.

The West Indies are the only team that has won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup twice since its inauguration in 2007. And since the 2024 World Cup is to be hosted jointly by the West Indies and the United States, interest in this thrilling game can only be on the rise.



# THE FOUR KNIGHTS OF ANTIGUAN CRICKET



## SIR ANDY ROBERTS

### What was the highlight of your career?

I had many highlights during my career between 1974 and 1983. The one that stands out is when the West Indies beat Australia in Australia for the first time, especially because I played a significant role in winning the third test match. Secondly was winning the 1975 World Cup.

### What is your childhood memory of playing cricket?

When I was five or six, I used to go to the village and watch what we used to call a 'ball game'. My mother always used to say, "There's no future in ball game." But the passion was deep inside of me. On Sundays, I used to get all my chores done quickly so that on the way to Sunday School, I could stop for a few hours to watch one a game. I was scared of the ball, so I only used to play with a tennis ball and didn't use the harder ball until I was 16. Not many people could fast bowl a tennis ball, but I could, which certainly helped me later in life.

### How do you see the future of West Indies cricket?

We dominated cricket for 15 consecutive years, which hasn't been done in any team sport before or after. That was because of the love for the game. Today, I think we must start from the grassroots, ensuring that cricket is played in schools so children develop a love of it from a young age.

## SIR CURTLY AMBROSE

### What was the highlight of your cricket career?

In the beginning, it was playing my first game for Swetes, the village I'm from. Moving on to the Antigua national team was even more special as I was representing my country. After that, I started playing first-class cricket for the Leeward Islands cricket team. Of course, being chosen to play for the West Indies cricket team is the ultimate and brought me the most joy.

### What is your childhood memory of playing cricket?

I never wanted to play cricket! When I say this, people always look at me strangely because I've been so successful at the game. However, I wanted to play basketball in the NBA! My mother, who loves cricket with a passion, forced me into playing cricket, and once I started, my career took off quickly. I have no regrets because playing for my country for so many years was a privilege and an honour.

### How do you see the future of West Indies cricket?

At one time, from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s, we were the best team in the world. We were unbeaten in a test series for 15 years. This is unheard of in any sport. From the mid-1990s, our success started to wane. But we are building back up, and although we are no longer the best team in the world, we are still full of naturally gifted players. I believe that we will get back to the top.







## SIR RICHIE RICHARDSON

### **What was the highlight of your cricket career?**

When I got that initial call telling me that I was selected for the West Indies, something that had been my dream from a young age. It was an eerie feeling when I was in my first Test Match; in the dressing room, I felt like I was floating. And when I looked around and saw all these great names like Viv Richards, Clive Lloyd and the likes, I just couldn't believe it. But I had to get my feet on my ground and start playing if I wanted to be like these highly professional guys.

### **How would you describe cricket to someone who knows nothing about it?**

Cricket is a highly complex game. I played all my life before retirement, and even now, I am working as a cricket referee, but I still find it complicated, and there are things I still don't understand! T20 is an excellent tool to introduce cricket to countries that have never played it before. It's exciting, shorter and easier to catch onto.

### **How do you see the future of West Indies cricket?**

Ever since West Indies started playing, they have captured the love of people worldwide. After our successes, we took it for granted that we would remain the best team. We are now struggling to get back up the ladder, although we are still respected because of our reputation. We have great players, but we need to do more to promote the game in schools and communities and invest more in the sport. We have to believe that we can be the best in the world again. We were, and we can be again.

## SIR VIV RICHARDS

### **What was the highlight of your cricketing career?**

When I was a little boy, my friends and I used to run away from school and climb up into the mahogany trees that grew around the cricket ground to watch our favourite players play. Sometimes, too many of us were on the same limb, and it would break. We would fall inside the ground and scamper in all directions while the groundsmen and police tried to catch us! Years later, when I broke the world record for the fastest hundred on the same cricket ground, I remembered those days and my passion for the game as a boy. My dreams had come true. It was a very special moment.

### **How was it playing cricket when you were young?**

I played school cricket and represented my neighbourhood in inter-neighbourhood competitions. Having brothers in my family and a father who played provided that passion for the game and an insight into what I wanted to do.

### **How do you see the West Indies team going forward?**

I believe that the West Indies played very well against England in the recent Test Series, which is a great positive. Winning creates confidence, everyone feels good, and there is a vibrant mood and energy. So I think everyone is in a good place after this Series, and hopefully, they can continue with this success. I also hope this win makes the fans happy - after what has happened over the past couple of years, people need something to focus on. I'm hoping this win has created that path.



When a batsman scores 100 runs, it is called a century and is considered an achievement.

The longest cricket match was 12 days long, played in 1939 between England and South Africa and ended in a draw because the English wanted to catch their ship back home!

The first recorded Women's cricket match was in England in 1745. In November 2021, the International Cricket Council (ICC) retrospectively applied first-class and List A status to women's cricket, aligning it with the men's game.

Enjoyed by 2.5 billion fans in 180 countries, cricket is the 2nd most-loved sport in the world.

The West Indies cricket team is made up of players from 16, mainly English-speaking, Caribbean countries.

The Nelson or a score of 111 is considered to be unlucky – a common cricket myth is that something bad or unfortunate will happen to a team or player who gets this score.

Australia's Donald Bradman is considered the greatest batsman of all time, with an unmatched 99.94 Test batting average.

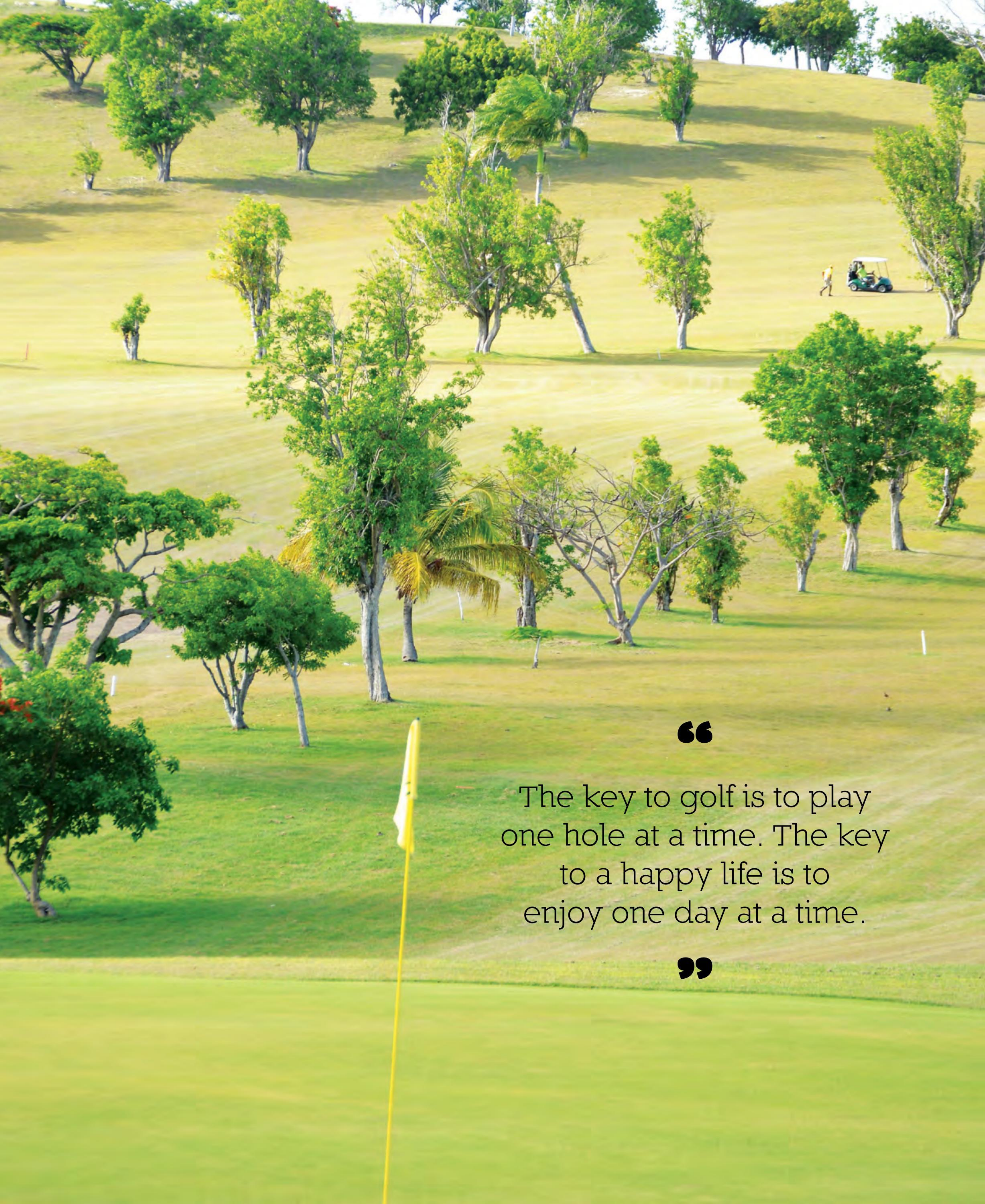
The name 'cricket' is believed to have originated from 'criquet', the Old French word for stick, goal, or post. It may also have come from "kricke", a Middle Dutch term for stick or staff.

Together with the game rounders, baseball's origins are said to have been in cricket.

Sir Vivian Richards scored the fastest century in Test history in 1986. He also holds the record of winning the Man of the Match award 31 times.

The first recorded game was played in England in 1646. After that, fines were handed out to those who missed the church to play cricket.





“

The key to golf is to play one hole at a time. The key to a happy life is to enjoy one day at a time.

”

# INTERVIEW

## Wyclef Jean

# W

Wyclef Jean is a Haitian rapper, singer, songwriter and actor. He emigrated with his family to the United States at the age of ten and exploded onto the scene as a member of legendary hip hop group the Fugees alongside Lauryn Hill and Pras Michel. Their award-winning album, *The Score*, released 25 years ago, became one of the best-selling albums of all time. Wyclef's solo career has continued to flourish, as has his philanthropic work. And as well as producing and releasing his own music and eight studio albums, he has produced the work of musicians such as Michael Jackson, Mick Jagger, Whitney Houston and Destiny's Child. Wyclef is a regular visitor to the shores of the twin islands where *The Citizen* caught up with this multi-talented artist to find out about his background and where his love of music came from.

### **How important is your Caribbean background?**

I always say that the best part about the US is the cultural experience, the idea that people come from different places but still share something. And those from the Caribbean come from a very unique space. So, what is it about the Caribbean people that are different from the Black community in America? We're not going to say we're from enslaved people because we are all from slaves. But we Caribbeans have a very natural spiritual gift in that our African ancestral roots are deeply embedded in us.

### **When did you start being interested in music?**

Music has shaped me as a person. I came from Haiti at the age of 10 without speaking a word of English. We lived in Brooklyn, where my father was a minister, and so at a young age I was thrown into the pool of worshipping, music and singing. I am a "gospel kid" like Aretha Franklin and Marvin Gaye.

### **How did you become a musician?**

I feel I need to tell this story as sometimes kids only see someone's success, not the long journey it took to get there. When I was a kid, I fell in love with the idea of music, and I decided to learn everything about it on my own. So by 15 or 16 years old, I could play around ten different instruments - all self-taught.

My parents decided to move us to New Jersey for a better life, and I started at a new school. One day, I was in the auditorium playing the piano, and Valerie Price, my music teacher, walked in. I always make sure to credit her as she did so much for me. She asked me - keep in mind, this isn't





a private school, but one in the middle of the project community - how I'd learned the piano. I told her I could simply hear it in my head, and when I closed my eyes, I could see the numbers one, three and five on my right hand and one and five on my left hand. I still don't understand what these numbers mean, but when I close my eyes, I see numbers. It is a natural gift, just like Stevie Wonder has; he can tell anyone's zodiac sign by simply holding them. The teacher told me that I was going to start learning jazz the very next day. My first reaction was that I didn't want to learn jazz as it was for old people, and I wanted to be a battle rapper like LL Cool J! But she wouldn't take no for an answer.

I became deep-rooted in Miles Davies and Art Blakey, and by the time I was 17, I was a jazz prodigy. This teacher raised money so we could compete in a jazz competition in Pasadena, and we won it. This is what I want the kids to understand; I wasn't thinking about when I was going to get a Bentley; I just wanted to be the best at jazz. And this was before I was introduced to pop music or the Fugees.

### **How did the Fugees come about?**

One day Pras called me to tell me he was in the studio with two girls, and he needed me to come and sing a hook. The producer happened to be Khalis Bayyan, Kool's brother from Kool and the Gang. When I turned up and saw these two beautiful women, Lauryn Hill and Marcy Harriel, I was sold - remember I was a teen then! After singing, Khalis said there was something magical about the four of us playing together. So, we all signed a contract and released the first Fugees album, which was called *Blunted on Reality*. But it's important to say that this didn't happen overnight; we were rehearsing night and day.

### **Where did the name Fugees come from?**

Fugees is short for 'refugees' because of the constant overflow caused by political instability. Whether they're from Cuba or Haiti, refugees get on a boat without really knowing where they are going. My ideology has always been very militant, even as a young kid.

### **What message would you like to give youth today?**

I want them to understand that when creating something, they need to think about whether someone will dig this long after they're gone. They have to make things timeless. They see the mansions, cars and jewels, and they want all of that. But the reality is that only a very few of us achieve that kind of success, and they need to think about how we got there in the first place. I'm not saying the cars aren't fly, or the mansions aren't fly, but people also need to think about whether they are just materialistic or vain or if they really want to stand for something important.

For kids in the Caribbean, I would tell them about the power of Africa. The youth of Africa understood their worth and the power of their music. They didn't want to compromise on their music, so they called it Afrobeat as they were proud of being African. We need to see more of that in the Caribbean. There are indeed different, exciting sounds coming out of the Caribbean, such as Raboday music from Haiti where the kids take the root sound of the streets, put electro against it and then rap on it - it's become their own thing. I want the Caribbean kids to know that their culture is their power, so dig into it.

I WANT THE CARIBBEAN  
KIDS TO KNOW  
THAT THEIR CULTURE  
IS THEIR POWER.

### **What is so special about Antigua for you?**

When I'm in Antigua, my soul feels at home. I plan to buy land and build a home here, and that's a huge thing for me. I have a huge family, and we have a tradition where all the cousins get together once a year - somewhere with a family vibe that doesn't involve a funeral! I can imagine doing that get-together in Antigua, and I don't feel that way in many places.

### **What's coming up for you?**

Netflix is making a film inspired by my life in Haiti called, *The Prince of Port-au-Prince*, based on how I escaped poverty through imagination. It's a big production, and a lot of money is being spent. We have the man who wrote the recent *Jungle Book* and the producer of the last *Spiderman* onboard. What is exciting is that I get to reinvent a new picture of Haiti to the world through music, allowing me to put 'Kreglish' [Creole meets English] in animation and introduce children to new words. I've also created this app called Sodo Mood Lab for movie studios. The idea is that composers who want to put their music in films can place their music on the app's database, thus allowing music supervisors access to composers of diversity that they would not usually find. Now, every child, no matter where they're from, who thinks they could score the music for the next *Mission Impossible* or *Gladiator*, will be able to link to Sodo. ●

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

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







# Dean Fenton

**A**lthough Dean Fenton may be known in more professional circles as the successful USA Director of Tourism for Antigua & Barbuda, his passion for poetry may be less known. However, having published two poetry books in as many years, *Waltzing In The Breeze* and *My Time At The Door*, his writing career is going from strength to strength. Born in Antigua, Dean moved to New York in his early teens. After graduating from Baruch College in New York City, he worked for several research companies before embarking on a career in tourism. Prior to working at the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority, he worked at Anguilla Tourism Board for several years. Today, as the USA Director of Tourism, he oversees all marketing and sales initiatives for the twin islands. The Citizen caught up with Dean to find out about his love and passion for the written word.

## **How and why did you decide to start writing poetry?**

I'd always been fascinated with reading as a kid; I always had stories in my head. Writing became my innate passion towards communicating, which I could not do via other mediums, so I found writing a way to express myself to the fullest. It became cathartic for me, escapism at its best, filled with joy.

## **You've released two books of poetry: *Waltzing In the Breeze* and *My Time at the Door*. Can you tell us a bit about both books and how they differ?**

*Waltzing In The Breeze* is full of nostalgia and a yearning for the good old days. This collection embraces the living of life and its pitfalls. In my travels around the world, I have always searched for something I could write about that could take on a life of its own.

I was always fascinated with the art of storytelling, an art form that genuinely lacks any prejudices regarding upbringing or education. In this, my short volume of poems, I have attempted to define my passion for life, existence and truth. As the world moves further into the digital age, I think only nostalgia will remain. →

*My Time At The Door* provides a surprising and enjoyable quiver of appreciation that imparts the particular message that is sought after, and it intends to provide solace in things that truly warm and touch your soul. In this second book of poetry, I wanted these poems to contribute in some way to the manifestation of a larger view, which will help us to see life and love for what it truly is to us so that we can live out its true meaning and purpose.

**Who or what influences your poetry?**

Having a passion for words and storytelling.

When I was young, I read many books that were inappropriate for my age level because I loved books. I started writing to express parts of myself. It was an attempt to understand myself during that time. I wrote about my inner world. I felt free – free with my thoughts and my words; a place I could escape in my mind, where I could express my joy, my pain and my hurt easier.

**Writing poetry can be a deeply personal process. How does it make you feel to make these innermost thoughts public?**

I love creating thoughts and stories that capture someone's imagination, as other authors have captured mine.

**How has being Caribbean shaped your poetry and who you are today?**

Growing up in the Caribbean, I was very passionate about having a purpose, and it's reflected in my writing. I remain open-minded as I search for the exact purpose in my life. My lens will always be modified, and so will my writing. So it's my belief that as I evolve, I'm exposed to more, with so many stories to share. It's like walking the beach calmly and seeing all around you. A Caribbean upbringing really embraced the concept of family and community. For example, the school, the church, and the community helped shape my childhood and early years. The guidance from elders, especially from my grandmother, and the storytelling, shaped my life and influenced my storytelling, poetry, and writing.

**You have a high-pressured job as the US Director of Tourism of Antigua & Barbuda. Does poetry provide an outlet for you?**

Certainly, the thrill of writing keeps me motivated throughout the day. Writing and reading are very therapeutic - they are my favourite pastimes - the more I write, the more ideas I get, which helps give a voice to my views on various topics I want to write about.

**What is your favourite poem that you wrote and why?**

It's from *Waltzing In The Breeze*, and it's called 'Time' because time is a green-eyed monster you cannot reason with. Yes, it's non-negotiable.

**Who is your favourite poet?**

Langston Hughes.

**They say everyone has a novel inside them. Is that something that interests you too?**

Absolutely. I think there is a book that lives in each of our hearts, and it's the one we wish to write, but many never do; I want to write mine. I want to deliver

GROWING UP IN THE  
CARIBBEAN, I WAS VERY  
PASSIONATE ABOUT  
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AND IT'S REFLECTED IN  
MY WRITING.

my inner thoughts into this medium instead of losing them with time.

**You're obviously a busy man. What do you like to do to unwind when you're not working or writing poetry?**

Travel the world, listen to music, take long walks, read, watch a good movie, play my favourite songs, and even the simplicity of a good soak in a warm bath. These things are essential. It's my counterbalance to a fast-paced, busy work schedule; it's what grounds me. These things nurture my mind and feed my soul.

**What is your favourite spot in Antigua & Barbuda?**

Falmouth Harbour. It is my Amalfi Coast, with a view like no other place on earth. This harbour has such a decadent setting. It has its own poetic and beautiful backdrop - without a doubt, the most charming place in the Caribbean.

**What is next for you?**

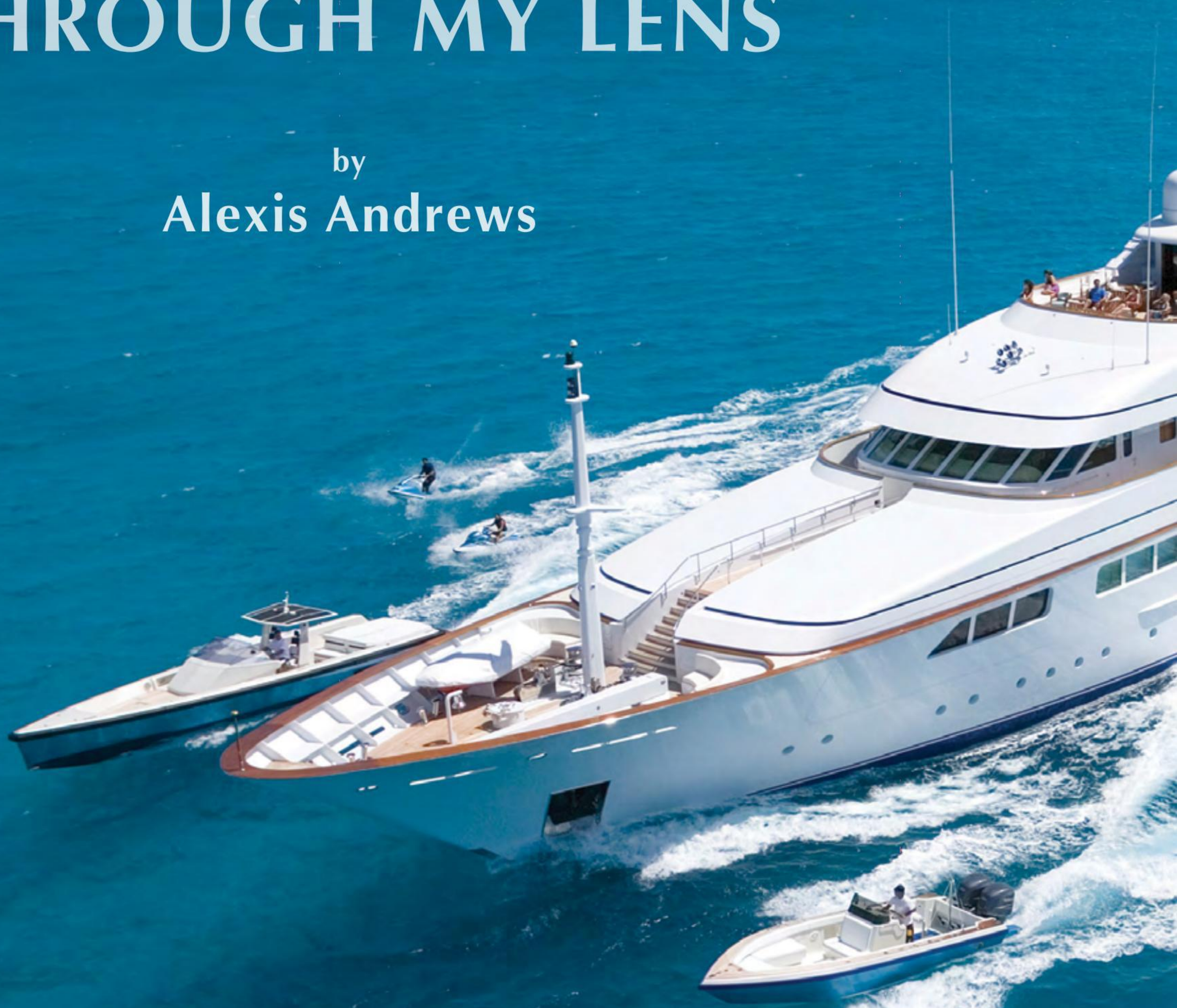
Writing more books. I am about to release a children's book called, *What My Feet Did This Summer*, and I also have a new book of poetry being published called *A Theory of Thoughts* to be released in the immediate future. So it's safe to say you can expect more books, novels and short stories from me - and who knows, maybe even a movie! ●



“ Explore, experience, live  
and invest in Antigua & Barbuda ”

# ANTIGUA THROUGH MY LENS

by  
**Alexis Andrews**





*Born in Greece, Alexis Andrews moved to London to study photography. In 1985 he sailed to Antigua and hasn't looked back since. Working as a commercial photographer in the yachting industry, his images have been featured in magazines and luxury charter advertising for over three decades. After purchasing an old Carriacou sloop that had sunk in Antigua, he rebuilt the vessel and sailed her back to the Grenadines to meet her creator. This sparked a coffee table book tribute to the last boatbuilders of the islands and the subject of a documentary film, Vanishing Sail, which won seven international festival awards.*







# QA



To view more of Alexis Andrews, go to [www.alexisandrews.com](http://www.alexisandrews.com) or [Instagram.com/alexis\\_antigua](https://www.instagram.com/alexis_antigua)

## **You've been living in Antigua for nearly 40 years now. How have you seen the islands change in that time?**

The entire region has changed considerably and continues to evolve. While the most striking changes have taken place in tourism developments, Antigua's coastline and offshore islands remain relatively untouched by commercialism. I do hope this continues to be the case. The continued success of our yachting industry is based on balancing respect for our marine environment and creating training opportunities for young Antiguanans in our highly specialised marine services sector.

## **After studying photography in London, you sailed to Antigua and became a photographer in the marine industry. What came first, your interest in sailing or your interest in photography?**

My interest in photography came at an early age as I grew up in a family of artists but the sea was never far from my thoughts. After several years travelling with a camera throughout Europe, Southeast Asia, Australia and the US I ended up working on a yacht that was heading to Antigua for Sailing Week. This is where I realised I could perhaps combine my two passions.

## **When you're not taking photos of superyachts, what type of photos do you like taking in your spare time?**

My work is varied, and I'm often called to shoot private villas, hotels as well as music industry projects. I enjoy every challenge that comes my way, and I especially enjoy working with

interesting people who are passionate and committed to their craft as well.

## **Who or what is your most significant influence?**

I continue to enjoy the work of the great masters in photography, but I also pay a lot of attention to my assistants as they are younger and see the world in new and different ways.

## **You started the St Barth's West Indies Regatta. That must have been a huge undertaking. What makes this regatta unique in the region?**

Not so long ago, all these islands were emerging nations and travel between them was on island-built sailing vessels. The people of St. Barthelemy like to honour their heritage and remind young people of simpler times. The event brings together traditional beach-built boats and sailors from the Windward and Leeward islands to race, play music and tell good stories.

## **Vanishing Sail was your first film. Are you planning to make any more?**

Long-form documentary is a very time-consuming discipline; Vanishing Sail was a 10-year adventure. These days I prefer short-film and video projects.

## **Where is your favourite spot in Antigua & Barbuda?**

Green Island. I have spent a lot of time there setting up photoshoots on large yachts, but when I have free time, I love to sail those waters with my family, especially in the summer months when there are few visitors - reminds me of the early days when I first saw Antigua as a young man. ●



AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITY  
of ANTIGUA

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

American University of Antigua College of Medicine (AUA) has provided medical education to students from around the globe. Presently, AUA has over 2500 graduates practicing in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, the Caribbean, India, and Africa.

In addition, AUA has:

- Awarded more than \$20 million USD in grant/scholarship funding to allow students from Antigua & Barbuda to attend AUA tuition-free.
- Collaborated with local high schools, colleges, and organizations on educational and community outreach programs, with AUA faculty, staff, and students contributing their personal and professional time.
- Provided over \$1million USD in donations and donated technological and healthcare supplies and training to organizations, including but not limited to Antigua & Barbuda Sickle Cell Association, the HALO Foundation, the Care Project, and the Antigua and Barbuda Royal Police Force



Jasmine Marcelin, MD  
Valedictorian, AUA Class of 2011

# FLYING THE FLAG OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

One of the most important decisions for yacht owners is to choose the flag state, or the country of registry, of their yacht.

**S**hip and yacht registration has been a feature of maritime commerce for many centuries. Its roots are found in Britain with the Navigation Act 1660, which was the first time that ships needed to be registered. Meant initially to control ships carrying cargo in European seaborne countries, it ensured that not only were vessels built in the local country but that their crew were also predominantly made up of people from there. Today, in order to travel internationally, yachts and ships need to be documented and given the nationality of the country to which the vessel has been registered - their flag state - and are consequently subject to the laws of that country. Owners can register in whichever country best fits their needs, and this decision impacts the taxes, privacy issues, exposure to liability, and freedom to travel.

Since its inception in 1986, the Antigua & Barbuda Ship and Yacht Registry has grown progressively. Today, it is ranked among the top registries in the world's merchant fleet and backed by a sound and modern legislation, the Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act. Additionally, the flag of Antigua & Barbuda is listed on the White Lists for the Paris and Tokyo Memoranda on Port State Control, and is on the International Maritime Organization STCW White List for seafarers' certification.

Flags on these lists have demonstrated strong performance in the areas of safety, security, environmental protection, and seafarers' competency. This means any

potential registrants can rest assured of the impeccable reputation and quality of the Antigua & Barbuda flag.

Antigua & Barbuda's rich maritime history has always played a crucial role in the daily life and culture of the islands. Antigua became a key naval base for the British Royal Navy's Caribbean Fleet back in the 18th century with the construction of the world-renowned Nelson's Harbour, which today is the only continuously working Georgian dockyard in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site to boot.

Each year, yachts and sailing vessels flock to the twin islands' shore to take advantage of some of the world's best sailing and yachting conditions. In addition to the main port of entry in the capital St John's, there are several other ports, such as the incredible English Harbour, home to the above-mentioned Nelson's Dockyard and the location for the world-renowned Antigua Sailing Week, which takes place every April. In December, the global yachting elite flocks to the shores of Antigua for the Antigua Charter Yacht Show.

It, therefore, isn't surprising that the Antigua & Barbuda ensign is one of the preferred options for owners across the globe, thanks to the fact that ships and yachts flying the Antigua & Barbuda flag are welcome in all ports around the world. Registering ships and yachts in this twin island State is loaded with even more advantages.



IT ISN'T SURPRISING THAT THE ANTIGUA & BARBUDA ENSIGN IS ONE OF THE PREFERRED OPTIONS FOR OWNERS ACROSS THE GLOBE, THANKS TO THE FACT THAT SHIPS AND YACHTS FLYING THE ANTIGUA & BARBUDA FLAG ARE WELCOME IN ALL PORTS AROUND THE WORLD.

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The Registry allows for the registration and discharge of mortgages, change of ownership, transfer of ownership and other similar services. Not only that, with no corporate taxes and almost no sales tax, registering a yacht in the twin islands can play an essential part in someone's tax efficiency strategy. The Antigua & Barbuda Ship and Yacht Registry also offers competitive registration and maintenance fees, and vessels flying the country's flag are supported by a worldwide coverage of nautical professionals that perform statutory surveys, inspections, audits and issue mandatory statutory certificates that enable these vessels to trade globally. The fact that Antigua & Barbuda has a stable government, and its legal system is based on English Common Law, is another positive, giving peace of mind to both ship and yacht owners. And with a range of vessels able to be registered in the twin islands, ranging from cargo ships, yachts, passenger ships and recreational crafts, not surprisingly, it is common to see the flag of Antigua & Barbuda flag flying proudly across every sea and ocean on the globe. ●

# NEW CITIZEN

Some of Antigua & Barbuda's newest citizens are Indian Vivek Rao and his family. Vivek and his Lebanese wife have lived in Dubai for 27 years, where Vivek works as Chief Commercial Officer at The First Group, an innovative property development and real estate company. The Citizen chatted to Vivek to find out what being an Antiguan citizen means to him and his family.



# VIVEK RAO

## **What were your principal reasons for deciding to take a new citizenship?**

Since I had an Indian passport and my wife had a Lebanese passport, we wanted to provide a more globally acceptable citizenship for our two children. The citizenship programme with Antigua & Barbuda looked the most suitable and appropriate for our requirements.

## **Why did you choose the Antigua & Barbuda programme?**

It was the most credible and affordable programme for our family of four. We were very impressed with the benefits, especially the flexibility of travel. So, in this new world where we experience new surprises in travel restrictions, we saw the programme as being perfect.

## **You rescinded your Indian passport and nationality and have taken Antiguan citizenship as your primary nationality. Why did you make that decision?**

Indian citizenship does not allow dual nationality, so I did not really have a choice. However, more importantly, I like to feel and experience the country and culture that has welcomed us, and I did not see any advantage in continuing to have an Indian passport.

## **How important is it that new citizens spend five days as one of the requirements?**

The idea of mandating a visit to the country was actually one of the features that struck me as being so immensely credible for the programme. In all honesty, I believe this is a fantastic idea, and the visit undoubtedly brings you closer to your country and perhaps even encourages further visits.

## **What was your impression of Antigua & Barbuda?**

I had heard a lot from friends, and when I landed there, I truly experienced the magic of being so close to nature. I particularly loved the rainforest and am looking forward to building my retirement home in this area.

## **Would you consider investing in the island?**

I will most definitely be investing in some form or the other on the islands. Being in real estate all my life, the ideas that naturally come up are in relation to tourism and real estate. However, my thoughts are changing these days, and from a diversification-of-income perspective, there are several other investment ideas we would consider sharing with the authorities in Antigua & Barbuda in the near future.

*"I will most definitely be investing in some form or the other on the islands."*

## **You have now become an authorised representative of the Antigua & Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Programme. Can you tell us more about why you've made that decision?**

Upon becoming a citizen, I was approached by several friends and family members for advice and suggestions. We also had several clients who were very interested in it. In order to serve them in a more direct manner with first-hand experience, I thought it would be a great idea to obtain the license and market the programme directly.

## **What would you tell someone considering Antiguan citizenship?**

My immediate response would be that they are thinking in the right direction. I would most definitely encourage them to do it. The success of the programme is to expand its network and create a more credible organisation of its CBI citizens so they can offer more to the country even after obtaining citizenship. ●



CONSERVATION

# WE ARE A CONSEQUENCE OF THE LIVING SOIL

by  
Sadhguru





**I**n most Indian languages, soil is referred to as Mother Earth. This is because there is a deep understanding in the culture that it is from Mother Earth that we are born. Our biological mother is only a representative; the real mother is the soil that we carry as our body. Even today, most farmers in southern India bow down to the soil before they step on it because the culture taught them that soil is the basis of their life. But in the world today, we have started referring to soil as dirt. If soil is dirt, then we are all dirtbags!

Who we are right now is a consequence of the living activity that is happening in the soil. A handful of soil has five to seven billion organisms. Only if the soil is alive like that, does it produce food. It is a completely wrong approach to treat soil as an inert substance on which you can throw chemicals and grow and extract things. It is a living soil.

It is the microbial infrastructure in the soil that has led to the evolution of larger, more sophisticated and complex creatures, including you and me. Scientists point out that about a billion years ago when photosynthesis didn't yet exist on the planet, the oxygen content in our atmosphere

the atmosphere, converts it into carbon sugars and trades very judiciously with the microbes for whatever it needs in terms of nitrogen, phosphorus, magnesium, iron, etc. Without this complex trading system in soil, life cannot exist.

We are only a consequence of what is happening beneath our feet in the form of soil. But every year, on average, 27,000 species of microbial life become extinct on the planet. This means we are heading towards a serious depletion of soil, and in turn, depletion of all life. Life on this planet is a carbon chain and as in any chain, if we break one link, the whole chain will collapse.

Unfortunately, this link that we call soil has worn dangerously thin. United Nations agencies are saying that the planet may only have agricultural soil for another 80–100 crops. That means we would run out of soil in 45–60 years and if that happens, there will be a major food crisis on the planet; we are looking at famines by 2035 or 2040. We as a generation of people are facing a challenge; but at the same time, it is a privilege that we find ourselves on the cusp of a time where we can pull ourselves back

*We are trying to move 60 percent of the world's electorate to speak up for soil, in order that governments are confident to make long-term investments in soil regeneration.*

was only about 1.2 percent. There is no way you and I, or indeed any complex life, could have existed at that time. Only microbial life could exist. This microbial life evolved into algae, fungi and other organisms which then started photosynthesis, a magical process powered by a limitless amount of solar energy. All the other millions of life forms on the planet evolved out of that. Although we human beings do not have green leaves on our heads, and we are not carrying out photosynthesis, we are in fact a consequence of photosynthesis.

Today, it is common knowledge that without the help of the gut microbiome, you cannot digest the food that you eat. Even if you eat the best food, without the necessary microbial life in your gut, you will not be able to get the necessary nutrients. Our gut microbes come essentially from the soil; they evolved themselves to live in our bodies, but they are very similar to those found in the soil. The plants cannot absorb nourishment from the soil directly by themselves and only happens as an exchange between microbial life and plant life. Plant life captures carbon from

from the precipice. If we act now, in the next 10–15 years global soil could be turned around significantly. If we cross this threshold, it will become very difficult for future generations to live here.

#### **POLICY CHANGE THROUGH THE CONSCIOUS PLANET – SAVE SOIL MOVEMENT**

Enshrining long-term soil health and biodiversity in national policies and manifestos of all political parties is vital, because, without this, action will not be sustained. We may do something fancifully for a few days and then retract again. The Conscious Planet – Save Soil movement is an effort to bring in policy change. We have written to the heads of state of 192 countries and 730 political parties to bring in a policy that a minimum of three to six percent of organic content must be contained in agricultural land. Many heads of state that I have spoken to have soil in their vision, but they do not dare to talk to the people about it because the people are not willing to address life as a long-term process. Everyone has needs for today and tomorrow. Therefore, we

are trying to move 60 percent of the world's electorate to speak up for soil, in order that governments are confident to make long-term investments in soil regeneration.

I am currently on a 30,000 km, lone motorcycle ride covering 27 nations in 100 days. Many of the nations are beginning to commit to saving soil. It is fantastic that six nations of the Caribbean, pearls of the ocean – small in size but big in vision – have taken the first step towards taking soil regeneration as a national policy. Thank you, Prime Minister Browne and all the leaders who have shared this unwavering commitment to address the soil degradation crisis. This should be an inspiration for the rest of the world because when it comes to biodiversity and soil, national boundaries mean nothing. It has to be addressed globally. If we have any commitment to life on this planet, if we have any commitment to future generations on this planet, this is a must-do for every nation.

#### **THE WAY FORWARD IN THE CARIBBEAN**

One important thing to do in the Caribbean is to draw a current contour map of topsoil depths across the islands. Everyone thinks agriculture should happen in squares because we have seen such pictures from plain lands. However, agriculture need not happen in squares or rectangles; it needs to happen according to the contours. We must learn to live with the contours of the land and grow crops within that. That is the only way forward for any land to be sustainable for long periods of time.

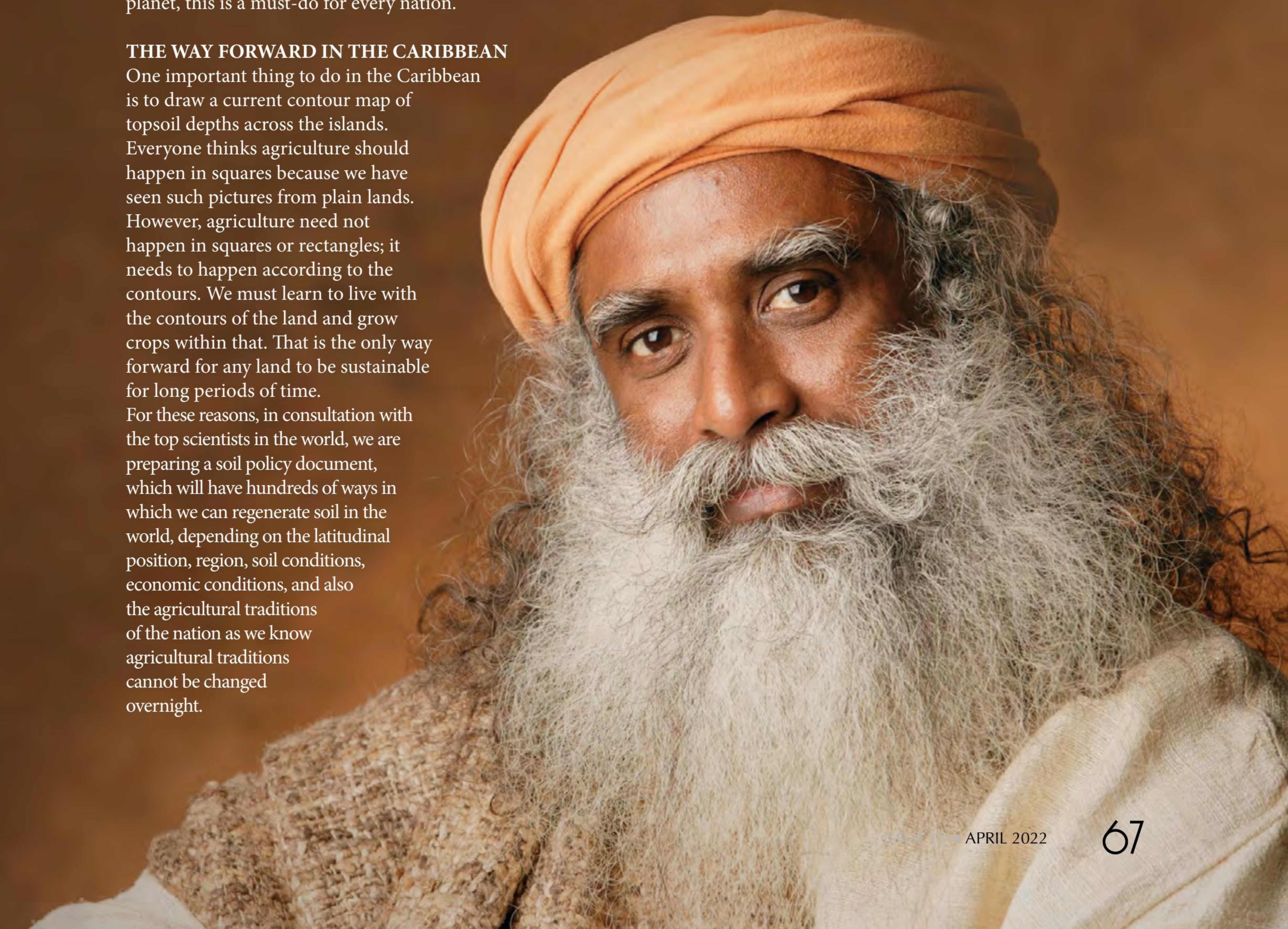
For these reasons, in consultation with the top scientists in the world, we are preparing a soil policy document, which will have hundreds of ways in which we can regenerate soil in the world, depending on the latitudinal position, region, soil conditions, economic conditions, and also the agricultural traditions of the nation as we know agricultural traditions cannot be changed overnight.

Many UN agencies have joined us. We have active partnerships with United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), World Food Programme (WFP), and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) scientists are also working with us. We are also setting up a group of 25–30 scientists who will handhold small countries for the next 24 months to see that soil regeneration can be embedded into their policy and also in action on the ground. Let us make it happen! ●

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# INTERVIEW

## Antilles Stillhouse

Overlooking the picture-postcard English Harbour in the extreme south of Antigua sits the family-run Antilles Stillhouse. Surrounded by a lush garden humming with life, this artisanal distillery – the only one in the twin islands – is run by Antiguan-born David Murphy and his Canadian wife, Sonu. Producing small-batch spirits made with the delicious natural and raw ingredients found in Antigua, their products are a true celebration of Caribbean flavours. Whether customers choose to visit the distillery for a tour and a wonderful afternoon of tasting their botanical spirits or indulge in a mouth-watering cocktail in one of the many restaurants and bars on the island that stock Antilles Stillhouse's beverages, their unique flavours will not fail to delight. *The Citizen* popped into the distillery to find out more about the alchemy that takes place in the distillery and try one of their delicious concoctions.

**David, your background is in winemaking, specialising in champagne-method sparkling wine. What made you return to Antigua from Canada and transition into spirit making?**

There's no place like home, and Antigua is a pretty special place to call home. I'd always felt that pull, although it was incompatible with life as a winemaker. A few years into the rabbit hole of distillation, it was hard to shake the thought that distilling is at home anywhere. →





**You distil botanical spirits. What exactly is a spirit, and how does it differ from other alcoholic drinks?**

With many spirit categories, the defining flavour is focused on the sugar source of the alcohol, such as grain to whiskey or molasses to rum. The defining flavour with a botanical spirit is that of botanical ingredients distilled with the base alcohol. Often, the alcohol used is distilled to a very high purity to taste neutral and clean, then distilled with the signature botanical that defines a category such as juniper in gin. There are gins made from apple, honey, wheat, and sugarcane. In any case, the defining flavour of each must be juniper, or it's not gin. The blend of additional botanicals makes that gin unique and are where creativity and sense of place come into play.

**Consumers are looking increasingly towards the 'farm-to-table' concept. How does the whole Antilles Stillhouse philosophy fit in with that?**

I think people are craving food and drink with authenticity and character. Our guiding thought is to bottle a sense of place using local ingredients and provide a connection to Antigua in how and where our spirits are made. What you have in the bottle is Antigua.

**You use a range of botanicals in your distilling, such as sorrel, fever grass and butterfly pea blossoms. Some of our readers may not even have heard of some of these products. What makes a good botanical for producing spirits?**

We are spoiled for choice for botanical flavours in Antigua, and I'm sure there are many more to discover! A prospective botanical must have an established safety status. For us, it also needs to be abundant and sustainable. Above all, it must be delicious and contribute something special, worthy of all the effort.

**As well as spirits, you also produce other products such as handcrafted soaps, pâté, sauces and pickles. Can you tell us more about your cottage crafts?**

I think we've both got a bit of homesteader in us. We've long tinkered with preserving, pickling, smoking, gardening and such. Sonu makes about the best pie you'll ever taste. We used to talk about taking our creations to

the farmers' markets but hadn't found the time until now. It's been a joy to see them so well received.

**David, you've been described as a 'brilliant mad scientist'. What makes you tick?**

I'm aware that I have a good thing going. This is one of those jobs that is a calling more than a career, so perhaps I get a bit excitable talking about techniques or plants. It doesn't help that visitors see me surrounded with the array of stainless fittings, sample tubes and lab gear you need in any small distillery, then the reputation sticks. My high school chemistry teacher would be astonished to see me now.

**Sonu, living in Antigua is hugely different from your upbringing in British Columbia. How has it been adjusting to life on a tropical island?**

Liberating and thankfully warmer! In Antigua, I've really found myself. My creative passions have flourished while setting up our business, and the best part is the network of people we have met on our journey. We have this lovely community of people who work together, encourage, and promote each other.

**Where is your favourite spot on the island?**

Not counting the Stillhouse, of course, I would have to say Halfmoon Bay. We were married there at dawn 16 years ago. I love the roaring waves and playing

boules on the sand with our daughter, just as I once did with my grandfather.

**What are the future plans for Antilles Stillhouse?**

It's an exciting thought. Our latest project has been expanding the 'gin garden' around the distillery, with useful spices, citrus and other botanicals. We're also hoping to soon expand sales into some neighbouring islands - places where our flavours still feel at home. It could also take a lifetime to explore the world of botanicals that we have here in Antigua and their potential. My hope is that we keep exploring, keep discovering, keep creating and keep producing spirits with a sense of place. ●

OUR GUIDING THOUGHT IS TO BOTTLE A SENSE OF PLACE USING LOCAL INGREDIENTS AND PROVIDE A CONNECTION TO ANTIGUA IN HOW AND WHERE OUR SPIRITS ARE MADE. WHAT YOU HAVE IN THE BOTTLE IS ANTIGUA.

# Pawprints in the sand

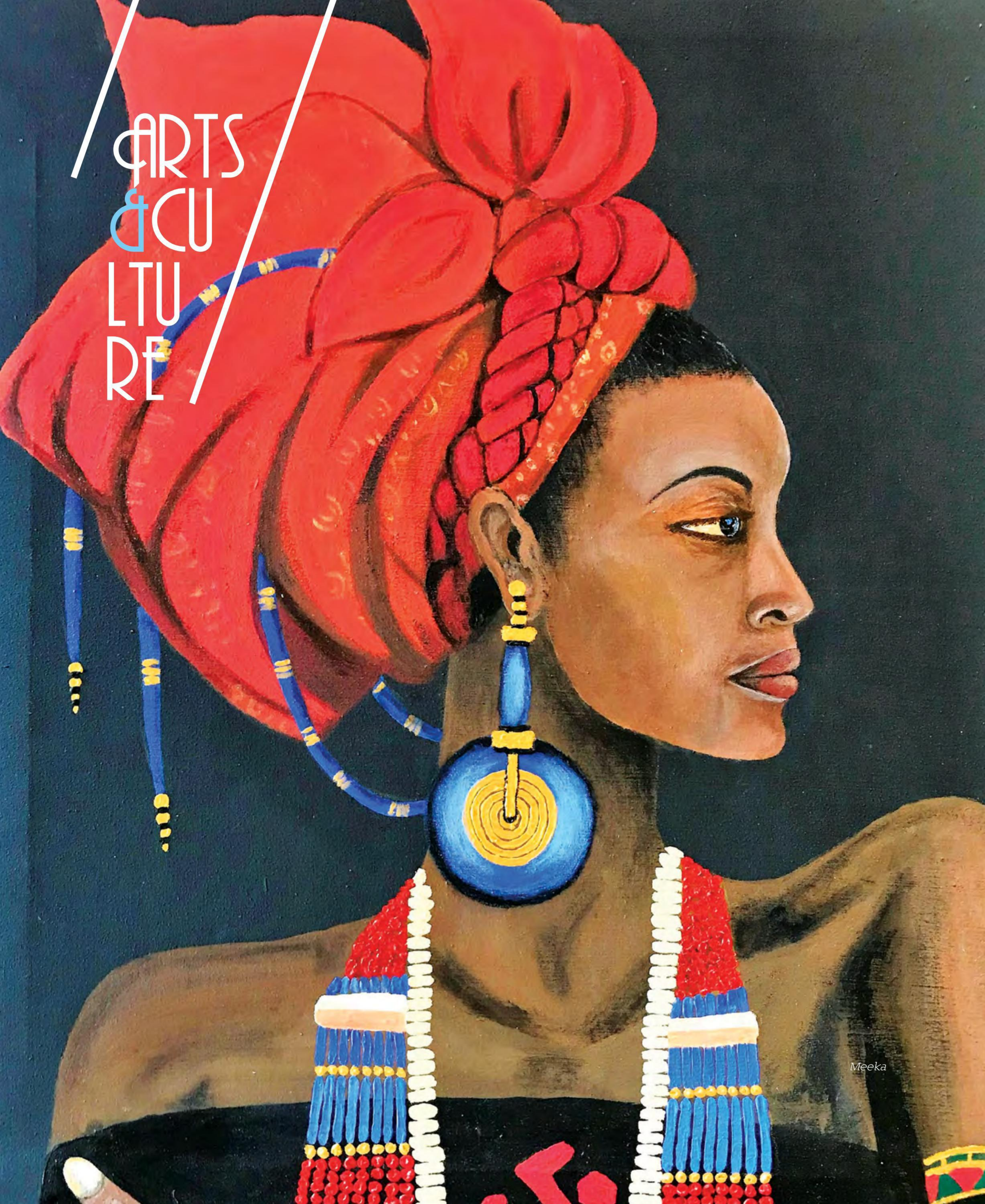
**DOGS & CATS OF ANTIGUA** is a registered non-profit working to assist animals in distress and increase their protection through feeding, veterinarian assistance, spay and neutering, fostering and rehoming. Many of our rescued dogs and cats are rehomed in the US and Canada. We need passengers to fly with them from Antigua to New York, Newark, Philadelphia, Boston or Toronto.

If you're travelling on booked tickets to any of these destinations with either Air Canada, American Airlines, JetBlue, United Airlines or WestJet, please help us by becoming a Travel Buddy to our furry friends and leave only their pawprints behind.



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ARTS  
& CU  
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RE



Meeka



German-born, Bert Kirchner has lived in Antigua for 42 years. As the owner of the famous restaurant, Papa Zouk, Film Commissioner, and Ambassador at Large of Antigua & Barbuda, as well as a long career as a film producer, Bert has had a colourful and interesting life, which recently became even more interesting.

Having caught Covid-19 back in 2020 and feeling rather unwell, Bert fainted, fell down some steps, and cracked his head on a concrete floor. What happened from that moment onwards sounds like something from a movie, although sometimes fact is stranger than fiction. Despite never having painted before, Bert was inspired to pick up a paintbrush. The results were astounding. Doctors have confirmed that after certain head injuries, people can develop “savant syndrome”, which in Bert’s case, unleashed a talent for painting that he never knew he had and still astounds him and those around him to this day. In total, Bert has created 69 paintings, and he continues to be inspired on his newly found artistic journey. ●



Bert Kirchner



Nautilus



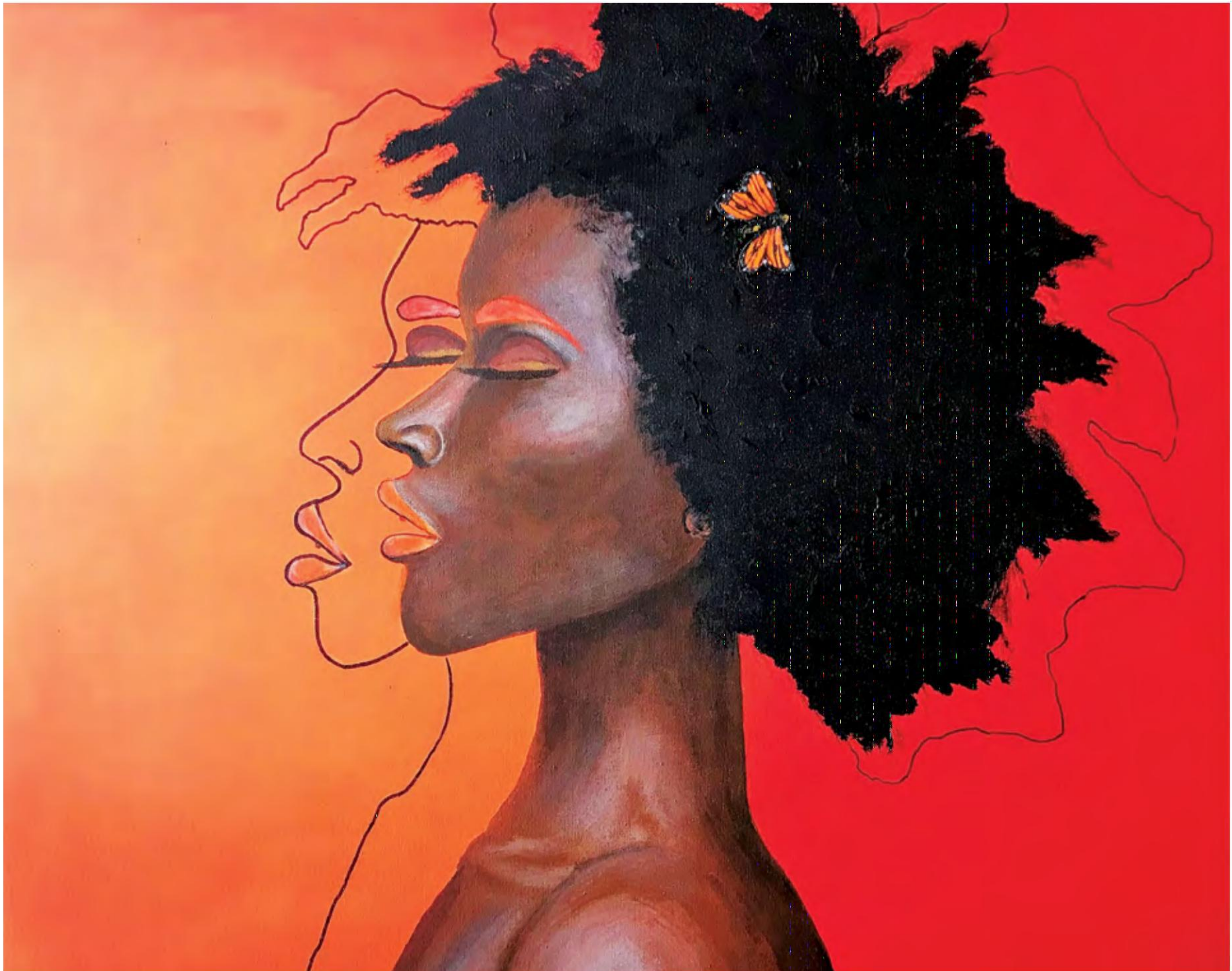
Jellyfish



Market Island Vibes



Flagship



Little Butterfly





*Deep Blue*



*Papa Zouk*



*Steelband Island Vibes*



*Sea Horse*

# PHILANTHROPY

## PROTECTING ALL CREATURES, GREAT AND SMALL

**T**There is no doubt that human suffering is rife in the world right now. And as things seem to be going from bad to worse, it is not surprising that there is an overwhelming desire to help our fellow beings. In light of this, it could be expected that animal philanthropy has fallen down the list of priorities. But unfortunately, this has always been the case. Just three percent of Americans' overall charitable gifts go to animal charities in the USA. Even in the traditionally animal-obsessed UK, it only comprises eight percent of all contributions.

The gamut of animal charities to choose from is vast. From rehoming cats and dogs, ensuring the welfare of zoo animals, protecting animals from being hunted or trafficked, or preventing species extinction, the threat to animals is regrettably infinite. The common denominator is, of course, the unstoppable domination of humans over animals and the widespread ideology that animals simply live for our use and ownership.

To a large degree, the extent to which animal charities are supported depends on where in the world you live. In countries where mere survival and the search to find food and medicines is all-consuming, animal welfare, protection and conservation are maybe understandably not top of the list. Even in the countries like the UK, which was the first country in the world to pass legislation to protect animals in 1822 with the Cruel Treatment of Cattle Act and is one of the countries at the forefront of animal safeguarding, donors to animal charities have a pretty specific demographic.

Animal charities form the best and often the only line of defence for the welfare of living creatures, protection against cruelty, and avoiding species extinction. But not all animals are considered equally. Most people are aware of the plight of the human-like gorilla, the loveable orangutan, the mighty tiger or the empathetic elephant. But what about the less appealing creatures, whose far-from-cuddly appearance makes them fly under the radar? Take invertebrates, for example. Although they make up about 79 percent of animal

life, they are only covered in 11 percent of conservation literature. The rare Cuban great funnel-eared bat or the rather unattractive but extremely endangered blobfish get given similar short shrift. There are also those like the fear-inspiring hammerhead shark, the Komodo dragon or the venomous katipo spider that certainly don't tug on our heartstrings like a lone, hungry polar bear drifting on ice. They may play a vital role in the global ecosystem, but their rather unattractive looks and perceived threat to humans mean their predicament is sometimes overlooked. Of course, no one is saying that charities like the World Wildlife Fund only focus on 'cute' animals, but certainly, using animals like the cuddly panda as their poster child doesn't harm their cause.

Putting largely ignored creatures in the spotlight is the aim of the Ugly Animal Preservation Society. Although they don't directly raise funds for the creatures they champion, they aim to raise awareness about these less-than-photogenic, endangered creatures and encourage people to start considering them for their charitable donations. Indeed, the need for conversation philanthropy is glaringly evident given the immense scale of the threat facing animals. *The Living Planet Report 2020*, which tracks global populations of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles, reveals that wildlife populations plunged by a whopping 68 percent between 1970 and 2016. Latin America and the Caribbean recorded the most disquieting drop, with an average fall of 94 percent in vertebrate wildlife populations, with reptiles, fish and amphibians most negatively affected. The situation is dire.

*Animal charities form the best and often the only line of defence for the welfare of living creatures, protection against cruelty and avoiding species extinction.*

Charitable organisations across the planet tirelessly strive to protect at-risk wildlife. In Antigua & Barbuda, the NGO Environmental Awareness Group (EAF) work to halt the twin islands' environmental degradation and restore ecosystems while protecting creatures like visiting turtle populations, the rare, endemic Antigua racer snake, and other endangered species in the region.

Away from the wild, it is unsurprisingly cats and dogs, long-time companions to humans, that dominate the charitable landscape. But it's important to realise that other animals like beleaguered farm animals or the 300 million animals



in laboratories around the globe are often suffering, with no voice but that of animal charities. In fact, Animal Charity Evaluations, an organisation that researches the effectiveness of various animal charities, reports that for every dog or cat euthanised in shelters in the US, about 360 farm animals have been killed. However, these invisible animals receive a paltry amount of current donations to animal charities. In any case, an animal that is considered man's best friend in a large swathe of the world can be viewed as a nuisance elsewhere. Couple this with irresponsible owners and the sense that animals are merely 'disposable items', many more puppies and kittens are born than there are loving homes to receive them. Without a stringent neutering and spaying system in place, the problem grows quicker than humans can solve. To put this into perspective, a single pair of cats and their offspring can produce a staggering 420,000 kittens in

just seven years. Not surprisingly, this leads to mass abandonments, stray animals, and in the US alone, millions of unwanted animals being euthanised each year.

Thanks to large organisations and small, grassroots charities across the globe like Dogs and Cats of Antigua (DACOA), abandoned animals and strays are protected, neutered and spayed. As well as finding forever homes for these animals with loving owners, DACOA aims to educate the public on how they can help reduce animal populations by neutering their own animals. Organisations like these make a real contribution to the welfare and safety of animals. One thing is sure in this world: animals cannot defend themselves nor lessen or eliminate the suffering inflicted on them by humans. It is up to all of us to value their lives as we value ours. ●

# WORTH NOTING

## TEAM ANTIGUA GIRLS TO ROW THE PACIFIC OCEAN

The fearless Team Antigua Girls made history in the 2018 Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge as the first all-female Caribbean team and the first all-black team to row across the Atlantic. The fabulous foursome, Christal Clashing, Elvira Bell, Kevinia Francis and Samara Emman, have announced that they will compete in the inaugural Pacific Challenge in 2023. The Pacific Challenge is a 2,800 nautical mile race from Monterey Bay in California to Nawiliwili Harbour in Kauai, Hawaii. Fundraising activities will start soon, and they have already begun their gruelling training to prepare themselves for this incredible feat.





## THE ECONOMY EXPERIENCING ROBUST GROWTH

During the presentation of the 2022-2023 budget, Prime Minister Gaston Browne revealed that the economy grew by 5.3 percent in 2021. This boost in the economy was a record for the twin islands in a 12-month period. The drivers for this growth were the recommencement of the tourism, leisure and construction sectors after the pandemic and their Citizenship by Investment Programme.



## SADHGURU AND MACHEL MONTANO IN ANTIGUA WITH SAVE SOIL MOVEMENT

Sadhguru and Machel Montano in Antigua with Save Soil movement  
World-renowned yogi and mystic Sadhguru Jagadish Vasudev, founder of Conscious Planet, accompanied by international Soca Star Machel Montano, was recently in Antigua to sign an MoU with Prime Minister Gaston Browne and other OECS countries in support of his global #SaveSoil campaign. The #SaveSoil initiative aims to educate the public about the vital role of soil in the planet's sustainable future and prompt national policies to secure future and present soil health. Thanks to the MoU, the twin islands will be implementing the necessary policies for soil regenerative practises to ensure a healthy soil and a sustainable future

## EXCITING ADVENTURES ON LAVISCOUNT ISLAND

A new adventure can be had at Laviscount Island. Located in the Northeast Marine Management Area, the Eastern Caribbean's biggest marine park, this private island has been prepared to host adventures. The island has the only Aldabra giant tortoise sanctuary in the Western Hemisphere, and visitors can also see the Lesser Antillean Iguana, a reptile that is endemic to the region. Walking trails, beaches and snorkelling are other attractions.

### ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION IN THE TWIN ISLANDS

Gaston Browne's 2022 budget statement, "Setting the Stage for Economic Rejuvenation", prioritises economic diversification, including the medicinal cannabis industry, the blue economy, medical and wellness tourism, financial technologies, and climate resilience.



### NEW BOUTIQUE HOTEL OPENS

The Weatherills Hotel is set to open in one of Antigua's oldest properties, a restored 17th-century colonial mansion. This boutique hotel, set in 40 acres of tropical gardens, will have a total of seven bedrooms, a restaurant and event space. There is also a working windmill on the property.







### NEARLY 100,000 CRUISE PASSENGERS IN FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 2022

The number of cruise passengers is on the rise in the twin islands. After a long hiatus, January saw over 50,000 passengers arrive on 64 ships that docked at one of the port's seven berths. Although numbers slightly dropped in February, nearly 45,000 passengers arrived on 59 cruise ships. This growth is welcome news for a sector that is a major contributor to Antigua's economy.

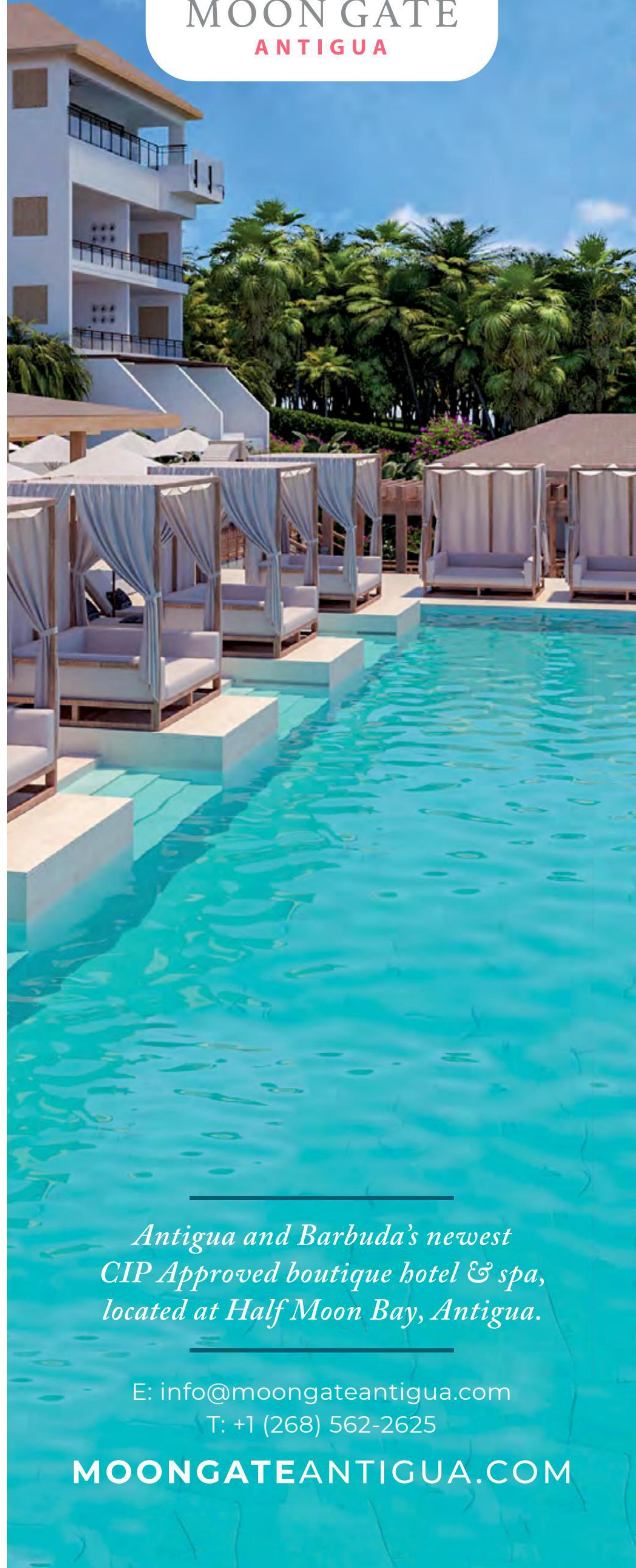


### THE CARIBBEAN WITH ANDI AND MIQUITA

Well-known broadcaster and restaurateur Andi Oliver and her presenter daughter Miquita travelled to Antigua & Barbuda for a BBC series, *The Caribbean with Andi and Miquita*, which was aired in January. The first episode filmed in the twin islands shows the mother and daughter duo reconnecting with their Antiguan roots on a revealing and poignant trip.

### U19 MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP IN ANTIGUA

The West Indies hosted the 14th edition of the ICC Under 19 Men's Cricket World Cup in January and February. It was the first to have been held in the West Indies. Antigua & Barbuda hosted the Super League round comprising four quarterfinals, two semi-finals and the final at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium and Coolidge Cricket Grounds. The final took place between India and England, with India winning the cup.



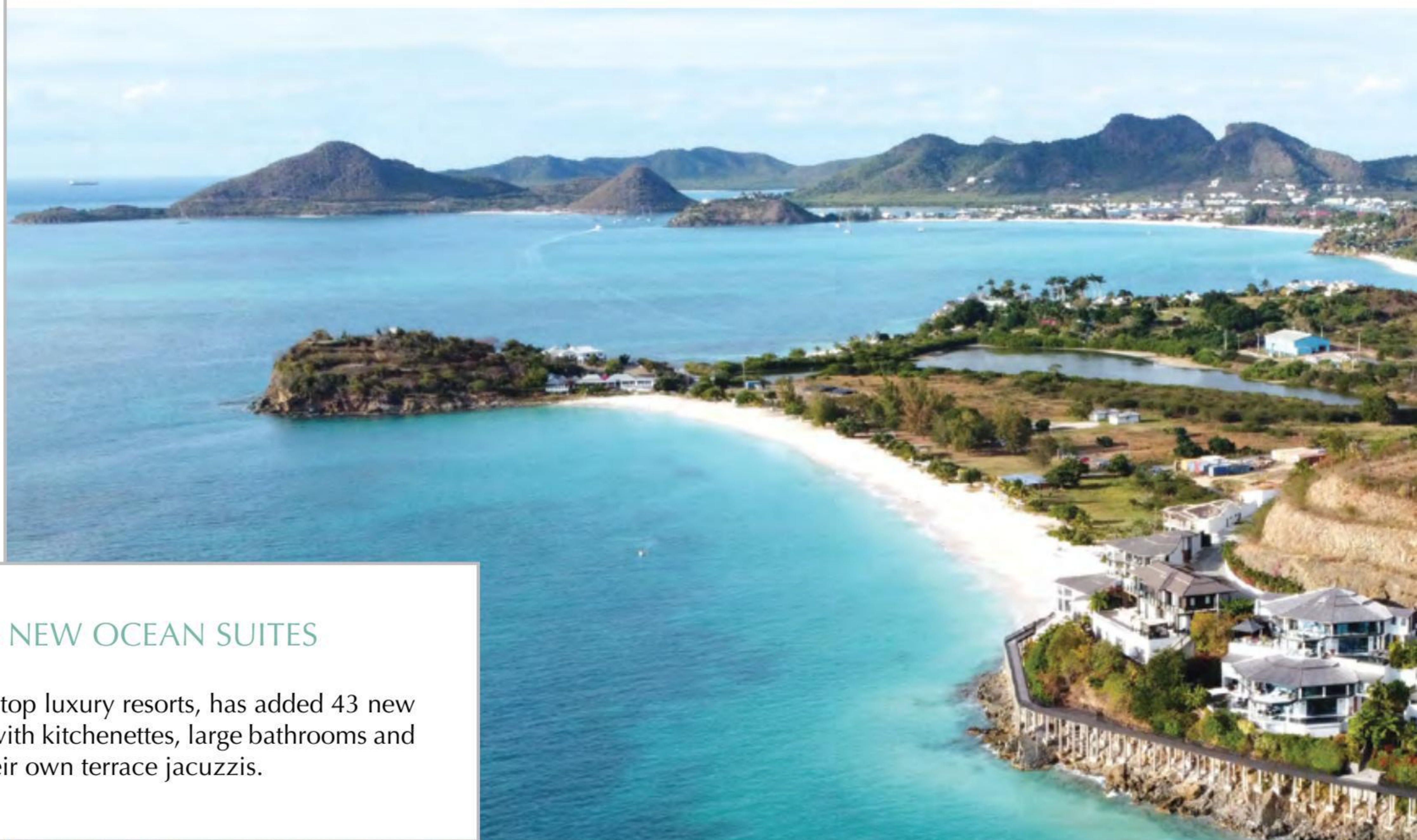
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### 11TH SUPERYACHT CHALLENGE TAKES TO THE WATER

The 11th Superyacht Challenge has returned to the island after a year's hiatus. Ten magnificent superyachts raced in the beautiful waters around Antigua. The event took place between 10th and 13th March and was open to superyachts in excess of 30 metres.



### TAMARIND HILLS ADDS NEW OCEAN SUITES

Tamarind Hills, one of Antigua's top luxury resorts, has added 43 new ocean-view suites. Suites come with kitchenettes, large bathrooms and terraces, some of which have their own terrace jacuzzis.



### THE TWIN ISLANDS TO HOST ISLAND CUP OPEN

The first Island Cup Open (ISCO), a Championship Football Tournament, will take place at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium between 15th July and 13th August. Eight teams will take place at this inaugural tournament which will kick off on May 21st with a Game of Legends event that will see the British Royal Legends take on a team of recently retired footballers. During their recent visit to Antigua, the ISCO delegation also held discussions with the government regarding constructing a 20,000-seat stadium, hotel and other real estate investments on the island.

### CARIBBEAN CBI PROGRAMMES HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT ON EU ECONOMIES

Press Editorials have conducted a comprehensive qualitative survey on 100 people who obtained economic citizenship from the Caribbean to find out the financial impact in the EU. The survey's results showed that the majority of investors invested in Caribbean nations seeking global mobility, business opportunities and status symbol in society. They also wanted better mobility through visa-free travel. CBI citizens are often high-net-worth individuals with business interests in European countries.

### INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

On 18th April, the International Kite Festival will take place at Devil's Bridge on Antigua's east coast. The festival will see the skies filled with colourful and traditional homemade kites in this Easter Monday tradition.





## 2021 TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC CHALLENGE

This year's World's Toughest Row saw 107 men and women in 36 international teams cover the 3,000 miles from La Gomera in Spain's Canary Islands to Nelson's Dockyard in Antigua. Setting off on 14th December 2021, this gruelling race is never short of action, with teams facing huge waves, exhaustion and brushes with wildlife.

The winners were Swiss Row, who completed the crossing in just under 35 days. The last team arrived on 25th February after 75 days at sea.



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### ABTA ROMANCE CAMPAIGN

ABTA launched a new romance campaign, 'Love & Wanderlust', as they roll out their marketing programmes across the four pillars of Romance, Yachting and Sailing, Wellness and Heritage and Culture.

Special Projects and Events Manager for ABTA Sherrin Jeremy said, "With the pandemic affecting the weddings and honeymoons market substantially over the past two years, this US\$1.6 billion-dollar industry is poised for growth in 2022, and ABTA intends to position the destination as the premier choice for couples."

The campaign depicts the twin islands as the perfect destination for two people in love or couples who wish to get married or renew their vows.

### SHANNA CHALLENGER OF EAG NOMINATED FOR PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Shanna Challenger, Offshore Islands Conservation Programme Coordinator at Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), has been nominated for a prestigious international conservation award. The Future for Nature (FNN) Award celebrates the work of young conservationists in protecting wildlife and endangered species.

Shanna's tireless work on Redonda Island to remove the invasive species and restore its biodiversity, as well as her current work on saving the critically endangered and endemic Antiguan Racer Snake, has rightly attracted the attention of the FNN. If Shanna wins the 2022 FNN Award and the 50,000-euro prize, she will use the funds to create a local conservation movement and develop the Antiguan Racer Action Plan. Winners will be announced in April.

### SEARCHING FOR AMERINDIAN ARTEFACTS

Renowned historian and archaeologist Dr Reg Murphy would like to study an area of land between Jennings and Five Islands, which is earmarked to create the country's second special economic zone.

Dr Murphy is especially interested in the area of mangroves called The Flashes, to which he believes pre-Columbian people would have been attracted due to food being readily available and an abundance of clay and stones for making ceramics or tools. He expects to find an Archaic Age and a Ceramic Age settlement there. Previous investigations carried out by Dr Murphy at Jolly Beach unearthed artefacts dating back as far as 2,700 BC. Dr Murphy hopes to access these sites and salvage any artefacts before construction commences.

### ANTIGUA & BARBUDA BECOMES UNWTO'S 160TH MEMBER STATE

The twin-island nation has become the United Nations World Tourism Organisation's (UNWTO) newest Member State, eighth in the Caribbean region. As a Member State, UNWTO and the Government of Antigua & Barbuda will work together to enhance the sector's importance as a pillar of sustainable development, with innovation and tourism education as shared priorities.



## RORC CARIBBEAN 600

The 2022 RORC Caribbean 600 attracted 74 teams with 738 sailors from 32 different nations. The exciting 600-mile offshore race started and finished at English Harbour and took competitors around some of the most beautiful islands of the Caribbean. This year had the most impressive fleet in its 14-year history and a new world record to boot, after the winning team, MOD 70 Argo, completed the course in 29 hours and 39 minutes.

Such is the success of Antigua's hosting of this prestigious event that the Ministry of Tourism and the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority have signed on to host the RORC Caribbean 600 for another four years, cementing the twin islands' reputation as the 'Sailing Capital of the Caribbean'.



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**27,000 species are going extinct due to soil and habitat loss in tropical regions alone.**

**We are losing an acre of soil every second!**

**87% of life on the planet depends on soil.**

**95% of the food we eat comes from the soil.**

**Soil is the source of water for 90% of the world's agriculture.**

**A study on nutrients in food concluded that we would have to eat 8 oranges to get the same amount of Vitamin A as our grandparents did with 1 orange, because soil depletion has caused massive drops in nutrient levels in food.**

**Soil and vegetation have the potential to absorb and reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to the level it was before the Industrial Era began in 1850.**

**Soil degradation negatively impacts 3.2 billion people around the world.**

**Increasing carbon in soil can have economic gains of 96 to 480 billion dollars.**



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