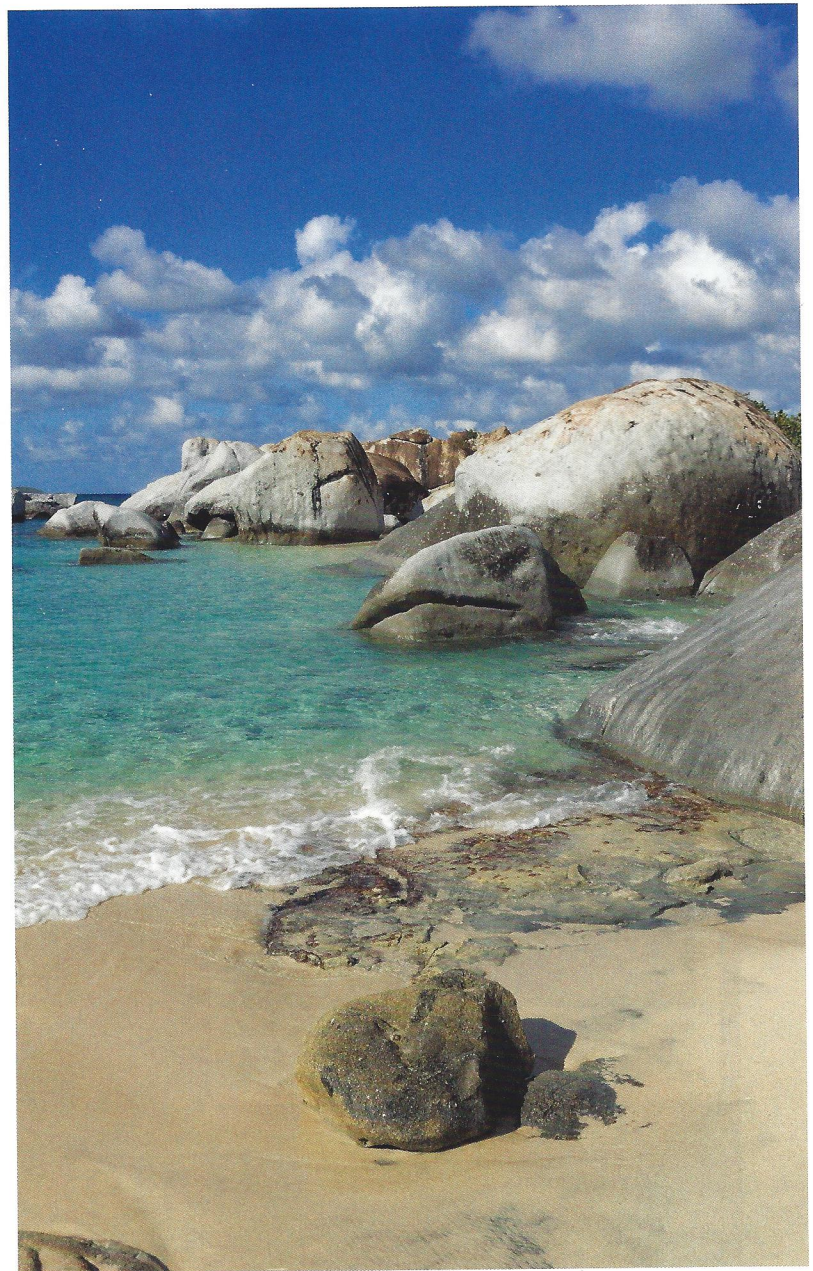


# GREAT ESCAPES





WHETHER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN INTERNATIONAL ADVENTURE, A ROMANTIC GETAWAY, OR SIMPLY A PLACE TO RELAX WITH YOUR TOES IN THE SAND, WE'VE FOUND FOUR CARIBBEAN HOT SPOTS WHERE YOU CAN LEAVE WINTER BEHIND. THESE CHIC DESTINATIONS OFFER THE CHANCE TO SOAK IN BOTH THE LIVELY LOCAL CULTURE AND THE STUNNING TROPICAL SETTING—BETWEEN INDULGING IN LUXE SPA TREATMENTS, FRESH SEAFOOD, AND PLENTY OF RUM PUNCH, OF COURSE.





# BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

December's chill has many in Charlotte dreaming of the ultimate Caribbean escape.

Look no further than the British Virgin Islands' **Scrub Island Resort, Spa & Marina**, Autograph Collection. Here the most serious distraction encountered is chattering seagulls and the day's most challenging decision is choosing between the Coconut Rum Poached Grouper or the Smothered Jerk Chicken with Mushroom and Calaloo for dinner.

Christopher Columbus was said to be so taken with the beauty of the Caribbean archipelago, discovered on his second voyage to the Americas in 1493, that he named them the Virgin Islands, inspired by the martyred Saint Ursula and her 11,000 virgins.

Columbus would be no less captivated by today's BVI, a grouping of 60 gleaming ocean gems. Their close proximity to each other—all are within a 25 mile radius—make them a top international yachting and sailing destination with remarkably calm waters, secluded coves, pristine beaches, and resorts where guest pampering is the main order of business.

A five minute ferry ride from Tortola's Beef Island International Airport, Scrub Island got its name from marauding pirates who came ashore here to scrub the barnacles off their boats. The tiny private isle is now



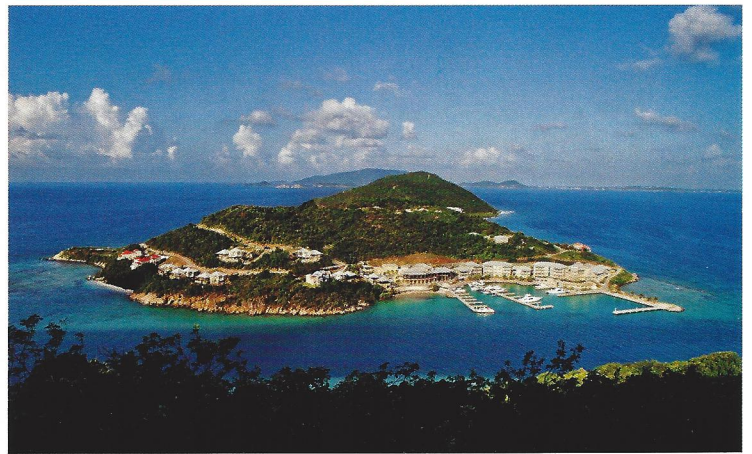
home to the Scrub Island Resort, a boutique property of 52 accommodations and fully equipped estate villas dotting the steep hillside.

Guests are greeted dockside with a welcome cocktail upon arrival—Rum Punch is a popular choice—and quickly whisked away to suites where each balcony patio overlooks the aquamarine sea.

Digital detox is primary on the settling-in agenda. Planned activities are quickly abandoned as serendipity rules. Yacht-spotting, cloud watching, or a gentle-surf-sound induced nap takes precedence over checking email.

Visit **Ixora Spa**, where signature treatments such as the De-stress Massage with pressure point foot therapy,





Elemis Pro-Collagen Quartz Lift Facial, Juniper and Lemon essential oil infused Cellutox Aroma Spa Ocean Wrap, and the Frangipani Indian Head Massage, transport guests to beachside bliss.

Chat with fellow guests at one of the resort's swim-up pool bars or find your inner child taking the water-slide alongside the cascading lower pool waterfall. The resort has three beaches to choose from and four dining options—from the casual open-air Tierra Tierra—try the Conch Fritters—to the relaxed upscale Caribbean fare at Caravela.

Guests enjoy a fully equipped fitness center, water sports including kayaking and paddleboards, on-site dive shop and sailing school, boutique, and the 55-slip deep water marina.





Ring in the  
New Year at  
Phillips Place!



*SouthPark at Phillips Place*  
*"A SouthPark Tradition of Excellence"*

## Offering New Year's Eve Packages that include...

An Overnight stay in a King Spa Room or Two Room Suite  
with Complimentary Breakfast at the Beautiful  
Hampton Inn & Suites SouthPark at Phillips Place  
Dinner at either The Palm or Dean & DeLuca\*  
After-party in the Dean & DeLuca Wine Room with champagne, DJ & Dancing



To make reservations contact the  
Hampton Inn & Suites SouthPark at Phillips Place  
at 704-319-5700



**DEAN & DELUCA®**

*\*Each restaurant offering unique dinner packages  
including starters, entrees & dessert.*

***Plus Wine or Prosecco to toast in the New Year!***

Looking for that PERFECT holiday gift?

Contact us today to purchase Gift Certificates for all of our packages including  
New Year's Eve, Romance Packages  
Couples Night Out and American Girl Packages

[www.hamptonsouthpark.com](http://www.hamptonsouthpark.com)



## Sail Fast, Live Slow

Unquestionably the best way to experience the BVI is on the water. The folks at **Tropical Day Sails** are thrilled to host guests on their 42-foot catamaran for island hopping, snorkel adventures, and an unforgettable experience on the open waters surrounding "nature's little secrets."

Captain Jacques Schoonees didn't come all the way from South Africa to take people on ordinary day sails. Schoonees' intimate BVI knowledge is used to deliver guests to prime spots like **Monkey Point** where snorkelers spy schools of cuttlefish, rainbow hued clownfish, and some of the best coral in the Caribbean.

Day sails to the unique rock formations and spectacular swimming holes of **The Baths** are also easily arranged for as are cruises to nearby Jost van Dyke where a Painkiller at the legendary Soggy Dollar Bar is a must.

Sail fast and live slow is the one and only plan needed when visiting the BVI.

— Michael J. Solender

**Getting there:** You'll have to make one stop in Miami on your American Airlines flight to Tortola. Scrub Island Resort is only a five-minute ferry ride from Tortola's Beef Island International Airport.