

**FLOORING:** Everything Old Is New Again

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## BEST FURNITURE

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Caribbean  
Getaway  
Guide

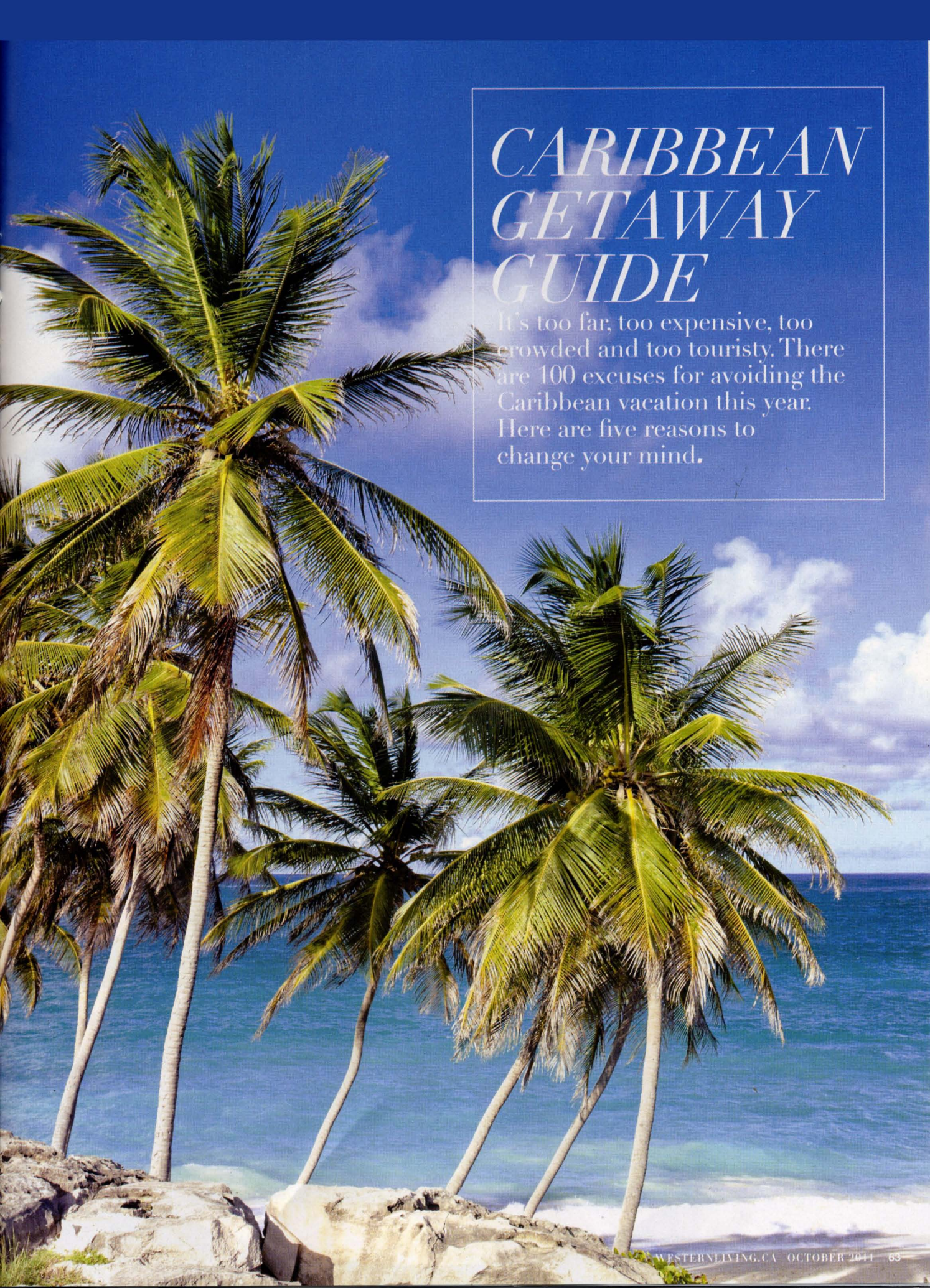
Recipes  
Tropical  
Heat Wave

The  
Twilight  
House  
Erickson  
Goes  
Hollywood

Tempting  
Aussie  
Pinot Noir

**WHITE  
NOW!**  
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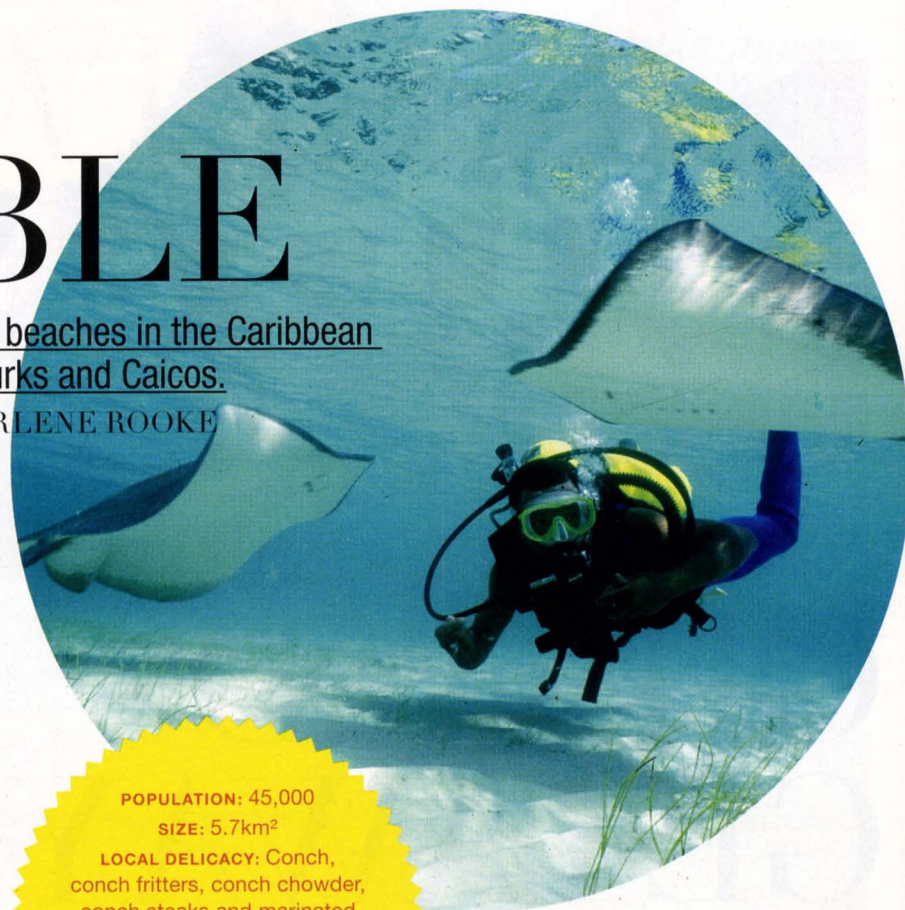
# *CARIBBEAN GETAWAY GUIDE*

It's too far, too expensive, too crowded and too touristy. There are 100 excuses for avoiding the Caribbean vacation this year. Here are five reasons to change your mind.

# DOUBLE

# DIP

The best beaches in the Caribbean are on Turks and Caicos.  
BY CHARLENE ROOKE



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t's powdered-sugar pale and fine and feels cool and silky, even on the hottest day. When it's magically viscous wet, it looks like a frozen

piña colada and becomes an excellent castle-architecture medium. You've come to the main Turks and Caicos island, Providenciales, for the white-sand beach. You'll stay on the 12-mile-long crescent of Grace Bay beach, where you'll thank your choice of god for perfect northern exposure and a reef that keeps the lapping jade waves tame enough for the kids. You should also thank the parrotfish, which chomp on the reef then eliminate heaps of coral sand. They're one of the reasons these islands aren't eroding and disappearing like other paradises—snorkel right up to a reef just off the beach from the West Bay Club and take a look. Or hop on a bicycle and head down to Blue Hills to dig your toes into the sand under your picnic table at da Conch Shack, where a microbrew from Turk's Head cuts the greasy goodness of the fritters. If you're an extreme eater, cross the island to Long Beach, with darker sand, mountains of conch shells and a tide so low you can score giant conch without diving. It's a little tricky to juke one out of the shell for ceviche-style conch salad, but just ask a local how. (Conch isn't endangered here, so it's one of the few places to nab a legal shell.) You could head to the southernmost point of Sapodilla Bay for a quiet sunset, or maybe up to the national parks area near Amanyara for more of a rugged, crashing-waves beach vista. When you get back to Canada, you'll shake the powder-fine grit from your suitcase and clothes and grouse, with more than a little regret, about the mess.

POPULATION: 45,000

SIZE: 5.7km<sup>2</sup>

LOCAL DELICACY: Conch, conch fritters, conch chowder, conch steaks and marinated raw conch salad

CLIENTELE: The merely rich  
OVERHEARD: "Did you see that person trying to use our bathroom in First Class?"

## STAY

**Gansevoort Turks + Caicos**, owned by Canadian Rob Ayer, delivers light style cuisine and ab-busting Core Fusion classes at **Exhale Spa** ([gansevoortturksandcaicos.com](http://gansevoortturksandcaicos.com)).

## PLAY

The Provo Golf & Country Club is an afternoon's diversion ([provogolfclub.com](http://provogolfclub.com)). In the new Regent Village shops, seek out FOTTAC (Flavors of the Turks and Caicos) for a boozy Bambarra rum cake.

## EAT

In the unlikely event you get tired of fritters at da **Conch Shack** ([conchshack.tc](http://conchshack.tc)), have a romantic seared-tuna dinner on the leafy patio at **Magnolia Restaurant & Wine Bar** ([miramar.tc/lodge/restaurant/magnolia.htm](http://miramar.tc/lodge/restaurant/magnolia.htm)).

Located on the quiet west end of Grace Bay, breezy white suites have kitchenettes or full kitchens.

**Amanyara** is a paradise of Balinese hardwood pavilions clustered

around private plunge pools on the lush, green northeast coast, nestled between two protected natural areas ([amanresorts.com](http://amanresorts.com)). Prince gave an impromptu concert here last New Year's Eve.