

About Town

People, Places, Preoccupations



A villa at the Amanyara in Turks and Caicos, where Beyoncé (inset) has reportedly stayed.

THE A-LIST'S CARIBBEAN CHRISTMAS

Island-hopping stars are seeking St. Barts alternatives

here are Hollywood's jet-setters and yacht-machers heading for the holidays? Concierges to the stars tell *THR* that trendy A-list vacay destinations are all over the map — from Antarctica, where **Liev Schreiber** went last year, to Benguerra Island in Mozambique — but the Caribbean is hotter than ever, trumping bucket-list travel.

We can, of course, expect such St. Barts regulars as **David Geffen**, **Barry Diller** and **Jeff Bezos** to be back with their big boats for the party scene, but many celebrities "want something more private and insulating," reports **Michael Torbiak**, owner of bespoke high-end concierge service M.domo Travel.

They are flocking instead to more low-key islands, with Turks and Caicos proving especially popular. The hotels of choice there are Parrot Cay, Amanyara, The Shore Club and Grace Bay Resorts, according to Torbiak. "My clients love Amanyara; they have five- and six-bedroom villas. **Beyoncé** just rented one there," he says.

Two new luxe resorts have premiered this season — The Strand, and South Bank from Grace Bay Resorts — with villas surrounded by water on all sides, serviced by a boat concierge for yacht owners, or guests who just want to take an excursion. Meanwhile, Keith Richards, Donna Karan and Christie Brinkley are said to have thrown their own homes at Parrot Cay into the rental pool.

But for ultimate privacy and security, people are renting villas on Mustique, according to Jaclyn Sienna India, founder of the membership-based luxury lifestyle company Sienna Charles. The island, where Mick Jagger, Kelly Ripa and Tommy Hilfiger have homes and Bill Gates, Denzel Washington and Paul McCartney have rented, is known for private dinners hosted by the likes of Le Bernardin owner Maguy Le Coze, who also owns a home there. But since there is only one hotel and a limited number of rentals, it's a tough trip to secure. Says India, "Nobody who hasn't been there before is getting in this year." — BETH LANDMAN

