

Tropical Getaways: Reopenings, Debuts and More in the Caribbean

By Matt Turner | Nov 21, 2024



Indulgences: Le Barthélemy Hotel & Spa in St. Barth's reopened in October with new dining and wellness experiences. (Le Barthélemy Hotel & Spa)

Le Barthélemy Hotel & Spa, St. Barths

Late September and early October typically mark the reopening of many luxury resorts throughout the Caribbean. These properties usually close for about a month from the end of August through September as that's peak hurricane season. This time off provides hotels a chance perform yearly updates—whether that's guest-facing or back-of-house.

This year, there seems to be plenty that's new and notable across a variety of hotels throughout the Caribbean, but, before getting to any of these reopenings, we've got the latest on the upcoming St. Regis Cap Cana Resort. Set to open in spring 2025 in the exclusive Cap Cana enclave, the resort will have 200 guestrooms, including 36 suites and swim-out suites. In addition, the resort (which was designed by the team behind The St. Regis Kanai, Mayan Riviera, Mexico) will open with nine culinary outlets; among these will be a modern fine dining restaurant, a casual beachside venue, and signature eatery Nina, helmed by celebrity chef Diego Muñoz.

On the accommodation side, we're partial to the Oasis Suite. This 3,000-square-foot suite has a king bedroom and a separate living space—like most of the suites—but it also has a beachfront location, a private terrace and a private pool. Alternatively, the 1,430-square-foot Palm Suite Swim Out has one king bed separated from the living area by a privacy wall plus access to the swim-out pool. The only accessible room category are Superior rooms, which have two queen beds, a sitting area and a limited ocean view.

Elsewhere on the dining side, guests can enjoy rums and cigars at The Amber Room and culinary events, mixology tastings and chef pop-ups at El Huerto. The St. Regis Cap Cana Resort will also offer a rooftop bar, a signature St. Regis Bar and more.

As for what to do, guests can avail themselves of the Jack Nicklaus-designed Punta Espada golf course and The St. Regis Spa, not to mention a resort and kid-friendly pool. Good to know: Cap Cana is home to Punta Cana's longest white sand beach.

Seasonal Reopenings

Le Barthélemy's rooftop bar opens for the season on November 30 with a re-inspired menu focused on Asian cuisine.

Additionally, the "Four-Hands" Guest Chef Dinner Series will bring world-class chefs to the island of St. Barth's to create a multi-course menu with executive chef Jérémy Czaplicki at Abyss. On the roster for this season are Hong Thaimée, who has two popular restaurants in New York; Yann Couvreur, acclaimed French pastry chef; Alvaro Clavijo, whose restaurant earned a spot in "The World's 50 Best Restaurants 2023;" and Antonio Bachour, who has a restaurant and patisserie in Coral Gables and Miami, FL.

On the wellness front, guests this season can book the new grounding experience, "Beachfront & Balanced," an ancient practice to harness the electrical energy of the Earth by connecting bare skin with the Earth's damp surface or a grounding mat. It offers such benefits as improved sleep quality, pain relief, reduced blood pressure and stress alleviation.

Alternatively, guests can connect with Earth by helping to regenerate the coral reefs off the Grand Cul-de-Sac with Coral Restoration St. Barth and by learning

to reduce food waste with a private Zero Waste Cooking Class with chef Czaplicki.