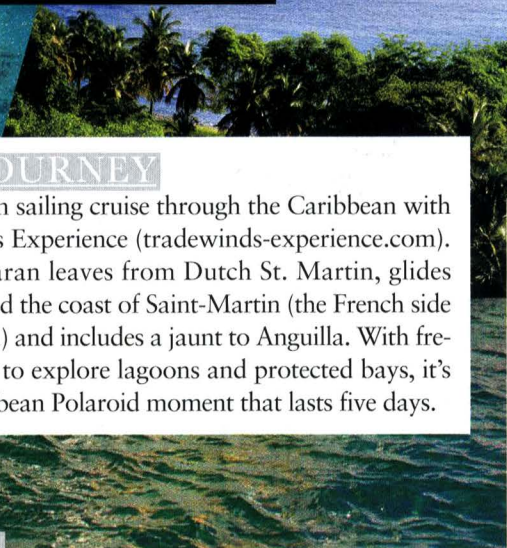


Calm waters and cool breezes combine for an idyllic sailing experience.

SAIL AWAY

Dive into the Caribbean's
UNDERWATER *paradise.*

TEXT: LAURA DECARUFEL



THE JOURNEY

A catamaran sailing cruise through the Caribbean with TradeWinds Experience (tradewinds-experience.com). The catamaran leaves from Dutch St. Martin, glides north around the coast of Saint-Martin (the French side of the island) and includes a jaunt to Anguilla. With frequent stops to explore lagoons and protected bays, it's like a Caribbean Polaroid moment that lasts five days.

VESSEL

The TradeWinds *Pantera*, a 56-foot catamaran that sleeps eight. Sleek, white and glamorous, it's the watercraft equivalent of a Calvin Klein dress. And it's just as versatile; since catamarans can venture close to shore, it's a breeze to visit shallow reefs and deserted *From Here to Eternity* beaches.

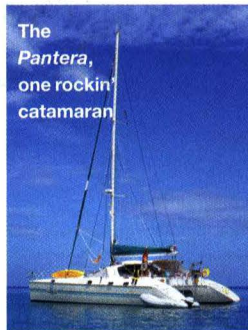
MUST-DOS

- Snorkel (or scuba dive, if you're licensed). Disappear into an underwater paradise populated by turtles, sea urchins and fish as vibrant as a Mary Katrantzou print.
- Sit in the captain's chair. Tear yourself away from the languid splendour of the mesh trampoline and watch the hypnotic spray of the surf as the catamaran glides through the waves. The TradeWinds crew will happily show you how to steer the ship and hoist the sail—or you can reapply SPF and dive back into *Fifty Shades of Grey*.
- Admire the water from the shore. On day three, hop on land and visit the Friday-night market on Saint-Martin. Save time for a visit to the Calmos Café, a charming bar on the beach complete with palm trees, lanterns and picnic tables.

VIBE

Über-relaxation. You sleep in a cozy nook below deck and rise for a gourmet breakfast: omelettes and fresh fruit prepared by the first mate, or still-warm chocolate croissants brought on board by the captain after an early-morning island visit. Then you swim, sunbathe or snooze until it's time for lunch. The afternoon passes much the same way—except for the beckoning call of icy, just-mixed cocktails.

The *Pantera*, one rockin' catamaran



MUST-PACK

Ultra-chic shades. Along with a bikini, they're your sailing style essential. Beautiful crystal sunglasses, Swarovski (\$450, swarovski.com)



ULTIMATE POSTCARD MOMENT

The day-four sojourn on Île Pinel, a nature reserve with the kind of insanely picturesque views—silky white sand, turquoise waves, hills framing a deepening-rose sunset—that inspire a steady stream of camera clicks and joyful tweets (#DUDE). After a picnic of fresh ceviche, peruse the island jewellery on offer or lick the salt from your lips, curl your toes into the warm sand and question whether there is, in fact, no place like home. ▷



Mary Katrantzou