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NASCAR POWER WOMAN **KELLEY EARNHARDT**
MARRIES **L.W. MILLER** IN AN
INTIMATE HOMETOWN WEDDING

p. 28



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- CARIBBEAN HONEYMOON



BY ANGE CHASTANET

Off the beaten track

Escape the crowded beaches for these three Caribbean honeymoon destinations

By Kathy M. Newbern and J.S. Fletcher

The Caribbean beckons with a promise of languid days on palm-fringed beaches, but where to start? For the discerning honeymooner seeking an island vibe that not everyone knows about, here are three picks: St. Lucia, Nevis and Exuma.

We actually honeymooned on St. Lucia, chose Nevis for our second honeymoon after renewing our vows at 10 years, then Exuma hit our radar thanks in part to the "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies filmed here.

Nevis: Plantation inns and the Four Seasons

At one point, the West Indies island of Nevis was the sweetest island in the British crown, producing more sugar than all other Caribbean islands combined. Now, several former sugar plantations have been converted to luxury plantation inns, popular for honeymoons, including Nisbet Plantation (www.nisbetplantation.com), Montpelier Plantation (www.montpeliernevis.com) and Hermitage Plantation (www.hermitagenewis.com).

Nevis and its larger neighbor St. Kitts operate as one sovereign democratic state within the British Commonwealth. At only seven miles long and five miles wide, Nevis lies near the top of the Lesser Antilles archipelago, about 200 miles south of Puerto Rico and just west of Antigua.

The island's largest resort is the tony Four Seasons Nevis (www.fourseasons.com/nevis), which remains the region's only AAA Five-Diamond resort.

We indulged in a couples massage in one of the pastel, gingerbread cottages that constitute the fabulous Spa at Four Seasons Nevis.

New since our stay is the Sail-Laser Sailing School, offering an eight-hour, two-day training course. Plus there's a standout tennis program and the top-ranked the Robert Trent Jones II golf course.

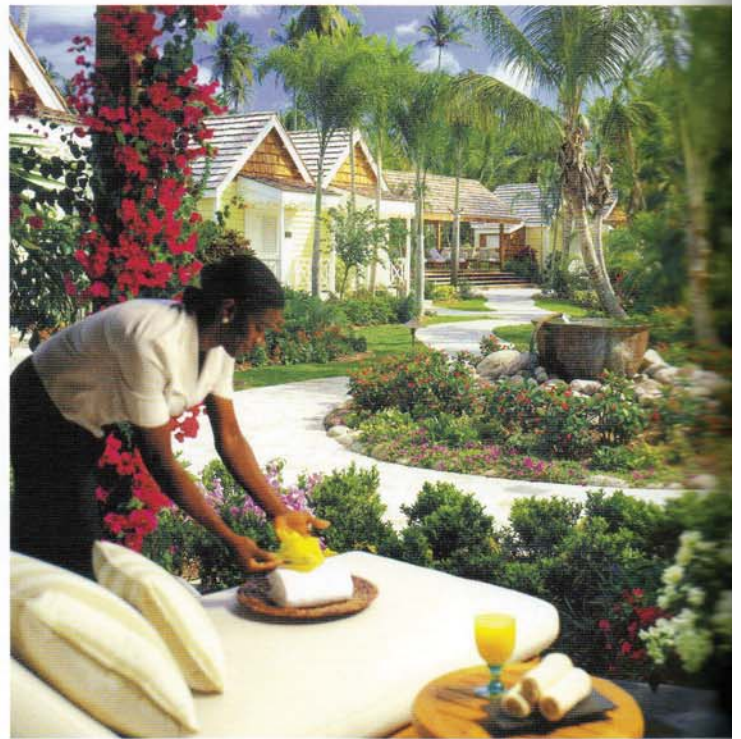
If all that activity works up a thirst, wander down Pinney's Beach to sample the famed Killer Bee cocktail at Sunshine's Beach Bar & Grill. One bride confided the potent drink does deliver a sting.

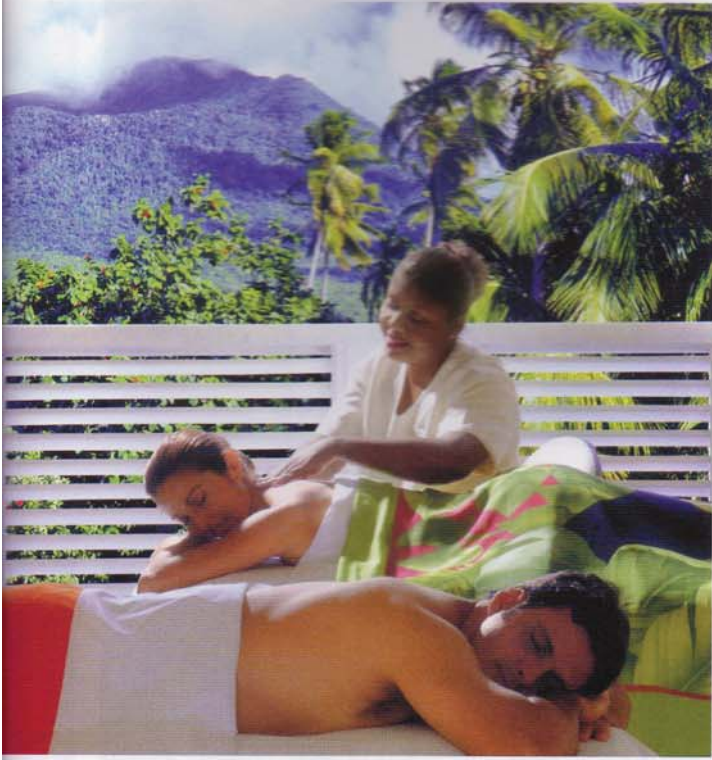
Perhaps most memorable was diving with the chef in search of lobsters that were then cooked and served beachside. And Four Seasons' Coral Grill is the newest dining experience on the island.

Other romantic Nevis moments:

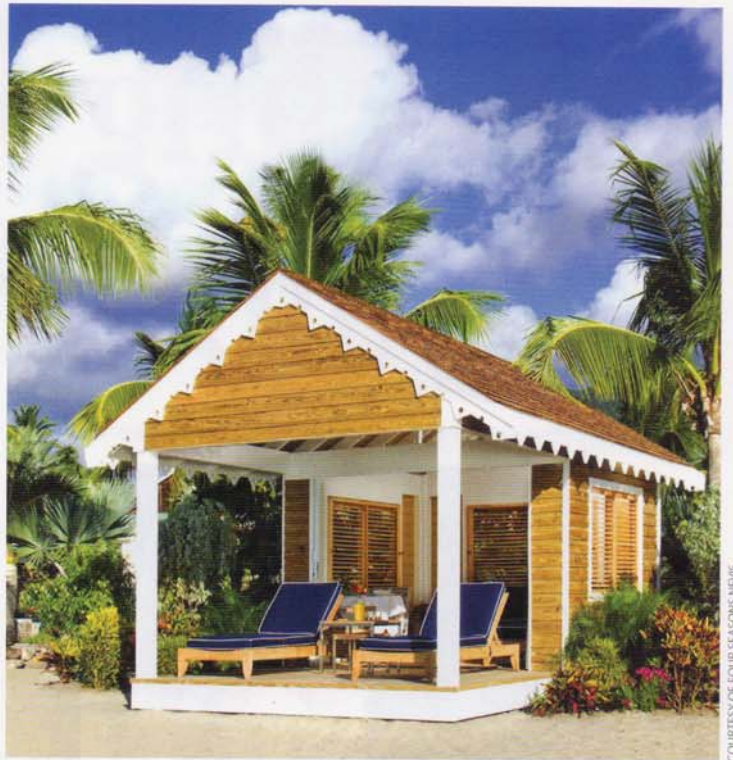
- An after-dinner swim under a full moon in the Nisbet Plantation pool.
- Sleeping away a stormy afternoon — “married people weather,” the proprietor called it — in our plush king bed at Montpelier Plantation.
- Personalized dinner menus and photo fridge magnets that Nisbet Plantation gives its honeymooners and anniversary celebrants.
- Eating lobster sandwiches on homemade bread in Golden Rock's Eden-like setting (www.golden-rock.com) preceded by an impromptu chat with Nevis' own “Bee Man.” (Nevis is known for its honey; what you do with it in the privacy of your honeymoon suite is your business.)
- The Hermitage Plantation carriage ride complete with ocean views.
- A Hermitage family dinner where host Richard Lupinacci offered a fascinating glimpse into the life of Nevis-born Alexander Hamilton, who in 1789 became the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and was later killed in a duel with Aaron Burr.
- Stealing kisses in front of the large tiki statue at the eight-acre Botanical Garden of Nevis.
- Watching the sunset while floating hand-in-hand in the ocean at Four Seasons and reflecting on married-life bliss.

For more information, visit nevisisland.com.

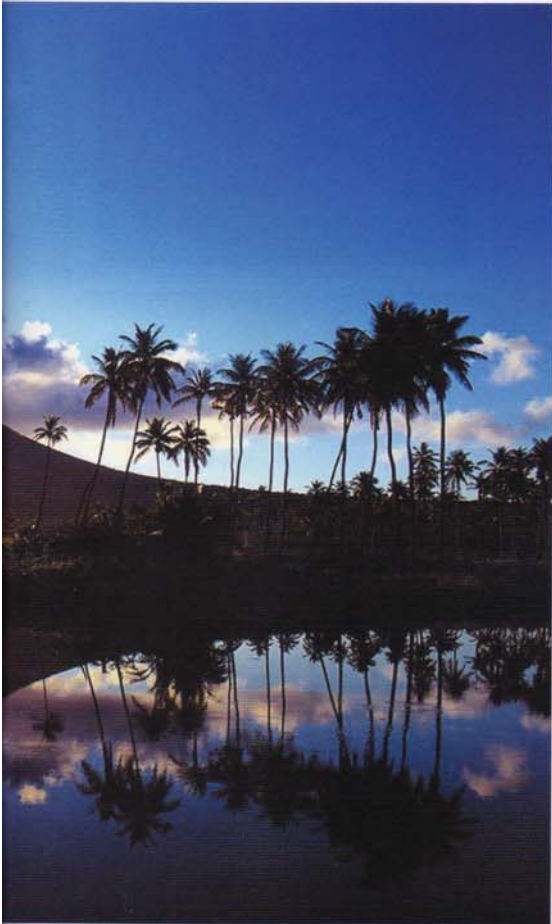




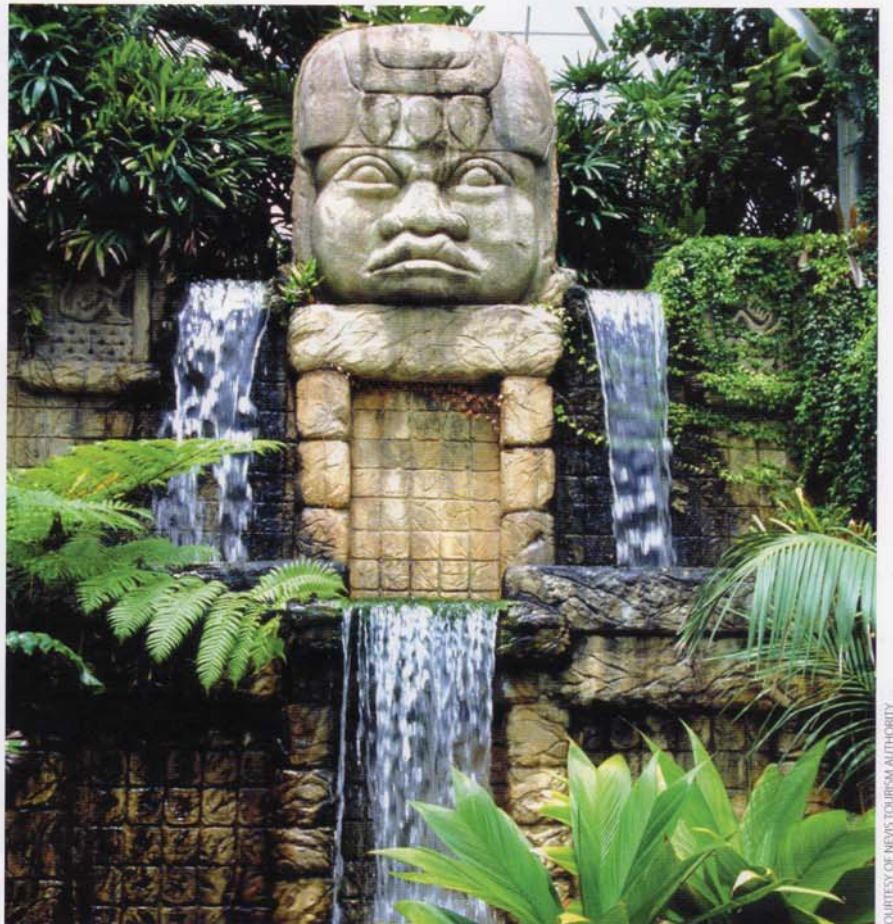
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