

TRAVEL + LEISURE

The World's Best Awards 2020



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CRUISES + MORE**

Aqua Vitae

Before he became the reigning cocktail king of Washington, D.C.—with acclaimed bars like Tiki TNT and PX to his name—veteran barman turned distiller Todd Thrasher traveled the world as a scuba-diving enthusiast. His adventures took him as far as the South Pacific, but it was the Caribbean’s combination of incredible reefs and fantastic rum that fulfilled both his passions. Here, his top diving recommendations in the region—plus, a cocktail recipe inspired by island life. **BY SCOTT BAY**

BONAIRE

“Bonaire is considered the shore-diving capital of the world, with almost sixty dive sites accessible from its beaches. My go-to spot is Margate Bay, on the southwestern tip of the island, named for the black margate fish that populate its waters. The coral is densest at around 60 feet, so it’s great for beginners.”

BELIZE

“Some of the best diving I’ve ever done is off the coast of the Placencia Peninsula, in a protected area called the Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes Marine Reserve. It’s located in the central part of Belize’s Barrier Reef, where there are whale sharks the size of school buses. The pros at **Ramon’s Village Divers** (ramons.com) lead boat excursions from Placencia to the reserve, about an hour and a half away.”

COZUMEL, MEXICO

“Cozumel is renowned for its drift diving, which is where you move with the water’s current instead of resisting it. The place to do it is Paradise Reef, off the western part of the island. There you’ll find vibrant coral and diverse underwater creatures, including the rare splendid toadfish, which is native to Cozumel.”

T + L A - LIST DISPATCH

My Favorite Spot on the Water

“Japan’s Izu Peninsula is a fabulous beach getaway two hours southwest of Tokyo. I visited last summer and had a wonderful time exploring its scenic coastline.”

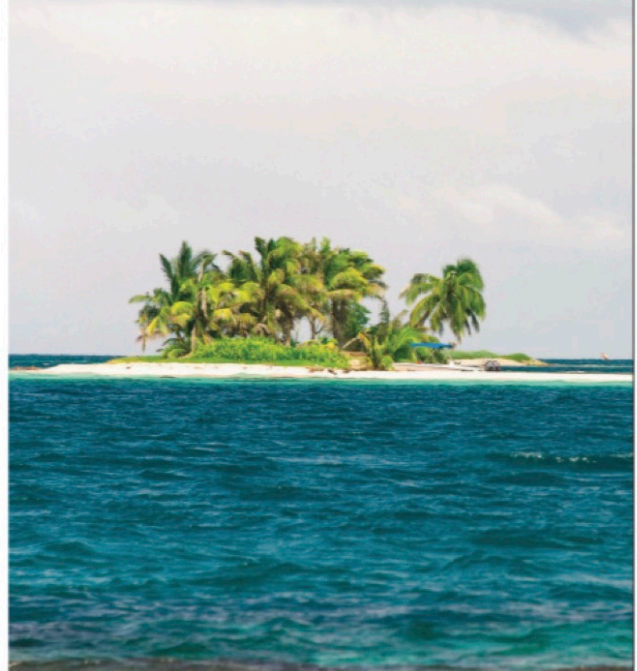
—TESIA SMITH, AUDLEY TRAVEL
TESIA.SMITH@AUDLEYTRAVEL.COM

“I like tropical destinations, but I’m not one to sunbathe. So I love Belize’s Caye Caulker, an island known for its water sports like snorkeling and fishing.”

—HOLLY MONAHAN, ILEX LUXURY TRAVEL
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“I can’t think of a more idyllic place than Lake Bohinj, in Slovenia’s Triglav National Park, where the crystal-clear waters reflect the peaks of the surrounding Alps.”

—EDWARD GRANVILLE, RED SAVANNAH
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▲ One of the three uninhabited islands that form the Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes Marine Reserve, on Belize’s Barrier Reef, the second largest in the world.

Post-Dive Pick-Me-Up

The Wet Money is Thrasher’s boozy tribute to Bonaire.



1 oz. Thrasher’s White Rum
1 oz. Espolón Blanco Tequila
¼ oz. Civic Vodka
¼ oz. Giffard Blue Curaçao
½ oz. lemon juice
1½ oz. passion fruit juice
2 droppers salted water
(2 parts water to 1 part table salt)

Combine all ingredients in a cocktail shaker with ice. Cover and shake vigorously until chilled, then strain and serve in a collins glass with crushed ice.