

BEST OF

BERMUDA

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The Best of Bermuda Awards are upon us once again, and this year's selection of winners is a reflection of those vendors that are truly Bermuda's best.

Across each division and in every category, our twenty discerning judges polled, discussed and debated to decide just which business deserved the honourable title. And their efforts were well-rewarded; the selected businesses of 2017 include both veteran winners and companies that can now proudly display their first certificates. And we hope that this trend of dedication to customer service and true business success continues!

In addition to demonstrating which businesses have achieved outstanding status, the Awards also serve as a valuable guide for shoppers in Bermuda. So no matter what the service or product you're seeking, the following pages will certainly provide the information on where to find it.

And as always, the Best of Bermuda Awards would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsor, BF&M, nor without our judges, whose dedication and hard work are the cornerstone of this 27-year tradition. So, to both groups: thank you! We hope that everyone is as proud to congratulate this year's winners as we are.

BF&M



Food • Drink & Entertainment

By Gabrielle Boyer



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE Ascots

► It's been more than 25 years since Angelo Armano and Edmund Smith opened the doors to Ascots Restaurant and welcomed in a loyal patronage and abundant legacy of gastronomic success. The well-established restaurant, on the lush grounds of the Royal Palms Hotel, is a local favourite, ranked number one in Bermuda by TripAdvisor. The menu, described as a gastronomic amalgamation of progressive continental and Mediterranean cuisines, utilises the island's natural resources, including fresh produce from Bermuda's farmers and fresh seafood, caught daily. The chefs' expertise in preparing each ingredient and incorporating it into the daily menu is not without skillful consideration and copious amounts of inspiration.

Ascots is no stranger to Best of Bermuda; we have awarded the restaurant abundantly throughout the years but *The Bermudian* isn't the only voice singing its praises: Ascots received the Department of Tourism's prestigious Bermuda Longtail Merit Award and *Wine Spectator's* "Award of Excellence" recognising the restaurant's wine list as one of the most outstanding in the world. Ascots not only defines fine dining in Bermuda, it's a restaurant worthy of praise and honour on a global scale. ✦ 24 Rosemont Avenue, Pembroke, 295-9644



▲ EDMUND SMITH AND ANGELO ARMANO

PHOTO: ANN SPURLING

CUP OF JAVA Dangelini's

► Never underestimate the power of a good brew. Sure, in the moment, it tastes good but the influence of a good cup of coffee is so much more than taste alone. It's the way a good cup of coffee transforms an early morning or a sluggish afternoon into worthy and productive time. Deals are done on a good cup of joe; the best deals are done on a cup of Dangelini's. ✦ 8 Front Street, Hamilton, 295-5272
* Shalini Tucker abstained from voting in this category

COOLEST COFFEE SHOP Rock Island Coffee

► This is the 15th Best of Bermuda Award for Rock Island Coffee (a fourth win in this category alone)—a feat that isn't surprising to those who frequent the coffee house on Reid. What sets Rock Island Coffee apart from the others isn't its central location or indoor/outdoor seating—Rock Island is a haven for everyone; the walls, the staff, the patrons don't discriminate. Everyone is welcome and everyone is

embraced. Stepping into Rock Island is a chance to swap stories with someone unfamiliar or bend the ear of a local MP or sit back and take it all in. Simply put, Rock Island is more than just a coffee shop: it's a community. ✦ 48 Reid Street, Hamilton, 296-5241
* Shalini Tucker abstained from voting in this category

FRESH BREADS & PASTRIES Sweet Saak Bakery

► Since opening its doors in the little town of St. George in 2012, Sweet Saak Bakery has enjoyed a cult following of sorts. Hungry patrons flock from all parts of the island, not minding the long drive if their sweet cravings are satisfied by warm, sticky cinnamon buns and fresh, homemade breads, scones and croissants. Owner and boss lady Kamilah Cannonier works tirelessly to bake quickly enough to keep up with the high demand, quite a feat when the whole island shows up at your doorstep, salivating and ready to devour. ✦ 16 York Street, St. George, 297-0663

BREAKFAST Bouchée Bistro Français

► There is "breakfast": a meal eaten at the start of the day, usually nondescript in appearance, lacking in taste and often consumed in a hurried fashion or in the car on the way to work. And there is "breakfasting": the act of purposefully sitting down to dine on a delectable spread in the accompaniment of friends, a pleasurable experience. When you're in search of a break from the monotony of breakfast, take your place at Bouchée Bistro Français and indulge in "breakfasting"—the right way. ✦ 75 Pitt's Bay Road, Hamilton, 295-5759

FAVOURITE PUB Flanagan's Irish Pub

► Although seemingly subtle, the differences between a bar and a pub are mammoth. A pub is not where you go to order specialty cocktails or to schmooze. A pub is where you go pull up a chair,

order a pint and catch up with the friends you only ever see atop a barstool. Flanagan's Irish Pub is the best in Bermuda for the umpteenth time for its beers on tap and incomparable pub-style atmosphere. ✦ Emporium Building, 69 Front Street, Hamilton, 295-8299

PLACE FOR A POWER LUNCH Barracuda Grill

► Power lunchers amalgamate at Barracuda Grill, Bermuda's seafood and chops restaurant. More than just an eatery, the always-bustling Hamilton lunch spot is the setting for many a business deal, offering a quiet, intimate setting, perfect for a private meeting or client lunch. When deals need to be made, contracts signed and power wielded, Barracuda Grill is the place to lunch and get it done. ✦ 5 Burnaby Hill, Hamilton, 292-1609



SALAD • Devil's Isle

► “They make kale taste good,” said one judge, when discussing the feats achieved by the chefs at Devil's Isle. The Burnaby Street hot spot is a lunchtime destination for the who's who of Bermuda, who often can be seen tucking into the restaurant's popular salads, including the harvest bowl, Korean bowl and kale Caesar. The restaurant's commitment to quality, locally sourced, real food means that dining at Devil's Isle isn't just trendy and award winning, it's good for you too. ✦ 19 Burnaby Street, Hamilton, 292-3284

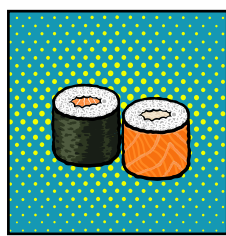
HAMBURGER Bulli.Social

► Hold it right there, there's a new sheriff in town and he goes by the name of Bulli: Bulli Social. Founded on a desire to produce gourmet, perfectly stacked burgers, partners Tyler Nearon and chef Johnny Roberts, owner of Bolero Brasserie, opened Bulli.Social in the

summer of 2016. Since then, the Queen Street eatery has shepherded in thousands of ravenous patrons, filling orders of grass fed beef burgers topped with everything from Bermuda Smokehouse brisket, to brie, to poutine, halloumi, bacon jam, fried eggs, sauerkraut and copious amounts of Bulli sauce. ✦ 7 Queen Street, Hamilton, 232-BULL

SUSHI • Beluga Bar

► Having garnered six Best of Bermuda Awards since opening their doors in 2010, the dynamic duo Matteo Gilardoni and Sammy Wong of Beluga Bar are experts in gastronomic success, blending traditional Japanese sushi with western flavours and Bermuda favourites. Situated conveniently in the Washington Mall, Beluga Bar is acknowledged famously for their Japanese pizza and lionfish sashimi. ✦ Washington Mall, 18 Church Street, Hamilton, 542-2859



FOOD TRUCK Bite Food Truck

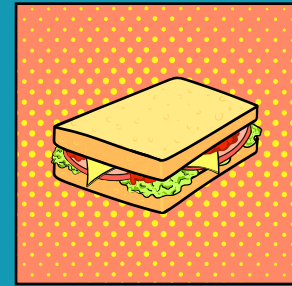
► Serving up Bermudian-fusion cuisine and home-style cooking, the Bite Food Truck utilises produce from local farms in an effort to support the local farm-to-table crusade. Making itself at home on Middle Road, Sandys, at the old Oleander Cycles livery, hungry patrons stop by daily for the truck's savoury Bermuda fish sandwiches, homemade breads, garden salads, pulled pork sandwiches and traditional Bermuda fish cakes. ✦ 8 Middle Road, Sandys, 500-2721

HOTEL RESTAURANT Waterlot Inn

► Almost 350 years in the making, the Waterlot Inn at the Fairmont Southampton certainly has historic value, but that doesn't mean that the restaurant is old-fashioned or passé. In fact, its prestige is noted in its AAA Four Diamond and Wine Spectator awards, solidifying the Waterlot Inn's position as one of Bermuda's best to date. ✦ 101 South Shore Road, Southampton, 238-8000

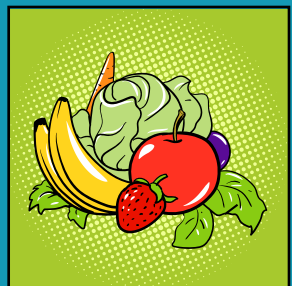
PRIVATE DINING ROOM Ascots

► Any occasion worthy of a celebration is worthy of Ascots's Wine Dining Room, a private dining room with seating capacity for fourteen. Surrounded by bottles of wine from across the globe, relish the Ascots experience without being interrupted by the restaurant's general population. ✦ 24 Rosemont Avenue, Pembroke, 295-9644



DINER The Spot Restaurant

► Nostalgia runs deep at The Spot Restaurant, one of the island's longest continually operating restaurants, having served worthy sustenance since 1941. Known especially for their hot turkey sandwiches, fish chowder and traditional codfish and potato breakfast, The Spot is a mecca for people of all ages, backgrounds and appetites, no matter how insatiable. ✦ 6 Burnaby Street, Hamilton, 292-0962



SALAD BAR Nonna's Kitchen

► Healthy lunch-goers on-the-go know the salad bar at Nonna's Kitchen top to bottom, chock full of fresh produce, found locally when available, protein, nuts, seeds and homemade dressings. Their active clientele load up on their healthy offerings daily in a quest to remain true to a nourishing and wholesome lifestyle, complete with a helping of homemade, gluten-free cornbread for added measure. ✦ 4 Bermudiana Road, Hamilton, 295-7687

PIZZA Portofino Restaurant

► For 40 years, the Maranzana family have shared their love of Italian food with their patrons, successfully serving up hearty helpings of aromatic pizzas, piled high with an arrangement of sweet and savoury toppings. Their origins were humble, having started out making their now-famous pizzas out of a brick oven at home before establishing the family restaurant on Bermudiana Road. When it comes to pizza, the Maranzanas take it seriously, kneading, saucing and topping perfection for close to a half century. ✦ 20 Bermudiana Road, Hamilton, 296-0606

GREAT SANDWICH Hickory Stick

► “Great Sandwich” is an understatement. When it comes to Hamilton's much-loved and always-busy Hickory Stick, a better-suited award might read: “Truly colossal sandwich, defying the laws of gravity

and economy because there's absolutely no way anyone could find a better value for money islandwide, because ‘Holy cow (pun absolutely intended) that's a lot of filling for only \$5.’” But for the sake of simplicity, “Great Sandwich” will have to do. ✦ 2 Church Street, Hamilton, 292-1781

ETHNIC CUISINE House of India

► Sometime in the near future, House of India will have to construct additional wall space to showcase their ever-growing collection of Best of Bermuda Awards—25 to date! Since opening their doors in 1995, husband and wife team Ashok Uppal and Geri Rodrigues have strived to operate a family-friendly restaurant that is big on flavour, quality and service. Their restaurant has maintained a level of success that most restaurateurs only dream of reaching and there's no indication of their intent to slow down. ✦ 57 North Street, Hamilton, 205-6450

SUNDAY BRUNCH The Reefs

► On Sundays, Bermudians rise early, dress hurriedly and prepare for battle—brunching battle, to be precise. Their forks and knives at the ready, they dig in, savouring each morsel of every well-deserved dish on offer, a feast for the ages. Only one brunch spot takes brunching as seriously as its regulars: The Reefs, worth battling over year after year. ✦ 56 South Shore Road, Southampton, 238-0222

KID-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT La Trattoria

► Whether you're with a legitimate group of children or dining late-night with a group behaving like children, the wait staff at the much-loved La Trattoria successfully accommodates everyone. With a healthy menu designed with the littlest (and pickiest) eaters in mind, La Trattoria is kid-approved and deserving of every pint-sized thumbs up! ✦ 23 Washington Lane, Hamilton, 295-1877



GLUTEN-FREE MENU Angelo's Bistro

► Good food sans gluten is hard to find—that is, if you're dining anywhere but Angelo's Bistro. Local chef and owner Angelo Buglione and his wife Fatima welcome patrons to their family-run restaurant in the Walker Arcade for healthy servings of eggs benedict, local fish, salads, homemade pastas, seafood specials and homemade Bermuda fish chowder. Their full gluten-free menu is the star of the show, providing local celiacs with wholesome food unavailable elsewhere. ✦ Walker Arcade, Front Street, Hamilton, 232-1000





LOCAL PRODUCE • J&J Produce

► Rain, blow or shine, Patty and Junior Hill of J&J Produce are stationed dependably at their vegetable stand in Devonshire assisting their customers to select the right fruits and vegetables to take home and enjoy. Since 1979, the family-run business has been providing the island with the very best in homegrown produce. ✨ 49 South Road, Warwick, 236-8616

**FINE DINING
Ascots**

► When it comes to fine dining, it's not all about the food, nor is it simply to do with the service. Rather, it's a blend, a perfect combination of magnificent food, carefully chosen wine, award-winning ambiance and impeccable service—and none spoils their patrons more perfectly than the staff at Ascots. Located on the beautiful property of the Royal Palms Hotel, the dining experience at Ascots is renowned and certainly worthy of notoriety. ✨ 24 Rosemont Avenue, Pembroke, 295-9644

**LUNCH ON THE GO
Casablanca**

► With decades of experience in the restaurant business, Amre Elsayed unveiled his latest venture, Casablanca, in September 2016 and has relished much success since. The Washington Lane take-away focusses on Middle Eastern fare, serving up meats fresh from the shawarma grill, couscous and aromatic rice

dishes. Elsayed prefers to use only locally caught, fresh fish and believes that the secret to a prosperous restaurant is the union of quality food, affordable pricing and efficient, kindly service. ✨ 18 Washington Lane, Hamilton, 295-9999

**ROMANTIC RESTAURANT
Coconuts at The Reefs**

► Overlooking Bermuda's famed south shore is Coconuts, the island's most romantic restaurant. Boasting insurmountable views of the vast Atlantic with seating along a wooden deck, it's the atmosphere that garners Coconuts its substantial attention, but the menu, rich in Caribbean-inspired dishes, is just as much a reason to fall in love. ✨ 56 South Shore Road, Southampton, 238-0222

**AMBIANCE
Mad Hatters**

► A small restaurant with big personality, Mad Hatters is fashioned on playfulness and the joy of eating. Adorned in an array of silly hats and caps, the restaurant encourages its diners to let loose and play dress-up throughout their meal, celebrating the performance of feasting and the coming together to break bread. Of course, their never-ending list of specials and award-winning menu items only aid the jolly atmosphere and pleasurable dining experience. ✨ 22 Richmond Road, Pembroke, 297-6231

**OUT-OF-TOWN EATERY
Tempest Bistro**

► For the third consecutive year, Tempest Bistro is Bermuda's favourite out-of-town eatery. Situated on Water Street, St.

George, Tempest excels at merging French cuisine with old-Bermuda charm, in a way not seen locally. Under the exposed brick archways of a former military warehouse and overlooking St. George's Harbour, diners enjoy an array of bistro-style dishes, including escargots, oysters Rockefeller and cedar-baked salmon. Owned and managed by the same team as award-winning Mad Hatters, Tempest Bistro gives us one more reason to visit St. George's. ✨ 22 Water Street, St. George, 297-0861

**PORCH & PATIO DINING
The Beach House at Blackbeard's**

► Overlooking Achilles Bay is The Beach House at Blackbeard's, a summertime destination. Delight in al fresco dining with vast views of the Atlantic and neighbouring Fort St. Catherine. This seasonal restaurant is open from April through to the end of October and specialises in succulent seafood dishes and Mediterranean-style cuisine. ✨ 6 Rose Hill, St. George, 297-1400

**SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
The Lobster Pot**

► For more than 40 years, The Lobster Pot has been the go-between for fisherman and seafood enthusiast. With daily deliveries of fresh fish from local fishermen, the chefs at The Lobster Pot are revered for their skillful preparation and execution of Bermuda's much-loved seafood dishes, like pan-fried Bermuda rockfish, baked snapper, Bermuda guinea chicks and, of course, their award-winning fish chowder. ✨ 5 Bermudiana Road, Hamilton, 292-6898

CAKE MAKER • Sweet Saak Bakery

► Sweet Saak isn't famous for run-of-the-mill, garden-variety cakes. No, Kamilah Cannonier and her team of diligent bakers are revered for their beautiful custom-ordered cakes and cupcakes, accented with intricate designs and light, fluffy frostings. ✨ 16 York Street, St. George, 297-0663





BUTCHER • The Supermart

► Victorious in this category every year since 2011, the butchers at The Supermart are masters of meat; their ability to slice, tenderise and prepare their stock is unrivaled. Whether you're looking for a specific cut of meat, a platter of superior cheeses or a fillet of local fish, the butchers at The Supermart manage their meats winningly. * 125 Front Street, Hamilton, 292-2064

LOCAL FISHERMAN Captain Cragin of Reel Addiction

► For a lifetime, Captain Cragin, known affectionately as "Curly," has fished Bermuda waters winning numerous local tournaments, including the 2016 Billfish Blast and the coveted Triple Crown—he's the only Bermuda boat captain to have done so. When looking to go out and catch your own fish, hop aboard Captain Curly's boat and reel in your own fish worthy of an addiction. * 799-9927

LOCAL FISH Lost in the Triangle (LITT)

► Owned by local fishermen Delvin and Allan Bean, Lost in the Triangle (LITT) specialises in preparing local fish the Bermudian way. The menu is ripe with shark hash, conch fritters, Bermuda spiny lobster, traditional codfish and potatoes, and every Bermudian's favourite, fish chowder with a generous helping of Gosling's Black Seal Rum. * 13 Reid Street, Hamilton, 296-0094

CHEF Jonny Roberts, Bolero Brasserie

► For the second consecutive

year, Jonny Roberts at Bolero Brasserie is Bermuda's best chef, expertly managing his staff and restaurant daily while somehow finding the time to actually cook. One of Bermuda's best and busiest establishments, Bolero Brasserie continues to produce magnificence year after year because of Roberts's genius and diligence. * 9 Front Street, Hamilton, 292-4507

MAÎTRE D' Matteo Gilardoni, Beluga Bar

► No matter how infrequently you dine, Matteo remembers everyone, recalling your last visit and your preferred dish. His hospitality and expert knowledge of his customers is a side dish best served warm and friendly. * Washington Mall, 18 Church Street, Hamilton, 542-2859

BARTENDER Andrew Spencer-Arscott, Hog Penny Restaurant and Pub

► When it comes to pleasing patrons, none does it better than Andrew Spencer-Arscott of Hog Penny Restaurant and Pub. Playing host to the legendary restaurant's lively bar-goers, Spencer-Arscott is both an

expert in his bar and in its patronage, serving up experiences as positive as his drinks. * 5 Burnaby Hill, Hamilton, 292-2534
* Steven Spencer-Arscott abstained from voting in this category

FRIENDLIEST WAIT STAFF Wahoo's Bistro & Patio

► "Each staff member brings their own flavour to the dining experience, enhancing it in their own personal way," said one judge. "They're always so friendly, so personable!" said another. For an authentic Bermudian experience of both people and food, Wahoo's Bistro & Patio serves it up, perfectly. * 36 Water Street, St. George, 297-1307

FISH CHOWDER The Lobster Pot

► Taking the cake, or bowl rather, a whopping nine times in this category since the year 2000 is The Lobster Pot. Perhaps it's their expertise in preparing seafood, or their daily order of fresh fish from local fishermen or their commitment to good, quality food; whatever it is, it's working and we're happy to keep rewarding them for it. * 5 Bermudiana Road, Hamilton, 292-6898

PLACE TO WATCH TELEVISED SPORTS Flanagan's Outback Sports Bar

► Sport spectating requires a certain formula to be award-worthy: The atmosphere needs to be lively, the drinks (preferably on-tap) need to be ever-flowing and the food, fried to perfection and in large quantity. Flanagan's Outback Sports Bar is expansive enough for large and boisterous groups and with secluded booths (equipped with individual TVs) it's also private enough for smaller gatherings. * 96 Front Street, Hamilton, 295-8299



PLACE FOR A GLASS OF WINE Little Venice Wine Bar

► The Little Venice Wine bar is home to more than 800 bottles of wine, the best and largest selection on the island. Featuring the finest whites, reds and rosés from around the world, the Little Venice Wine Bar attracts wine enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds who find comradery at the bottom of every bottle. * 32 Bermudian Road, Hamilton, 295-3503



PLACE TO CATCH A FILM Specialty Cinema & Grill

► Specialty Cinema & Grill is the only movie theatre on-island to house two separate screening rooms, quite a feat for a movie theatre once called "Little"! The popular theatre has more contemporary features than its older counterparts, providing a more genuine North American style movie theatre atmosphere, right down to the wide array of snacks and drinks to enjoy during the show. * 12 Church Street, Hamilton, 292-2135



HAPPIEST HAPPY HOUR • Hamilton Princess & Beach Club

► Friday evenings are punctuated by Happy Hour: the start of the weekend, a celebratory event. No other establishment rejoices in Friday more vigorously than the Hamilton Princess & Beach Club. With three restaurants (Marcus', Crown & Anchor and Marina Nights at 1609 Bar & Restaurant) and a bevy of unsurpassable settings and accompanying vantage points, saying goodbye to the work week and hello to the weekend has never been filled with so much pomp and pageantry. ✨ 76 Pitts Bay Road, Hamilton, 295-3000

PLACE TO HEAR LIVE MUSIC Chewstick

► After the fire on Front Street in July 2016, The Chewstick Foundation, alas, has been without a home and without a place to hold their weekly Neo-Grio jam sessions. But the Chewstick veterans are still out there, performing on a regular basis and flying the flag high for the foundation that gave them a stage and a start. So while Chewstick may not have a physical place for the time being, the foundation and the love is still very much alive. Catch the #ChewFam performing at various locations around the island: D.I.A. performs at the Blue Water Anglers Club and Marcus'; Mike Hind plays at 1609 Bar & Restaurant and The

Dock at Waterlot Inn during the summer months; and various members of the Chewstick family will grace the stage as part of the 35th America's Cup festivities. ✨ www.chewstick.org

PLACE TO PARTY Henry VIII Restaurant

► Wildly popular with adults of all ages, Henry VIII Restaurant is the perfect place to unwind and show 'em what you've got. While the large space plays host to the lunch and dinner crowd during the day and early evening, once the sun goes down the party is on and the hot spot is swingin'. With a roster of musicians and DJs performing weekly, Henry VIII is the place to be to cut the

rug and party until the wee hours of the morning. ✨ 69 South Road, Southampton, tel: 238-1977

WINE/LIQUOR SALES Corkscrews Beer, Wine & Spirits

► Conveniently located outside the hustle and bustle of Hamilton is Corkscrews Beer, Wine & Spirits liquor store, small in size but big in variety. Everything from rum to wine to beer and soda is housed neatly at the roadside store and the friendly staff are always on hand to recommend a particular blend or bottle. ✨ 31 Middle Road, Southampton, 293-0656

2016 CONCERT Leroyfest

► Taylor Rankin and his violin "Leroy" took listeners on a melodious journey through five different worlds in June 2016 in an exploration of music and the imagination. Audiences were treated to performances at the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum & Zoo; the caves at Grotto Bay; the Bermuda National Gallery; the Botanical Gardens—and through the streets of Hamilton with Rankin leading the way. ✨ www.taylorrankin.com

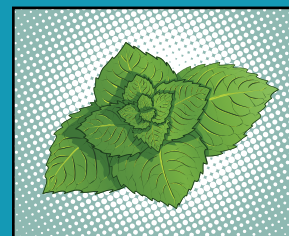
COD FISH BREAKFAST Island Cuisine

► When it comes to serving up the time-honoured traditional codfish breakfast, you had better do it rightly. With ease and deliciousness, Island Cuisine turns out plates of glorious, salty cod, boiled potatoes and all the added yet necessary fixings, perfecting one of the island's most favoured dishes. ✨ 235 Middle Road, Southampton, 238-3287



HOMEGROWN-LOCALLY MADE FOOD/DRINK PRODUCT Bermuda Smokehouse

► Founded by James Mitchell and Brendan Huttick over a shared love of barbeque, Bermuda Smokehouse has propelled the island's home-grown food repertoire forward, smoking wahoo and salmon, brisket and pork ribs, halloumi and feta to outright gastronomic perfection. Their loyal consumers turn out religiously for their smoky yields, purchasing from Miles Market, Bermy Fresh Farm Market and the weekly Farmers' Market at the Botanical Gardens. ✨ 335-4244



BermyFresh

► BermyFresh's founding farmer, Scott Tucker, had a dream: to introduce vertical, hydroponic farming to Bermuda in an effort to provide grocery stores and consumers with locally grown, nutritious microgreens, baby salad greens and mushrooms. Since the birth of BermyFresh in 2015, the farm has grown to include a farm market and a farm box programme, a subscription service whereby consumers receive a weekly box laden with BermyFresh's finest produce, all of which is always grown in the absence of GMOs, pesticides and herbicides. ✨ 15 Well Bottom Road, Southampton, 236-3400

PHOTO: COLIN MURDOCH



MUSICIAN/MUSICAL GROUP Mike Hind

► Ukuleleist Mike Hind, a.k.a. Uncle Elvis, is undoubtedly one of Bermuda's busiest performers, playing a wide range of audiences and venues on a regular basis. Known widely for his ability to accurately cover any song (including Beyoncé's "Single Ladies"), Hind is always a welcome addition at local events. Catch Mike Hind this summer at 1609 Bar & Restaurant on Thursday and Sunday evenings from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and at The Dock at Waterlot Inn on Friday and Saturday evenings from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. ✨ www.mikehind.com

CREATIVE COCKTAILS The Dock at Waterlot Inn

► For 2017, this category should be renamed "Colossal Creative Cocktails" in homage to The Docks's Ridiculous Caesar, a larger-than-life take on the classic drink. The \$99 cocktail, made with vodka, clamato juice, tabasco sauce and Worcestershire sauce, is garnished with (wait for it) chicken wings, Italian sausage, oysters, shrimp, a lobster claw, mini Wagyu burger, seared scallops, lobster tail and three ounces of Wagyu sirloin. ✨ 101 South Shore Road, Southampton, 238-8000

FISH SANDWICH Art Mel's Spicy Dicey

► Do we even need to say it? Bermuda's most iconic sandwich has been awarded more times than we can count and for good reason: the much-praised beacon of Bermudian food culture is rich in battered fish, piled high on raisin bread and lovingly topped with coleslaw. If you must ask, you should be ashamed. ✨ 9 St. Monica's Road, Pembroke, 295-3965

Freshly made pies

Hot food stations & pasta specials

Check Facebook for our daily specials

Breakfast served daily & all day on Saturdays!

Catering & delivery available!

Plus our famous soups, salads and gluten-free breads!

OPEN: Monday to Friday, 7am-3pm
Saturday, 8am-2pm

4 Bermudiana Road, Hamilton
441.705.7687
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nonnas KITCHEN



Rosa's

BERMUDA'S BEST OF THE SOUTHWEST & SO MUCH MORE!

Our fresh, savoury preparations are bursting with Southwest flavour.

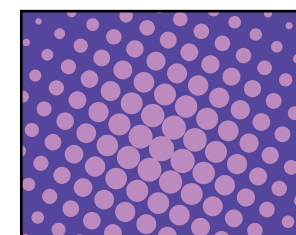
Everything on our menu is hand-crafted from the best available ingredients. Our mission: Quality food at reasonable prices – prepared and served with Bermudian Signature Hospitality. Bring your friends or family and enjoy!



OPEN DAILY
11:30 am - 11:00 pm

WWW.ROSAS.BM
Dine In or Take Out

441.295.1912
121 Front Street, Hamilton



BEST DRAMATIC PRODUCTION • The Colour Purple

► Featuring an all-star Bermudian cast, including Candace Furbert and Tsilala Brock as Celie, Troika Bermuda's production of *The Colour Purple* was an outstanding success, having made two show runs in the last year. The Tony-winning Broadway hit debuted in Bermuda in August 2016 to rave reviews and a standing ovation. Bravo to Troika Bermuda for bringing Broadway to Bermuda shores. ✨ www.troikabda.com



BANG FOR YOUR BUCK • Rosa's

► Bringing the best of the Southwest to Bermuda for decades, Rosa's is unbeatable when it comes to a great meal for a great price. With an extensive and well-priced menu catering to a wide variety of tastes, Rosa's is the place to go for a family meal that won't break the bank. ✦ 121 Front Street, Hamilton, 295-1912

**SMOOTHIES
Buzz Café**

► Our judges were enamoured with the extensive smoothie menu at Buzz Café, which includes 100 percent real fruit concoctions like the Tahiti Green (mango, green tea and frozen yogurt), the Kick Azz (raspberry, blueberry, orange

and cranberry), and the Banago (banana, mango, honey and plain yogurt). ✦ www.buzzgroup.bm

**FOOD/DRINK
SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE
Bermunchies**

► Highlighting Bermudian food culture through its wide-scoping online presence is Bermunchies,

an off-shoot of infamous Bermemes. Calling itself a "visual hub of Bermuda's foodie scene," Bermunchies excels at providing its viewership with recipes for local favourites, like loquat liqueur, Johnny bread and traditional Bermuda fishcakes. ✦ www.bermemes.com/bermunchies

**TASTY TAKE-OUT/DINNER
Jamaican Grill**

► When it comes to tasty take-out, Jamaican Grill is a mecca, serving up piping hot portions of jerk chicken, rice and peas, and beef patties from 6:30 a.m. until midnight. The eatery expertly combines the elements of both Jamaican and West Indian food cultures and serves it up deliciously to the people of Bermuda. ✦ 32 Court Street, Hamilton, 296-6577

**PICK-UP BAR
Ambiance Lounge**

► Whether you've successfully picked anyone up at Ambiance

Lounge or not, everyone has certainly tried. The last stop on a night out, Ambiance boasts a stylish and sophisticated atmosphere worthy of a last-ditch effort to find a special someone, even if just for the night. ✦ 42 Angle Street, Pembroke, 535-9662

JUDGES

Jenna Viera-West
Holistic Health & Lifestyle Coach, Simply Well, Bermuda

Melvin Nusum
Business Development Analyst, HSBC Global Asset Management Bermuda

Jill Henneberger
Senior Interior designer/Partner, By Design Ltd.

Shalini Tucker
Owner/ Manager, Dangelini's Cafe

Steven Spencer-Arscott
COO, Total Marketing & Communications

BETH MACDONALD
INTERIOR DECORATING LTD

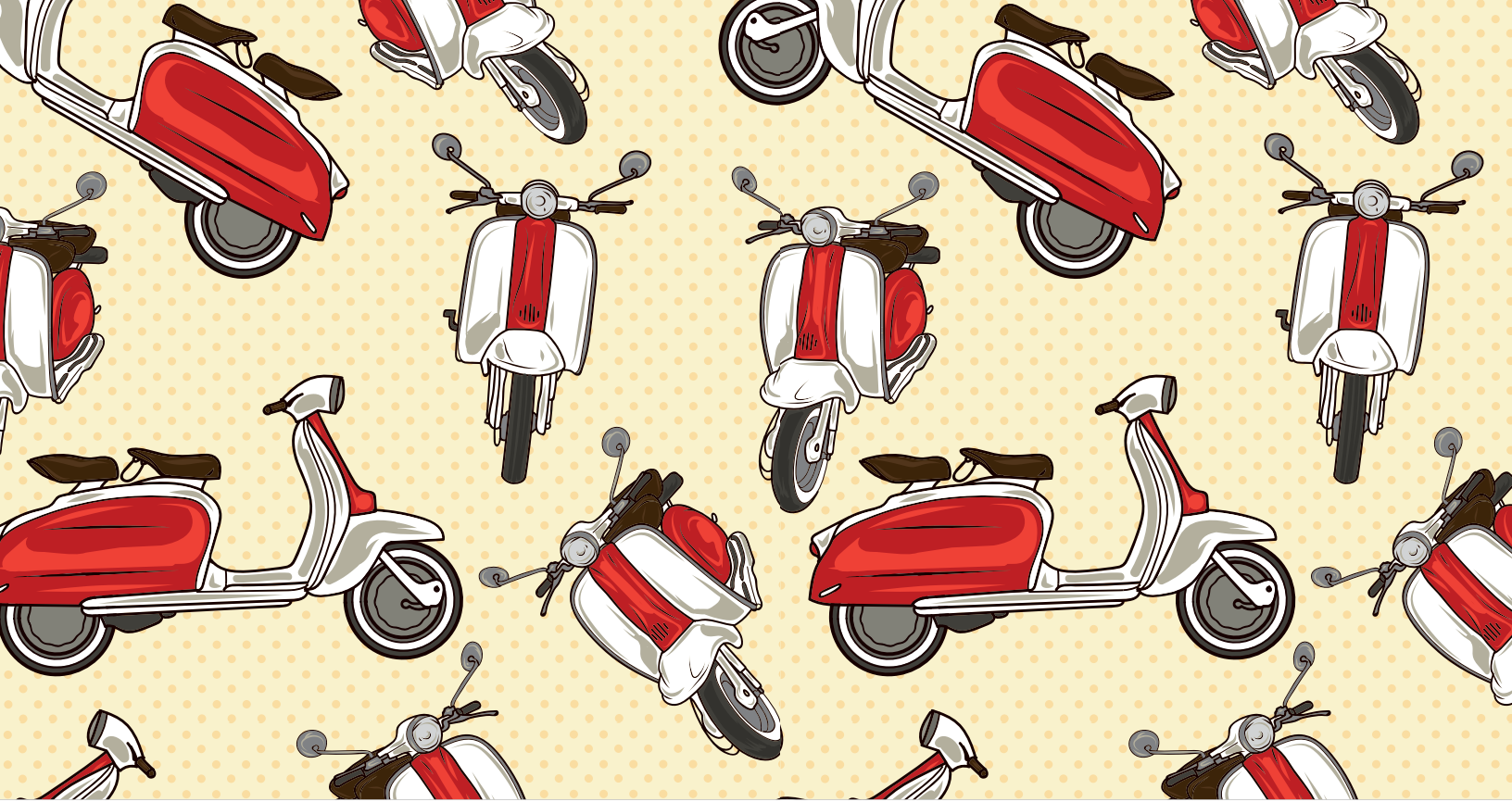
Helping you create the perfect space...



tel: 441 236 9459 fax: 441 236 2471 e-ddress: info@bmid.bm

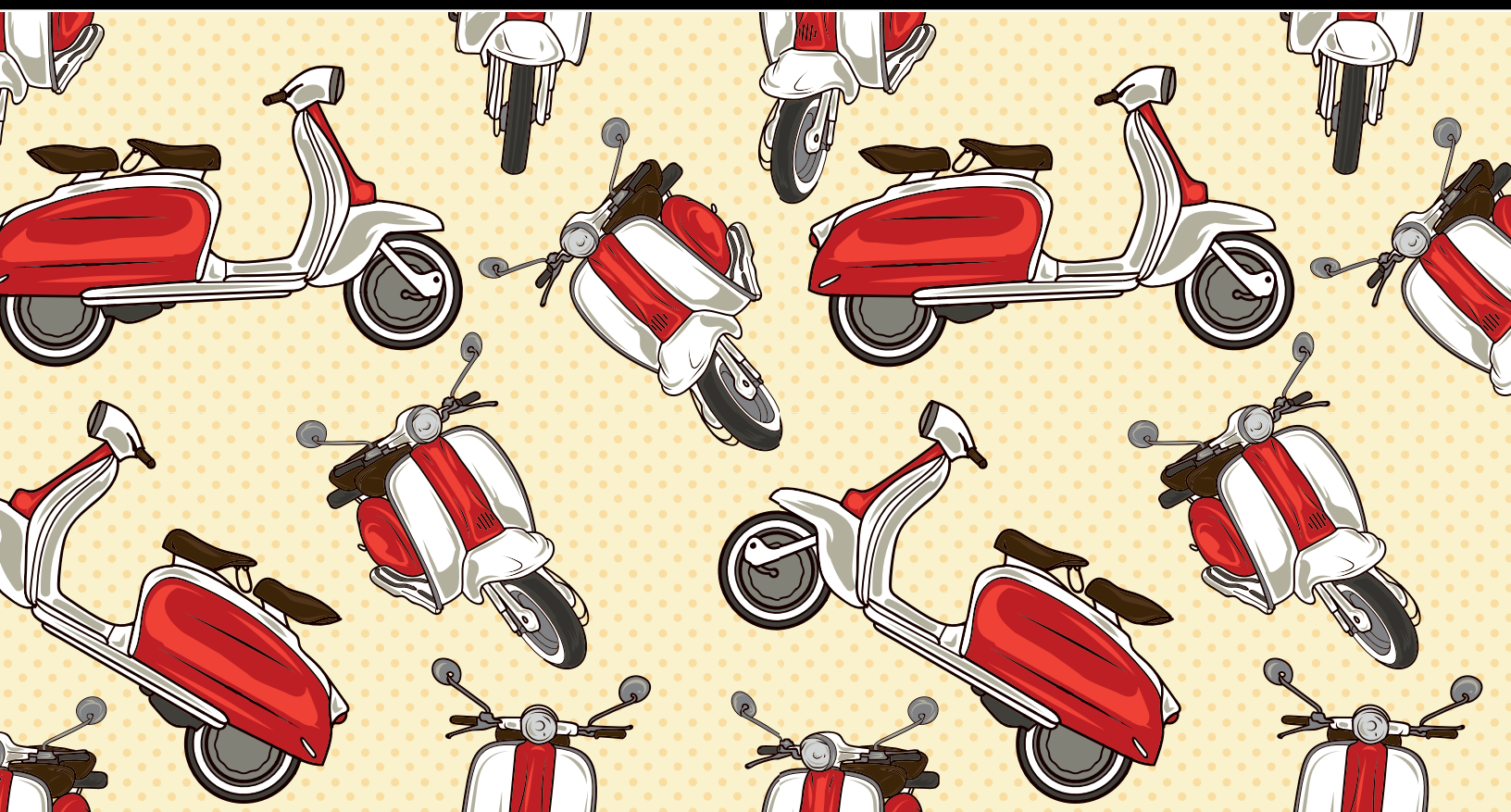
www.bmid.bm





Shopping & Services

By Cassandra Ortega



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE Dasfete

► An up-and-coming business that has made true strides in its industry, Dasfete offers only the best professional, innovative service in event coordination and design, décor sourcing, interior styling and more. This creative event and style production house has come up with a concept that truly fills a niche in Bermuda, as one judge observed.

Founders Selange Gitschner and Matthew Strong creatively use a set of extraordinary skills to offer an energetic, efficient, professional and overall exceptional level of service that customers will never forget. In a business that is entirely service oriented, such dedication is commendable.

In addition to its impressive service, Dasfete also takes pride in its high-quality sources for materials and in its constant incorporation of Bermuda's natural beauty into its final results. The team is enthusiastic about partnering with local businesses to support other local vendors and to keep the environment in mind, no matter what the occasion or project.

Dasfete is a truly outstanding Best of Bermuda Award winner. As one judge aptly summed up their merit: "There's nothing second rate about them." ✦ *Somers Building, 15 Front Street, Hamilton, 400-5048*

BOOK STORE Bermuda Bookstore

► Once again voted best in its category, Bermuda Bookstore offers a well-curated collection of American and British books, enviable prices and superior service. The knowledgeable staff is happy to special order specific titles or offer insightful suggestions if needed. This small shop in the heart of Hamilton has been open since the 1930s and its owners know a thing or two about the business. A single stop into this quaint but generously stocked bookstore is sure to leave you impressed. ✦ *3 Queen Street, Hamilton, 295-3698*

TOY STORE Robertson's Drug Store

► Although a pharmacy by definition, Robertson's boasts a wonderful selection of toys that the kids will love! You're sure to find something that you might not find elsewhere, whether it's a little treat to fill an Easter basket or Christmas stocking, or a reward for a good grade earned at school. This off-the-beaten-track shop fills the niche, both with its well-chosen assortment

of toys and its friendly and efficient service. ✦ *24 York Street, St. George, 297-1828*

ART GALLERY Bermuda National Gallery

► Popular among our judges for its willingness to accommodate local vendors, Bermuda National Gallery strives to be the leader in the display of local art and in the encouragement of Bermudian artists. It's use of various types of exhibit, educational programmes and volunteer work engages the community on many levels. And the staff is energetic, always pushing "to promote innovative, contemporary local work," often through creative uses of the gallery space. No matter what their areas of craft may be, local vendors are supported and admired at Bermuda National Gallery. ✦ *17 Church Street, Hamilton, 295-9428*

GARDEN SUPPLIES Sousa's Landscape Management Co. Ltd.

► This family-run business has been open for more than 40 years and never fails to offer an impressive selection of garden gear, not to mention friendly and



▲ SELANGE GITSCHNER AND MATTHEW STRONG

efficient customer service. Also worthy of praise are Sousa's high quality Christmas trees and the superior service that comes with them. This company always makes an effort to be innovative, even when working with a limited budget. ✦ *2 Camp Hill Road, Southampton, 238-1797*

PLACE TO SATISFY YOUR SWEET TOOTH The Dockyard Pastry Shop

► Always winning its customers over with a selection of decadent pastries and baked goods is The Dockyard Pastry Shop. If you're craving something sweet, this small but enticing cafe is the perfect spot to enjoy a fresh cup of coffee and a sweet indulgence. The shop's strategic location just beyond the bustle of Dockyard gives customers a chance to relax while watching passersby. ✦ *12 Dockyard Terrace, Sandys, 232-CAKE (2253)*

PHARMACY Collector's Hill Apothecary

► Highly praised by our judges for the outstanding service of its pharmacists is Collector's Hill Apothecary. As one judge commented, the pharmacists are always willing to come out from behind the counter to help you find what you're looking for and are happy to help with any query. And, of course, there is also an impressive selection of beauty and personal care products and easy parking to help sway your shopping decision. ✦ *2 South Road, Smiths, 279-5513*

PET PAMPERING June Harris at The Groom Room

► Looking for the perfect place to take your pet for a grooming? Look no further than The Groom Room. June Harris provides great service, reasonable pricing and a final result that's sure to please. Even the pets will look forward to the experience! ✦ *29 Ewing Street, Hamilton, 292-0981*

PHOTO: TWO & QUARTER



GREAT GIFTS • The Island Shop

► Featuring a variety of uniquely Bermuda-themed gift items, from embroidered pillows to stationery and tableware, The Island Shop appeals to the taste of visitor and local alike. Whether you're in search of the perfect gift or looking for something to complement your own home décor, The Island Shop is the place to find it. All the gifts are crafted in the artistic style of shop owner Barbara Finsness and reflect the island's architectural, floral and marine elements. * 3 Queen Street, Hamilton, 292-5292 *Barbara Finsness abstained from voting

**PET SUPPLIES
Noah's Ark**

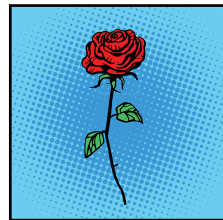
► Once again Noah's Ark has claimed the title for Best Pet Supplies. And it's no wonder! Our judges agree—they offer not only a great selection of the essentials for any pet, but also a variety of treats and toys. And to top it off, the friendly staff treats customers like family and is always researching the latest products in pet care and health, so that your pet has only the best. * 3 Marsh Lane, Devonshire, 236-1533

**GROCERY STORE
Lindo's Market
in Devonshire**

► With an always well-stocked selection of items and staff members who know regular customers by name, you can't go wrong by choosing Lindo's in Devonshire. If you have any trouble finding what you need, the accommodating staff is more than happy to point you in the right direction or make helpful suggestions. And with the newly added seniors' discount day on Tuesday, there's

FRESH FLOWERS • Demco

► Recognised for its great pricing, speedy service and accommodating staff, Demco was once again voted the place to go for fresh flowers. The always tastefully arranged bouquets and centrepieces come at competitive prices, and one judge was impressed with the ease of placing an order over the phone. No matter what the occasion, Demco's large selection of flowers is sure to provide the perfect arrangement. * 14 South Road, Devonshire, 234-7777. 26 Church Street, Hamilton, 293-3626



a chance for everyone to save, without the store becoming too crowded! * 4 Watlington Road, Devonshire, 236-5623

**WAREHOUSE STYLE SHOPPING
Price Rite**

► There's no denying it. Price Rite is the place to go for bulk shopping. From household products to electronics, this store has a big selection that's sure to include what you need. Plus, they offer impressive customer service, and as one judge commented: "Staff members are willing to replace items without question and will order items custom." When you consider the convenient opening hours and ample parking, you're sure to be persuaded! * 22 Middle Road Warwick. 232-0010. 10 Mill Reach Road, Pembroke, 295-7111

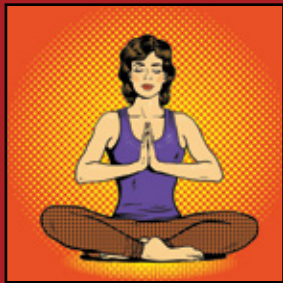
**SPORTS STORE
Sports R Us**

► Acknowledged and appreciated for its great service is Sports R Us. The shop caters to a wide variety of sports and offers a huge selection of merchandise, from kids sporting gear to workout clothes and running shoes. One judge commented that staff are willing to go the extra mile to help, and once even remembered an item a customer was looking for and called him three months later when they had found the product. * 61 Church Street, Hamilton, 292-1891



**HEALTH & FITNESS CLUB
Evolutions Health & Fitness Centre Ltd.**

► Truly dedicated to improving the health and lifestyles of its customers, Evolutions Health & Fitness Centre was chosen by our judges for its cleanliness, affordability and always-enthusiastic staff. Whether it's finding the right workout for you or offering advice to improve your eating habits, the team is more than happy to offer guidance. This high-quality yet affordable health centre is a gem both for the St. George's community and for residents islandwide. * 14 Wallers Point Road, St. George, 297-0438



**YOGA/PILATES STUDIO
Yoga Flow Bermuda**

► Voted by our judges as Bermuda's Best Yoga Studio, Yoga Flow Bermuda offers Vinyasa, Yin and prenatal yoga for yogis of all levels. Business owner and instructor Bec is willing to go the extra mile to ensure that all her students are satisfied, no matter what their motivations for taking a class. Sessions are reasonably priced and are available both privately and in groups. So, whether you're in search of relaxation, improved fitness or a better connection with your baby, Yoga Flow Bermuda is the answer. * 533-0202



BIKE MECHANIC • Beta Cycles

► Whether you're looking for a bike repair or even a rental, Beta Cycles is the company to trust. The team can repair any type of bike, no matter the make or model, and the shop is conveniently open seven days a week all year long. A new and up-and-coming company, Beta Cycles goes above and beyond to make customers happy and is even willing to collect broken-down bikes and transport them back to the shop to repair. * 61 Middle Road, Sandys, 234-0126

**HELPFUL HARDWARE STORE
Gorham's**

► With a hard-working staff and well-stocked selection of items, Gorham's is the place to go for your hardware needs. Whether you're in need of a basic household product or tools for a particular project, one of the helpful staff members will be happy to assist. And the store offers everything from barbecues and other outdoor equipment to kitchen supplies and cleaning products, making Gorham's a true one-stop shop. * 62 St. John's Road, Pembroke, 295-1550

**COMPUTER AND/OR DIGITAL DEVICE SALES
Red Laser**

► When it comes to picking out a new computer or digital device, Red Laser is the top choice of our judges. They offer an impressive selection of

the best quality products, and their free, same-day islandwide delivery is never forgotten by a happy customer. If you're not sure which product is right for you, turn to their knowledgeable team for advice. You'll never have to worry about how to make your next tech-related purchase again. * 12 Bakery Lane, Pembroke, 296-6400

**HOME FURNISHINGS STORE
The Irish Linen Shop**

► Perhaps not the first place that comes to mind when thinking of furniture, The Irish Linen

shop does in fact offer a great selection of high-quality pieces. And, of course, they also offer a beautiful, hand-selected collection of home décor items, from fine linens to tableware. The shop will happily custom-order special furnishings to suit your needs, no matter what type of project you may have, and will even personally deliver them. So whether you're looking for the perfect gift or redecorating a room, The Irish Linen shop is a sure bet! * 31 Front Street, Hamilton, 295-4089

**GAS STATION
Dowling's Marine Service
Station in St. George**

► This family-owned business was praised by our judges for its "old-school" Bermuda-style service. The staff are so accommodating that when they realised one customer's windshield wiper was broken, they replaced it for her free of charge. This gas station also offers reasonable prices that, when combined with such great service, are just too rewarding to pass up. * Penno's Drive, St. George, 297-1914

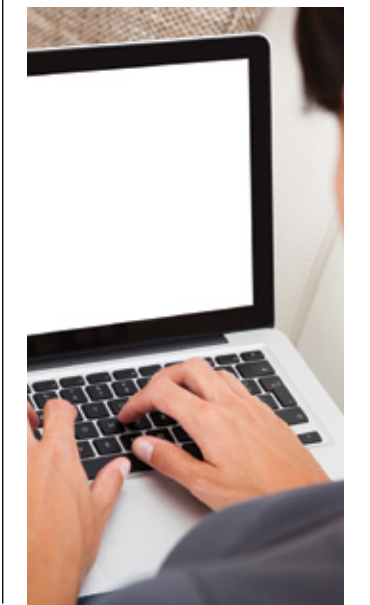
**INTERIOR DESIGNER/
DECORATOR
Beth MacDonald**

► Beth MacDonald Interior Decorating offers complete interior decorating services for all types of clients and projects. Down to the last lighting component and fabric choice, Beth will perfectly coordinate your next home or commercial space to fit

your exact needs. The company takes pride in its ability to transform any space and in its trusted suppliers for all materials, letting you feel confident every step of the way. So whether you're in need of a few simple changes or a complete redesign, this business is a sure bet. * 62 Spice Hill Road, Warwick, 236-9459

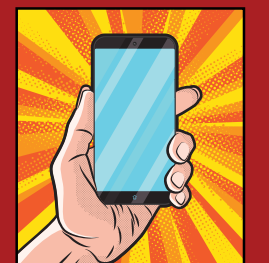
**COMPUTER SERVICE
Greg Peters, Macworcs**

► Highly praised by our judges for his exceptionally fast service and skill when it comes to computer repair is Greg Peters at Macworcs. Whether you have a Mac or a PC that needs to be fixed or revived completely, Macworcs is the place to take it. Greg goes above and beyond to assist his customers and also offers incredibly reasonable prices. * gmp3264@mac.com



DIGITAL DEVICE SERVICE • Alex Jones, iRepair

► Offering service for any type of device, from cell phones to iPads and tablets, Alex Jones at iRepair is ready to help with your next digital fix. Whether the glitch is a simple screen repair or something more complex, iRepair is sure to have the solution. The shop keeps a large selection of parts from various brands in stock, so that no matter what the problem or what type of device you have, Alex can help. With service that's not only efficient, but also timely, you can't go wrong. * Washington Lane, Hamilton, 297-6464





FOR PATIO AND POOL • **Island Trading**

► From outdoor furniture and accessories to pool maintenance supplies, Island Trading proudly offers an extensive selection of patio and pool products. Recognised by our judges for its friendly service and reasonable rates, Island Trading never fails to leave its customers satisfied. All items are hand-selected by the owners, ensuring that a variety of tasteful options is available to suit each customer. Turn to Island Trading for the perfect piece to complete your patio, or for its great gift potential. ✨ *93 Reid Street East, Hamilton, 292-0400*

LANDSCAPING SERVICES **Ground Effects Ltd.**

► For complete landscape care, Ground Effects offers speedy, extremely reliable service and an overall high quality of work. No matter what type of property or job they are given, the members of the team get the work done so well and so quickly that customers are often left wondering how it happened. Whether your back yard needs maintenance or a makeover, turn to Ground Effects knowing that the task is in good hands. ✨ *P.O. Box SN 552, Southampton, SNBX, 238-0077*

ELECTRICIAN **Niche's Electrical**

► With quick, dependable service, Niche's Electrical is

the company to trust with all your electrical needs. As one judge commented, they are efficient, tidy and quick to show up, no matter how busy the day's schedule might be. They have even won over long-time customers, thanks to their consistent professionalism and impeccable skill. There's no doubt about it: Niche's Electrical prides itself on its happy customers. ✨ *6 Nursery Lane, Sandys, 747-0580*

BOAT REPAIR **Andrew Cottingham at Harbourside Marine**

► Harbourside Marine offers all manner of boat repair and maintenance services and all at reasonable rates. Strongly voted as a true Best in Bermuda by one of our judges, Andrew Cottingham

is recognised as being both incredibly knowledgeable and incredibly popular in his field. The company handles all boat-related jobs, from hauling and towing to engine and electrical repairs. So no matter what type of service you need, Harbourside Marine is sure to deliver quality results and exceptional service. ✨ *12 Parkview Lane, Pembroke, 505-7965*

WATER TRUCKING SERVICES **Fox's Water Service**

► When you need water, you need it right away. Fox's Water Service was voted best in this category for their honesty, efficiency and great service. In one customer's experience, Fox's was called to refill the tank, but when the team spotted a crack, they helped the customer to resolve the issue before refilling, saving the customer water and money in the process! Fox's is willing to help with any type of job and to come at any hour, always leaving customers happy. ✨ *9 Aurora Lane, Southampton, 335-5400*

CAR SALES **Auto Solutions**

► With a highly trained team and a broad selection of quality brands, Auto Solutions was unanimously voted Bermuda's best in car sales. The company prides itself on the quality of its products, its superior, comprehensive service and its consistent customer satisfaction. The team members are friendly, approachable and ready to offer advice when needed. When you're in the market for a new car, Auto Solutions will ensure that you end up satisfied with all

aspects of your decision. ✨ *61 St. John's Road, Pembroke, 295-5000*

UPHOLSTERER **Anslie's Interior Decor**

► Specialising in all aspects of interior decorating, from consultations to upholstery, Anslie's is sure to impress. Boasting nearly 30 years of experience, the company offers services for both residential and commercial projects, and the accommodating team is happy to assist with any questions you may have. Recognised and appreciated by its customers for its stellar service, reasonable prices and honesty, Anslie's is the place to turn to with your next decorating project. ✨ *1 Tee Street, Devonshire, 236-9993*

FITNESS CLASS **Pole Fitness at Aerial Therapy**

► Recently opened in 2015 is Aerial Therapy, a new type of fitness centre focusing on pole fitness. In their new location, a container that has been transformed into a beautiful studio, the team offers classes at very affordable prices and great package deals. Aerial Therapy strives to foster empowerment, healthful lifestyle and self-acceptance and encourages people of all fitness levels to take part. For a fun workout and a great means of self-expression, a pole fitness class at Aerial Media is the perfect solution. ✨ *16 Market Lane, Hamilton, 703-MOVE (6683)*

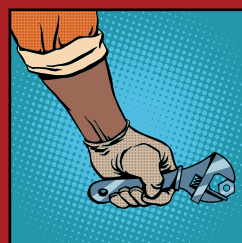
MAKEUP ARTIST **Aphrodite**

► For your next special occasion, trust freelance makeup artist Aphrodite to make you feel your best. Customers appreciate Aphrodite's consistently beautiful results and wonderful service. She is happy to offer her services for all types of special events, from corporate occasions to weddings. And no matter what your style or intended look, Aphrodite is sure to leave you feeling glamorous. ✨ *799-5085*

PLUMBER • **Hilton Brown Plumbing**

► If you have a leaky tap or a broken pump, call on Hilton Brown Plumbing. Recognised for their consistently good service and long-time happy customers, this company can handle any job, whether residential or commercial, and no matter the size or complexity. Hilton Brown is both very knowledgeable and reliable and will be there to assist you at any time, even on holidays.

✨ *7 North Shore Road, Devonshire, 293-6117*





KITCHEN TOOLS & ACCESSORIES • **International Imports**

► When it comes to supplies for the kitchen, our judges agreed unanimously—International Imports is outstanding. The shop offers everything from Le Creuset pots and KitchenAid mixers to handy cooking gadgets and dishware. All their products are of the best quality, and the helpful staff is happy to assist or offer advice when your choice comes down to two products. Their convenient Par-la-Ville Road location makes popping in easy whenever you're in town. ✦ 44 Par-la-Ville Road, Hamilton, 292-1661

PERSONAL TRAINER

Tommy Stratton at Willow Stream Spa

► When it comes to working out, each person has different goals and motivations. Tommy Stratton of Willow Stream Spa appreciates those differences and uses his credentials and experience to work with each of his clients to create the perfect fitness programme at just the right level of intensity. And Tommy isn't limited to working only with those who are young and fit; he happily takes on clients of all ages and fitness levels. As one judge commented, he makes working out pleasurable, giving much needed motivation to those who are not the most athletic. ✦ 101 South Shore Road, Southampton, 238-8000 (Willow Stream)

MASSAGE THERAPY

Glen Robinson, Ashlan Clinic

► Whether you're seeking relief from a sports injury or are just in need of some relaxation, Glen Robinson, the owner of Ashlan Clinic, can help. A certified massage and neuromuscular therapist, Glen will get to the root of the problem, no matter how particular, and will leaving you feeling renewed. Recognised by our judges for his consistently good reviews, Glen is said to have "magic in his fingertips." ✦ 48 Cedar Avenue, Hamilton, 292-6830

SPA

Willow Stream Spa at Fairmont Southampton

► Renowned for its phenomenal service and facilities is Willow Stream Spa. For a true luxury experience at an international standard, Willow Stream offers

a complete range of specialised beauty and body treatments, all featuring natural elements of Bermuda. Take advantage of their couples' treatments, exceptional manicures and pedicures and even a menu of healthful lunch and snack options for a day well spent.

✦ 101 South Shore Road, Southampton, 238-8000

NEW LOCAL AD/PROMOTION

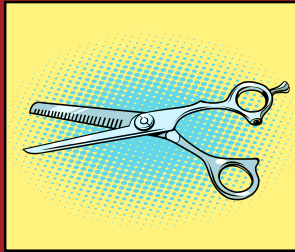
Bermuda Tourism Authority

► Always striving to foster Bermuda's growth as an internationally ranked tourist destination, the Bermuda Tourism Authority has made huge progress in its critical task. And such hard work has not gone unnoticed. The BTA was recently awarded a Public Relations Platinum Award at the 60th Adrian Awards Ceremony, the world's most distinguished travel marketing competition. And for the "Bermuda: Finding an Island's Adventurous Side" campaign, the award was in turn given a "Best of Show" honour. Distinguished even further, the BTA was also named winner of Gold and Silver Adrian Awards for its brand and print advertising. The BTA's impressive advertising campaigns can now be seen overseas, bringing much-needed international publicity for Bermuda. ✦ 22 Church Street, Hamilton, 296-9200

CASUAL CATERER

Fish N' Tings

► For the casual get-together with friends, Fish N' Tings is the caterer of choice. Boasting a great reputation for its outstanding Jamaican cuisine, Fish N' Tings can provide you with mouth-watering food and quality service for your next low-key party. Their flavourful cuisine is sure to be a hit with guests, and their efficient catering team will take care of all the details, leaving you free to enjoy the fun. ✦ 45 Angle Street, Hamilton, 292-7389



BARBER

Precious Wilson at Saphora Hair & Nail Salon

► Offering cuts and styling for both women and men is Precious Wilson. Appreciated by our judges for her consistently great haircuts and personable demeanour, Precious is accommodating for every customer. She is also happy to work with young boys and even dedicates every Wednesday completely to their haircuts. For your next barber's appointment, Precious is sure to impress. ✦ 33 Ewing Street, Hamilton, 295-8235



HAIR SALON

Tangles

► With nearly 30 years in business, Tangles was voted this year's best hair salon for its constant innovation, pleasant facilities and excellent customer service. Tangles is a Paul Mitchell concept salon that offers a full range of cuts, colouring and styling for men, women and children. The highly qualified team prides itself on always being up to date on the latest products and techniques and its excellent communication with customers. Count on Tangles for a truly professional and enjoyable experience. ✦ 3 Burnaby Street, Hamilton, 292-8294



LOCALLY MADE PRODUCT • Milton Hill's Ship Models

► With years of experience and a passion for his craft, Milton Hill won over our judges for his exquisitely made Bermuda cedar models of ships. Mr. Hill is a shipwright and sailor by trade, and his experience and in-depth knowledge of boats make his models all the more realistic and captivating. The models are made in the ways of those used to begin building a ship and are so beautifully crafted that they have been commissioned for the British monarchy, the Bermuda Historical Society and the Bermuda Sloop Foundation. ✨ 337-9114

FISHING CHARTER Allan and Delvin Bean, Paradise One

► For your next deep-sea fishing excursion, brothers Allan and Delvin Bean of Paradise One will provide an experience you're bound to enjoy. The brothers aim to give only the best service and offer trips to fish for a variety of species, including tuna, wahoo, marlin and snapper. With years of experience, the brothers have won several tournaments and supply many local restaurants with freshly caught fish. Charter their 54-foot sport fishing catamaran, *Paradise One*, for a professional and rewarding experience. ✨ 734-9409

DILIGENT REAL ESTATE AGENT Adam Birch

► Our judges agree: Adam Birch, a rental representative at Coldwell Banker Bermuda Realty is an outstanding real estate agent. No matter what your budget or preferences, Adam is sure to

help you find the perfect fit and is happy to offer tips on finding a new home. Described as diligent, hard-working and punctual, Adam is sure to make your next real estate experience headache-free. ✨ 11 Par-la-Ville Road, Hamilton, 505-5157, abirch@brcl.bm

PRIVATE PARTY BOAT CHARTER Rising Son II

► Boasting the number-one catamaran tour in the world, according to TripAdvisor, Rising Son Cruises was highly praised by our judges for its high quality of entertainment and accommodating service. The company offers all types of charters, from cocktail cruises to wedding celebrations and corporate events. And Captain Steve Smith and his highly trained crew will ensure that your experience lives up to your expectations. Charter *Rising Son II*, a custom-built 60-foot Simonis sailing catamaran, and rest assured your next event will be a success. ✨ 236-1300 (Island Tour Centre)

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL Island Health Services

► Appreciated for its great service and personable doctors, Island Health Services is dedicated to the health of each of its patients. With quality health care as its philosophy, the practice offers a variety of services, from annual physical examinations to vaccinations and medical exams for immigration and TCD. If you're in need of a family doctor, any one of the team at Island Health Services will leave you feeling confident that your health is in good hands. ✨ 40 & 42 Point Finger Road, Paget, 236-0084. 14 Dundonald Street, Hamilton, 296-9733

SPECIAL EVENT CATERER Otto Kummer, Private Dining

► Highly recommended by our judges, Otto Kummer of Private Dining is a professional chef recognised for his skill in fine cuisine. Otto will happily cater small to medium-sized events, no matter what the occasion. For your next dinner party or other special event, trust Otto to deliver delicious dishes and a catering service that is sure to delight both you and your guests. ✨ 537-5373, ottork@therock.bm

GOVERNMENT SERVICES Customs

► Thanks to its hugely improved level of service and new no-declare line at the airport, the customs department has claimed the title of Best Government Service. Its helpful information hotline and friendly staff have also contributed to its transformation. And also worthy of praise is that this improvement comes along with a hugely increased workload for the staff in anticipation of America's Cup. What was once a hair-pulling experience has now become one that gives a great first impression of the island. ✨ 295-4816 *Malcolm Martin abstained from voting.



PLACE FOR A MANI/PEDI Anna Burns at Ani's Nail & Beauty Lounge

► Ani's Nail & Beauty Lounge offers a full range of beauty and spa treatments, from manicures to massage, and is known for its stellar reviews. The company prides itself on offering a luxury spa experience that is personalised for each customer. As one judge raved, "Ani is the epitome of customer service" and her manicures, professionalism and quality service garner countless repeat customers. Pop into the conveniently located Victoria Street oasis for your next nail appointment and you won't be disappointed. ✨ 31 Victoria Street (Courtyard Level), Hamilton, 292-0700

Yolanda at Salon Visage

► When it comes to manicures, Yolanda at Salon Visage is the person to see. Receiving rave reviews from one of our judges, Yolanda has earned long-time happy customers for her incredible service. Her years of experience, paired with her willingness to accommodate customers, make her a true Best of Bermuda winner. She'll help you choose the exact shade to suit your mood or occasion, and will even help you match your nails to an important outfit. ✨ 54 Reid Street, Hamilton, 292-8724



FRIENDLIEST CUSTOMER SERVICE
Yo Cherry

► At Yo Cherry, you're always sure to enjoy service with a smile. Offering frozen yogurt in a variety of flavours, as well as other delicious treats, the shop encourages customers to sample as many flavours as they like before choosing. As one judge commented, no matter which location you visit, which staff member you meet or what time you go, you're always guaranteed great service. And

their selection of tasty options and two convenient locations seals the deal; Yo Cherry never fails to keep customers happy. ✨ **8**
Vallis Building, Bermudiana Road, Hamilton, 292-2020. ✨ 38 York Street, St. George, 292-2022

CLEANING SERVICE
Pro-Tone Cleaning Services Ltd.

► When it comes to professional cleaning, Pro-Tone Cleaning Services was unanimously named Bermuda's best. With more than 35 years of experience, the company offers always up-to-date commercial and residential cleaning services and will tailor them to suit any budget and job size. From one-time jobs or maintenance to construction site cleanup, Pro-Tone does it all. It's no surprise that the professional, highly trained staff have garnered many repeat customers. And for even more points, Pro-Tone offers its first-rate service using only eco-friendly products. ✨ **34**
Dundonald Street, Hamilton, 292-1456

AWESOME AUDIO/VISUAL SALES
Audio Visual

► Appreciated by its customers for its great selection of products and knowledgeable staff, Audio Visual is the place to find your

next electronic purchase. They sell everything from televisions and DVD players to home audio devices, phones and tablets. And all their products are always the latest models and brands. Audio Visual's second location in Somerset makes shopping with them a breeze. ✨ **4** *Washington Street, Hamilton, 292-1354. 29 Mangrove Bay Road, Somerset, 234-3305*

WEDDING PLANNER/COORDINATOR
Matthew Strong and Selange Gitschner, Dasfete

► Offering service in everything from wedding planning to luxury concierge service and décor sourcing, Dasfete strives to ensure that clients are left with a beautiful event and a memorable experience. The weddings coordinated by Selange and Matthew are of the highest quality, with no detail left unattended to. The team makes a true effort to incorporate local beauty into each event and always operates with the goal of working sustainably whenever possible. For an event as important as your wedding, Dasfete is the one to trust. ✨ *Somers Building, 15 Front Street, Hamilton, 400-5048*

WILD CARD: BEST SPENT \$25
Bag of Fresh Vegetables from Manuel DeSilva Jr.

► You can't go wrong with a bag of fresh Bermuda produce. From Bermuda onions to carrots, tomatoes, lettuce and much more, Mr. DeSilva has just what you need, no matter which dish you're cooking. And for \$25, you're sure to get a good selection and generous quantity to make the purchase worth your while. Our judges recommend Manuel DeSilva's farm stand at the Botanical Gardens Farmers' Market for the very best of what Bermuda has to offer and a well-spent \$25. ✨ **735-0577**

JUDGES

Malcolm Martin
Customs Officer, H.M. Customs

Barbara Finsness
Designer, The Island Shop

Allison L Smith
The Cookie Lady, Confections

Natalie Dyrli
Office manager, Westport Architecture

Peter Lapsley
Owner, & PARTNERS



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Clothing & Accessories

By Gabrielle Boyer



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE Shiona Turini

► She got her start at Yves Saint Laurent before moving on and up to the editorial departments at *W Magazine*, *Teen Vogue* and *Cosmopolitan*. Today, she is a freelance consultant, lending her talents to *The Cut*, *Nylon* and *Paper* magazines, and styling for Solange and Beyoncé Knowles. Her repertoire is as fierce and as pioneering as she is. She is, of course, Shiona Turini, known for her extensive and inspired body of work and impressive personal style. For most, being known in any fashion industry would be milestone enough, but not for Turini who wants to be known as a Bermudian too, always propelling her island home into the spotlight whenever the chance presents itself. When she's not influencing New York's fashion industry, you can find Shiona at home in Bermuda, working with the Bermuda Tourism Authority and the Corporation of Hamilton, partnering local fashion designers with esteemed international mentors as part of the annual Bermuda Fashion Collective's Designer Mentorship Program. What makes Shiona award-worthy isn't just about what she's accomplished for herself, it's about what she does for our island and for budding fashion-enthusiasts who hope to one day walk in her footsteps: Lead on, Shiona.



▲ SHIONA TURINI

PHOTO: MEREDITH ANDREWS

MEN'S CASUAL WEAR A.S. Cooper Man

► No matter the setting, men like to look good, even when it comes to dressing casually. Whether running errands, catching up with friends or enjoying a day out on the water, local men turn to A.S. Cooper Man to dress the part, choosing from brands like TABS, Tommy Bahama, Polo Ralph Lauren, Lacoste and Calvin Klein. ✦ 29 Front Street, Hamilton, 295-3961

TIES The English Sports Shop

► Much like the Bermudian man, a necktie has purpose and commands respect; it is smart and appropriate and deliberate. Presenting the very best in quality ties is The English Sports Shop, offering up an array of impressive neckties and bowties in both conservative and playful colours and textiles, cooperating brilliantly with the tastes of all Bermudian men. ✦ 49 Front Street, Hamilton, 295-2672

WOMEN'S FASHION Gibbons Company

► For more than 100 years, Gibbons Company has expertly provided fashionable garments for Bermudian women islandwide. Despite its mature status, Gibbons Company has successfully navigated the last century, changing appropriately with trends and times. Stop into the Reid Street store these days and shop fashions from esteemed brands like Gap, MANGO, Lacoste, Maggy London and Zac and Rachel. Although their rich history is impressive, their versatility and ability to adjust with the times has made Gibbons Company a Best of Bermuda favourite for many years. ✦ 21 Reid Street, Hamilton, 295-0022

WOMEN'S BUSINESS ATTIRE Marks & Spencer

► Playing to a wide-scoping variety of tastes, ages and pocketbooks, Marks & Spencer is a shoe-in for women's business attire. The British brand excels in providing a range of conservative yet stylish selections that

are always office-appropriate but can easily be dressed up for after-hour fun. Whether at work or post-work play, women's business attire from Marks & Spencer is always highly rated. ✦ 17 Reid Street, Hamilton, 295-0031

COCKTAIL/EVENINGWEAR Luxury Gifts Bermuda

► When the occasion arises to put on the glitz, turn to the artful and fashion-forward selections at Luxury Gifts Bermuda, whose curated selections are carefully chosen by founder Miranda Conway. Whether you're looking for a floral maxi for an afternoon wedding, a show-stopping sequined gown for an extra-special occasion or something in-between, Luxury Gifts Bermuda is the place to go for the glamorous and fabulous. ✦ 60 Tucker's Point Drive, Hamilton Parish and Hamilton Princess & Beach Club, Hamilton, 298-4035

BOUTIQUE Modblu Boutique

► Founded in 2016 by local style queen Kristen Carreiro, Modblu Boutique has fashioned quite a name for itself in such a short time. The boutique's heartening ethos is defined by the brand's dedication to serving up a big dose of body positivity and self-love with each garment and accessory they sell. The spirit they've cultured with their loyal customers is one of encouragement and practices a belief system that every body is beautiful and every body deserves respect and celebration. This is the boutique's first Best of Bermuda Award, and we doubt its last. ✦ 46 Reid Street, Hamilton, 405-3250



SHOE STORE • Lusso

► Lusso is not the place to go when any old shoe will do; Lusso is the place to go when the perfect shoe is a necessity and nothing else will suffice. From Lilly Pulitzer sandals in every colour of the rainbow, in a display reminiscent to that of a candy store, to men's cap-toe leather oxfords and to-die-for sparkling Jimmy Choo pumps, Lusso isn't home to the garden-variety shoe; it's home to the extraordinary and extra-special. ✦ 51 Front Street, Hamilton, 295-6734

FASHION-FORWARD FINDS Urban Cottage

► Nicole Golden has become Front Street's it-girl in the years since founding her powerfully successful store Urban Cottage. Playfully acknowledged in-store, Urban Cottage "started from Well Bottom" and now takes residence in the heart of Hamilton, shepherding in the fashion-savvy since introducing clothing to their repertoire in recent years. In addition to importing international designs, Urban Cottage supports talented local designers like Rebecca Little, Jakai Franks and Juliana Gibbons. ✦ 11 Front Street, Hamilton, 296-3039

TRENDY WEAR-TEENS A.S. Cooper & Sons, Ltd.

► Moms can agree: Teenagers are insatiable when it comes to acceptable fashion. Moms in search of striking the happy medium between finding clothing their teens adore and clothing that is appropriate and affordable, look no further than A.S. Cooper & Sons, Ltd. The family-run business caters to the desires of the teen and the necessities of the mom, meaning everyone leaves a happy customer. ✦ 59 Front Street, Hamilton, 295-3961



BEACHWEAR MEN'S • TABS

► Designed for island living, TABS is more than the authentic Bermuda short; the popular local brand's swim shorts, inspired by Bermuda, depict scenes of local beaches, America's Cup racing, Cup Match colours and artwork by Graham Foster. Much like the brand's veteran Bermuda short, TABS' swimwear is designed to be versatile, taking the wearer from beach to boat, to al fresco dinner, bar, and everywhere in-between, a necessity for the Bermuda way of life. ✦ 12 Reid Street, Hamilton, 704-TABS

PLUS-SIZE FASHION Gibbons Company

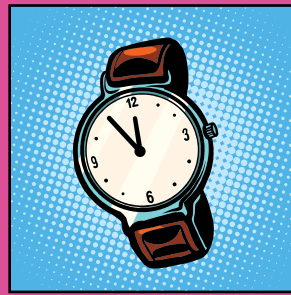
► The plus-sized department at Gibbons Company boasts beautiful styles and trendy selections geared to women who celebrate their bodies. If you're looking for conservative styles and generous cuts or wishing to enhance your curves with body-conscious trends, look no further than Gibbons Company. ✦ 21 Reid Street, Hamilton, 295-0022

JEANS Jeans Express

► Finding the perfect pair of jeans is easier said than done, except if you're shopping at Jeans Express, the home of Levi. Since 1873, Levi's has been the most recognised name in denim, producing the perfect pair of jeans, no matter the cut or size. When shopping for denim, go straight to the source for the perfect fit. ✦ 30 Queen Street, Hamilton, 295-0084

HANDBAGS Lusso

► Much like their shoe selection, Lusso doesn't sell run-of-the-mill sacks to casually throw things into when on-the-go. Rather, Lusso's handbag selection is about significance, prominence and superiority. It's where you go, not to buy bags in every colour, but a place to buy the one bag you simply can't live without: The bag that means something. ✦ 51 Front Street, Hamilton, 295-6734



WATCHES Crisson Jewellers

► What time is it? Time to award Crisson Jewellers with yet another Best of Bermuda Award. Of course, style and sophistication are necessities when choosing the perfect watch and Crisson's has been doing it rightly since 1922. With the best in names like Rolex, Tag Heuer, Michael Kors, Mavado and David Yurman, one can see why there is no dispute regarding who tells time better than Crisson Jewellers. ✦ 55 Front Street, Hamilton, 295 2351



JEWELLERY, EVERYDAY A.S. Cooper & Sons, Ltd.

► The jewellery department at A.S. Cooper & Sons, Ltd. Main Store on Front Street is bursting at its seams with trendy charms and dazzling (imitation) diamonds. Perfect for everyday wear, the assortment of styles from brands like Ralph Lauren, Anne Klein and Swarovski are presented no differently than their finer counterparts, each one sparkling and waiting to be discovered. ✦ 59 Front Street, Hamilton, 295-3961

FINE JEWELLERY Astwood Dickinson

► Beautiful jewellery has the power to transform: Turning single women into brides, young girls into keepers of the family heirloom and long-standing couples into lifelong units. Mark your next milestone with fine jewellery from Astwood Dickinson. ✦ 25 Front Street, Hamilton, 292-5805



THRIFTY FASHION FINDS Orange Bay Company

► At Orange Bay Company, buyers and sellers unite. The consignment shop won their very first Best of Bermuda Award in 2012 and has been racking them up ever since, each one well-deserved. Consumers turn to Orange Bay Company for gently used and pre-owned treasures from fashion houses like Prada, YSL and Valentino, but that's not the only reason why Orange Bay Company is award-worthy. Their eco-friendly approach to fashion is not only thrifty; it's modern, resourceful, forward-thinking and deserving of yet another award. ✦ 54 Victoria Street, Hamilton, 295-5400

LINGERIE Women'secret

► Shopping for lingerie is a discreet affair; one doesn't wish to be seen by every Tom, Dick or Harry when embarking on a buying excursion for tiny-sized garments. Although Women'secret is located conveniently in the heart of Hamilton, the windows of the store's two storeys are appropriately covered, gifting its shoppers both privacy and discretion. Their wide range of sizes and styles appeal to the most conservative and to the most risqué, and provide the perfect balance for women looking for a little something in-between. ✦ 14 Reid Street, Hamilton, 295-2112

CHILDREN/BABY WEAR BLUKIDS

► Kids clothing needs to be resilient, stylish and affordable and the parents who shop at BLUKIDS get three-in-one. The popular store, located conveniently in the Washington Mall, is known especially for their ultra-trendy clothing that is kid-level tough and mom-approved. ✦ Phase 1, Washington Mall, Hamilton, 292-5065



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MEN'S BUSINESS WEAR • The English Sports Shop

► The quintessential Bermudian male knows that dressing for business is an amalgamation of both comfort and style. He knows well the importance of looking smart and sophisticated without being constricted or limiting his ability to move freely, bouncing from meetings at the office to dinner with clients. The English Sports Shop is a mecca for men's business wear, providing a range of styles from the traditional Bermuda short, to ready-to-wear jackets and blazers, to impeccably tailored and made-to-measure Alexandre of England suits. Since 1918, the Bermudian male has suited up at The English Sports Shop with business in mind. ✨ 49 Front Street, Hamilton, 295-2672

**BABY GEAR
Nest Maternity & Baby**

► Welcoming a new baby can be a daunting experience. There is so much you need to know, not to mention the much-

needed arsenal of onesies, strollers, car seats, toys and bottles. When gearing-up for an impending arrival, seek refuge at Nest Maternity & Baby, the best place in Bermuda for baby

gear three times since 2014. Mamas-to-be can register with Nest Maternity & Baby and in the event of a surprise baby shower, the helpful staff will share the registry with friends and family, making sure mama and baby are perfectly equipped when the time comes. ✨ 44 Reid Street, Hamilton, 296-6378

**SCENTS-ATIONAL SCENTS
De Oil Shop**

► It's easy to choose a perfume store to award this category to, and no doubt, the fragrance departments of A.S. Cooper & Sons, Ltd. and Gibbons Company have won this category countless times, but our judges were enamoured by the success of De Oil Shop, a small local business specialising in body oils, locally made bath and body products and quality incense. In just a few years since opening their doors, De Oil Shop has grown exponentially, now residing proudly in the new Washington Mall. We wish De Oil Shop many more years of scent-sational success! ✨ Washington Mall, Hamilton, 295-3317

**HAIR ACCESSORIES/HATS
Accessory Box**

► With the largest variety in hair accessories and hats, recently expanded Accessory Box in the Washington Mall is an undisputed winner in this category, having picked up this award too many times to count. Their selection is vast and diverse, catering to both men and women of all ages. ✨ Upper Level, Washington Mall, Hamilton, 295-8712

**BEST FASHION BLOG/
SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE
Shiona Turini**

► She is Bermuda's fashion maven, the ultra-creative, Shiona Turini. With more than 108K followers on Instagram (at press time), Turini gives her online following a look into both her professional endeavours in the fashion industry, as well as a glimpse into her personal life daily. As a contributing editor at *The Cut* and a successful freelance style consultant, Turini has gone where no Bermudian has ever gone before: to the top of the US fashion industry. And she's taking her loyal followers along for the ride. ✨ Twitter and Instagram: @shionaturini

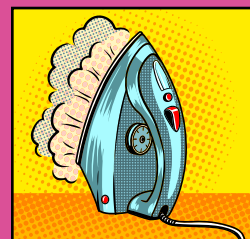


**BEACHWEAR
WOMEN'S
Calypso**

► Calypso has long been a haven for women's swimwear and accoutrements, a place where any woman of any age can take refuge in trying on bathing suits in peace. Hailed as the go-to for the trendiest colours and cuts, as well as the best place to find quality swimwear with lasting power, Calypso has it all. ✨ 45 Front Street, Hamilton, 295-2112

DRY CLEANER • Coral Cleaners

► The gamut of the modern woman's daily life runs to much more than ever before; she simply doesn't have the time or the desire to spend hours on stain removal, which is why she turns to Coral Cleaners to take care of the nitty-gritties that life throws her way. Coral Cleaners's convenient location and competitive pricing means she doesn't have to go out of her way or her budget either. ✨ 9 Victoria Street, Hamilton, 292-4059





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Obviously you have great taste!

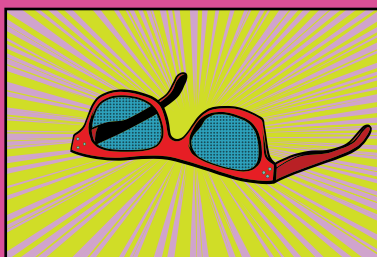
31 Front Street, Hamilton HM11, Bermuda
Hours: Monday - Saturday 10am -6pm | Tel: 441-295-4089

Facebook.com/The Irish Linen Shop



COSMETICS/MAKEUP MAC

► The authority on makeup artistry, MAC, doesn't just produce and sell high-quality makeup products, the brand focuses on training its staff to produce works of art at a moment's notice. The famous brand's identity focuses on celebrating diversity (all races, ages and sexes) while at the same time fostering a sense of community and social responsibility. * 53 Front Street, Hamilton, 295 8843



COOLEST SHADES The Sunglass and Watch Shop

► Super-stylish sunglasses have long been a key accessory in creating the perfect look. Even the tiniest hint of tortoise shell and a designer name can transform a look from drab to fab. At The Sunglass and Watch Shop you'll find the best in Ray Ban, Prada, Versace, Tom Ford, and more! The biggest help? The fact that the sales staff are brutally honest, which we all must admit is a necessity when accessorising your face. * 13 Reid Street, Hamilton, 292-7933



WORKOUT WEAR Sportseller

► When it comes to finding workout wear that is stylish, comfortable and affordable, there's no one more knowledgeable than Sharon Fenn at Sportseller. Offering the latest styles in clothing and shoes for the athletic, Sportseller is award-worthy based on their merchandise alone, but our judges went a step further, commending the store's commitment to the sporting community through sponsorship, events and social media engagement. * Washington Mall, 7 Reid Street, Hamilton, 295-2692

WILDCARD: WORST FASHION TREND Clear Heels à la Kim Kardashian

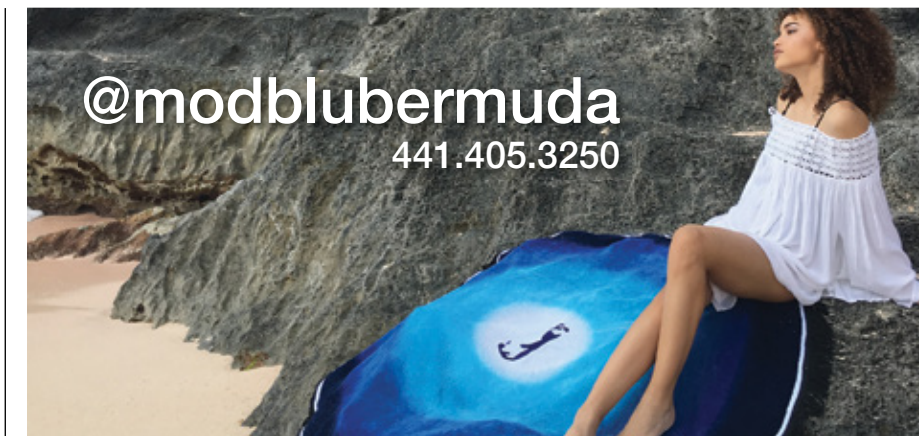
► Referred to as the "naked shoe," clear heels have been present for several seasons now, but that doesn't mean that the shoes, popularised by Kim Kardashian, are fashionable. The see-through plastic sides and wide plastic heels are daring and attention-grabbing but really, the lack of breathability equates to clammy, sweating feet, an undisputed fashion faux pas no matter who you are.

JUDGES
Lyn Winford
Creative Director,
America's Cup Event Authority

Alexandra Mosher
Jewellery Designer,
Alexandra Mosher Studio Jewellery

Shaun Moniz
Founder of Island Gentry,
Mens Lifestyle Blog

Jakai Franks
Designer, JRU Clothing



The Island Shop



Barbara Finness
Signature Collection
Bermuda



Hamilton • St. George's • Fairmont Southampton Resort



People & Places

By Laura Bell



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE BERMEMES

► Lead by directors Déjon Simons and Qian Dickinson, some of Bermuda's best, brightest and most hilarious young talents make up the team of contributors at BERMEMES, who have been steadily growing the brand from silly life in Bermuda memes to culturally important reviews of current affairs and interviews of those in the know. Many will remember the uber-popular Not the Um Um guys, whose fall-on-the-floor funny skits would make fun of the idiosyncrasies of island life ("The sound of St. Daaavid's... dum de dum dum...") from 1984 until their final show in 2009. Well, the "byes" at BERMEMES have taken up the torch becoming the voice of Bermuda life in modern times. While some may pass it off as just poking fun, there is an important aspect of highlighting and continuing to be an ambassador of our true island culture (or rather, "kulcha") through our unique language ("verds") and unique perspective on everything from how we deal with hurricanes ("vers de rum to, bye?") to the annual Cup Match war of words and the worst things about living in Bermuda ("having to choose a beach to go to, sheesh") that BERMEMES maintains. With their light-hearted and positive spin on life on these isles since their start in 2012 and a growing reach far beyond our shores (they claim an audience of two million), the team at BERMEMES have risen to an important role within our community and as one judge stated, "They built it from nothing and now it resonates with everyone." * www.bermemes.com



PHOTO: TWO & QUARTER

▲ DÉJON SIMONS AND QIAN DICKINSON

NEWS EVENT OF THE YEAR Pepper Spray at Protest

► While these awards are dedicated to celebrating the best, December 2, 2016, will go down as a day that brought out some of the worst in Bermuda. Protesters who opposed the airport redevelopment legislation gathered outside the House of Assembly that morning. The crowd swelled, tempers flared and riot police eventually marched in resulting in several citizens, including some seniors, being pepper sprayed in an attempt to control the crowd. The day's events were carried live on Bernews and Facebook and widely shared across social media platforms and cell phone apps creating ongoing discussions from all sides. While we appreciate that no one wins in such a situation, we hope that lessons are learned all around and the discussions since—from the police headquarters to your family dinner table—result in positive changes for the betterment of all Bermudians going forward.

www.thebermudian.com

POLITICAL BLUNDER OBA's Communication Problems

► During the course of our judging process, several political blunders were discussed but all seemed to have the same thing in common—problems with communication stemming from the government. With lack of transparency being a main objection from the opposition over several recent issues—with Pathways to Status and the airport redevelopment deal being the most heated—our judges felt the OBA could avoid further political blunders by improving their up-front communication. Transparency, after all, is not a four-letter word.

PIT BULL POLITICIAN David Burt

► Pit bulls are noted for their strength, stamina and tenacity—characteristics certainly needed for successful politicians and none more aptly described as such than Opposition Leader and Shadow Minister of

Finance, David Burt. Quick to respond and forceful in his reply to the latest government announcements or political events of the day, Burt has proven to be an aggressive, tenacious and vocal leader of his party.

MOST EFFECTIVE POLITICIAN Michael Fahy

► He's not always been popular, having had a difficult time as home affairs minister at the time of the Pathways to Status initiative, but the new minister of tourism, transport and municipalities has always "stuck to his guns" according to our judges. While being responsible for transport will be an ongoing challenge (see airport protest above), he's currently riding the wave of steadily increasing tourism numbers. A trend we hope continues under his watch.

COMMUNITY ACTIVIST Kristin White

► Chosen as one of Bermuda's 10 Most Fascinating People in 2016, the bookstore-owning, tourism consulting, public-speaking, writer, artist and all-around social media superstar Kristin White has been passionately promoting St. George over the last few years. The former director of Raleigh Bermuda is focused on improving the connection young people have with their community while advocating for cultural tourism, especially in her underused town of St. George. The writer/director/producer for the popular Haunted History Tour can be found circling the old town on her equally well-known pedal bike, Shoshanna, when she isn't guiding tourists to her favourite hot spots from her bookstore on Water Street.

* Kristindotcom.com



ATHLETE • Flora Duffy

► We have to admit that this one was unanimous! It was hard to compete with superstar triathlete Flora Duffy before, but in 2016 it was practically impossible. Crowned Bermuda's 2016 Female Athlete of the Year at the 36th Annual Sports Awards, Duffy finished her spectacular year as the 2016 ITU World Triathlon Series World Champion, the 2016 ITU Cross Triathlon World Champion, and the winner of the 2016 XTERRA World Championships. And the entire island was glued to last year's summer Olympics as we cheered her on to a stunning eighth place finish in the women's triathlon. We expect this five-foot-five, 128-pound powerhouse of an athlete is not done yet.

SHADOW MINISTER IN THE LIMELIGHT Walton Brown

► His credentials are no doubt impressive: An MA in political science from York University, former lecturer at Bermuda College, president of Research Innovations Ltd., newspaper columnist and currently the shadow minister of education. MP Walton Brown

is one of the most outspoken and, as his credentials imply, one of the most qualified political voices in the opposition assuring his place in the limelight on many current issues of the day.

GOOD CORPORATE CITIZEN The Green Family

► From generous scholarships for deserving students to a

\$4,000 donation for the restoration of the *Deliverance* in St. George in 2016, the Green Family continues to give back to the island through thoughtful donations. Since its inception in 2007, the Green Family Scholarship has given more than one million dollars in educational funding to over 100 post-secondary students. Their continued investment in Bermuda makes them very good corporate citizens indeed.

UNSUNG HERO Lindsay Simmons-Durham

► Proving that it doesn't take deep pockets to help others in a big way, manager of Rosa's Cantina and president of the Bermuda Foster Parent Association, Lindsay Simmons-Durham has been quietly giving back for years before making a big impact in 2016. A foster parent herself, Lindsay partnered with her employer on several initiatives last year—including donating proceeds from a special cocktail to charity and an "Angel Tree" where the public was invited to donate gifts for children in foster care or in the Big Brothers Big Sisters programme. The initiatives raised over \$14,000 and culminated in a hugely successful event—the Winter Wonderland: the Big Give Back on Front Street last December which was open to the public and free to children. Lindsay says she hopes to make it an annual event, and we certainly do, too!

THESPIAN • Candace Furbert

► Currently performing as part of the ensemble cast for *DREAMGIRLS* in London, Bermudian actress Candace Furbert caught our judge's attention for her spectacular performance as Miss Celie in Troika's production of *The Colour Purple* last year. The rising star won Bermuda Teen Idol in 2008, and has since performed at the Bermuda Music Festival in 2009 and 2010 and was a cast member with Up With People in 2010 before heading to London where she has had roles in the West End phenomenon *The Book of Mormon* and as the Dragon and the Fairy Godmother in the UK tour of *Shrek the Musical*. If you are on the other side of the pond anytime soon, be sure to catch her performance at the Savoy Theatre from now through October. ✦ www.dreamgirlswestend.com



VOCAL ARTIST Kassie Caines

► Headline singer Kassandra Gabrielle Caines has been torching up the stage with her powerful, soulful vocals since taking over from Joy Barnum in 2015 in the Big Chill Band, now in its fourth season. You can catch this rapidly rising star performing with band mates Felix Tod and Tony Brannon on Fridays at Sea Breeze Terrace at Café Lido (Elbow Beach) and Saturdays at Princess Beach Club, through October. ✦ 334-8669, www.the-big-chill.com



VISUAL ARTIST Robyn Hooper

► You may not yet know her by name, but you certainly know her work. As part of the City of Hamilton's art festival last year, artists were invited to submit proposals for public art and Robyn Hooper was one of the chosen ones. Her angel wings mural on Dundonald Street has since become a popular photographic background and her "We could be heroes" mural on the side of Butterfield and Vallis has also been well-received. A Foundation Year teacher at Saltus Grammar School, Hooper also offers adult art classes through her studio, The Painted Gate, where she supplies materials and instruction (and wine is welcome!). ✦ www.thegateisopen.com

BOOSTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT Eco-Schools Programme

► An international award programme brought to Bermuda in 2013 by Greenrock, the Eco-Schools initiative now includes 15 schools—from preschool to Bermuda College—and impacts approximately 5,000 students islandwide. The programme aims to teach children the importance of sustainability while giving them the opportunities to discover new ways to improve and impact the environment both inside and outside the classroom. As Nelson Mandela said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Greenrock.org

TENACIOUS LAWYER Charles Richardson

► Merriam-Webster defines tenacious as "persistent in maintaining, adhering to, or seeking something valued or desired." When it comes to defence attorneys, none can be described as tenacious more aptly than Charles Richardson. Appearing for numerous high-profile clients over the years—including former opposition leader Marc Bean and more recently BPSU president Jason Hayward for the December 2nd airport protest—Richardson has been steadily proving his mettle in court and, as one "Best of" judge jokingly suggested, is now perhaps the male, Bermudian version of Annalise Keating.

CULTURAL EVENT OF THE YEAR Cup Match

► Whether you go to the game, soak up the sun on the beach or spend the weekend camping, all locals have their annual traditions and they usually revolve around family, friends and lots of food. Cup Match is a uniquely Bermudian event that divides the country down the middle—you are either blue and blue or red and blue, a side must be chosen and vociferously defended—for two full days (and usually several weeks beforehand). While the heated cricket match is the highlight of the two days' off, we also remember the reason for the holiday—commemorating the abolition of slavery on Emancipation Day (Thursday) and celebrating Sir George Somers on Somers Day (Friday).

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[Shopping & Services Division]

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CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND • National Museum of Bermuda

► If it has been a while since your last visit to the National Museum in Dockyard then you might not yet have had the pleasure of enjoying their unique new playground situated inside the grounds next to Dolphin Quest. Featuring a lime green wooden moray eel wrapped around a massive 21-foot lighthouse/slide, it is an engaging play area created by innovative Danish firm Monstrum specifically for the museum. And now that the accompanying Museum Playhouse adjacent to the playground is open, we can't recommend a visit highly enough. ✦ *The Keep, Royal Naval Dockyard, 234-1418, info@nmb.bm, www.nmb.bm*

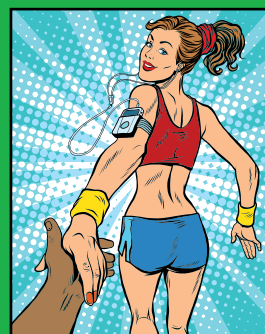
SPORTS COACH/ INSTRUCTOR Andrew Bascome

► This is the second year in a row that ABC Football School coach and founder Andrew Bascome has been acknowledged as the best Sports Coach/Instructor. Named as one of the 10 Most Fascinating People of 2016, the much-loved and passionate men's national team coach continues to encourage the

island's youth to excel not only on the pitch, but in life as well. As he stated in his "Most Fascinating" interview, creating a safe space for children is his greatest priority and revealing his own struggle with the aftermath of abuse in his past has opened up an important conversation within the community—making him an even bigger hero in our books. ✦ *abcfootballschool@gmail.com, 295-6198, www.abcfootballfoundation.org*

CHARITY EVENT/FUNDRAISER • Relay for Life

► This year marks the fourth event for the Bermuda chapter of Relay for Life and its second Best of Bermuda award in this category. The American Cancer Society fundraiser was initially brought to the island by Bermuda Cancer & Health Centre volunteer Ron Spencer III who had lost his mother to cancer in 2008. From 2014 to 2016, locals have raised over \$1.7 million and, although the 2017 event happened after this magazine went to press, we have no doubt that in only four years well over \$2 million will have been collected and intended for the first-ever radiation therapy initiative due to be operational by mid-2017. Hats off to Ron and all the amazing volunteers, donators, relay-ers and support staff who have made this annual event so hugely successful. ✦ *www.bermudarelay.com*

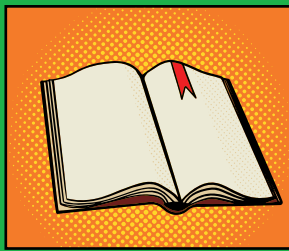


SPECTATOR SPORTS EVENT Kappa Classic

► What started in 1999 with 12 teams over a few hours on a Saturday morning has grown to over 1,000 young footballers from more than 80 teams participating in what is now a highly anticipated three-day event at the National Sports Centre. And, as such, the annual Kappa Classic Football Tournament has since become Bermuda's best spectator sports event. With an estimated crowd of 3,000 to 4,000 people cheering on the 6- to 16-year-old stars with everything from air horns to pots and wooden spoons (you know who you are!), the free-to-the-public event is run by volunteers from the Bermuda Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and heavily sponsored by some of the island's biggest firms. ✦ *www.bermudakappas.com*

BERMUDA CHARACTER Shoshanna

► Part transportation vehicle, part travelling companion (and total rebel!), cultural tourism ambassador Kristin White's beloved Shoshanna is a baby blue classic pedal bike with an instagrammed life of her own. Often parked outside the Book Cellar, which White is part owner of, Shosh occasionally leads bike tours around the old town and has been discovered overnighting at many of the local watering holes (because one should never drink and bike, of course).



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY Children's Reading Festival

► Now in its 18th year, the Bermuda Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's annual Children's Reading Festival held in November is a free event catering to children from infants to P6. With an emphasis on encouraging the love of reading, the festival held in Victoria Park is filled with free books, storytelling, entertainment and giveaways. In 2016, they added a sensory play area for the little ones while older kids enjoyed card making, bouncy castles, face painting and more. A fun, full-day, free event promoting literacy? We are in!



PICNIC SPOT Astwood Park

► Pack up the picnic basket and take the whole family to Astwood Park for lunch this summer, recommend our judges. High up on the cliff with stunning south shore views, the park is accessible for most, with picnic benches and plenty of green grass to sit (or run around) on and enjoy the scenery. But please supervise the children carefully as windy weather can make the cliff edge rather perilous and the path to the beach below, while not completely inaccessible, has been severely damaged by recent storms.

FAMILY OUTING • Royal Naval Dockyard

► All roads will be leading to Dockyard this year! From the America's Cup action to the numerous upgrades to all the hot spots, there is no better time to gather up the clan and enjoy a day in the west end. Catch the ferry from Hamilton or St. George's, play a round of mini golf, lounge on the beach at Snorkel Park, soak up some fascinating maritime history at the National Museum (or just watch the dolphins for a while), enjoy a delicious meal (there are so many options to choose from!) and don't forget to cap off the day with an ice cream. And with daily/weekly events during the peak season, there is no end to the family fun! ✦ *www.dockyardbermuda.com*



PLACE TO ENJOY NATURE Spittal Pond Nature Reserve

► Bermuda's largest wildlife sanctuary, Spittal Pond Nature Reserve, comprises 60 acres of untouched natural beauty and features a vast array of native and endemic plants and animals. It is a favourite for local bird-watchers since the brackish pond is a major transition area for migratory birds as they make their Atlantic crossing. With winding trails full of endemic fauna and stunning views over the south shore, visitors should also keep their eyes peeled for migrating whales in the spring and the rarely seen, endangered Bermuda rock skink.

CHARITY/COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANISATION Big Brothers Big Sisters

► This category was a much more difficult decision for our judges, with so many great charities working tirelessly to improve the lives of those in need in Bermuda. After much discussion, we could have given out multiple awards; however, the win for best charity/community service organisation was given to Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) mentoring programme for their tireless work in matching adult role models with children, often from single parent homes, who need guidance and support to reach their full potential. According to their research, the BBBS programme has shown that "91 percent of children involved with Big Brothers & Big Sisters programmes experience a sharp rise in self-esteem, 70 percent do better in school, and 73 percent stay out of trouble with the law." BTW, there are currently approximately 70 unmatched children in the programme waiting for you to volunteer. ✦ *12 Wesley Street, Hamilton, 232-2802, www.bbbs.bm* *Darren Woods and Patrina O'Connor-Paynter abstained from voting.

House of India

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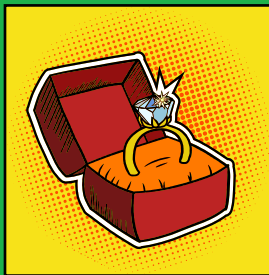
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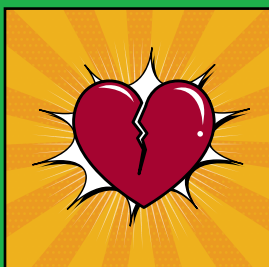
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PLACE TO PROPOSE Blue Sky Flights

► For the second year running, our judges chose Blue Sky Flights for the best place to propose! You can book a proposal package complete with a private tour of Bermuda in a Cessna 172, pre-made letters to spell "Will you marry me?" arranged on the beach of your choice, photos and videos on board and a champagne toast upon landing. And the best part is the one proposing can blame the nerves on the flying—just don't drop the ring! ✦ 6 Southside Road, St. George's, 516-3305, reservations@blueskyflights.bm, www.blueskyflights.bm



PLACE TO DUMP A LOVER WhatsApp

It's heartless, we know, but oh so 2017.

HISTORIC SITE Town of St. George

► Officially settled in 1612 and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000, St. George—the longest continually habited town in the New World—is the perfect example of living history. From the oldest Protestant church in the New World (St. Peter's) to Bermuda's original parliament building (the State House) to the numerous forts and batteries worth exploring, there is a plethora of fascinating history to discover in the old town. Take a walking tour, watch a reenactment or if you are brave enough, join the Haunted History Tour and hear true tales about the town's former famous residents while wandering the cobblestone streets. ✦ www.corpstgeorge.bm; www.stgeorgesfoundation.org

PLACE FOR FALLING IN LOVE Gibb's Hill Lighthouse

► Opened on May 1, 1846, the cast iron, 117-foot tall Gibb's Hill Lighthouse is one of Bermuda's most recognisable landmarks, for obvious reasons. What isn't as obvious, perhaps, is just how romantic the location actually is. Those brave enough to climb the 185 steps to the top are repaid with such incredible views that if you don't have a significant other, you will certainly fall in love with your island. For those who do (have that significant other), we recommend enjoying a romantic dinner in the Dining Room at sunset to seal the deal. ✦ Lighthouse Road, St Anne's Road, Cross Bay, Southampton, 238-8068, www.bermudalighthouse.com



ATTRACTION FOR VISITORS • Tobacco Bay

► Once again the little beach in the east has taken the top tourism attraction award. Tobacco Bay has everything a visitor could possibly want—a bit of historical significance (the Gunpowder Plot of 1775 literally rolled through there), a family-friendly place to swim, amazing snorkeling, rentals, watersports, food, drink, live music and sunset bonfires—and don't forget free WiFi to upload all the vacay antics to the requisite social media feeds! To save visitors from a hilly hike, there is even a shuttle bus from Penno's Wharf. ✦ 9 Coot's Pond Road, St. George's, 297-2756, info@tobaccobay.bm, www.tobaccobay.bm

WEDDING RECEPTION LOCATION World Heritage Centre

► Dating back to the 1860s, the World Heritage Centre in St. George recently underwent extensive restoration and now boasts a beautiful hall upstairs perfect for an evening wedding reception. Ceremonies can even be held outside on Penno's Wharf with St. George's Harbour as your backdrop, followed by dinner in the hall and dancing under the stars—pure wedded bliss!

(Ally Tatem abstained from voting in this category.) ✦ Admiral's Walk, 16 Water Street, St. George, 297-8043, stgeorgesfoundation.org

JOURNALIST Gary Moreno

► Fearless in his pursuit of the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, Bermuda Broadcasting Company journalist Gary Moreno is our judge's choice for the best in the business. Breaking story after story, Moreno is highly regarded

for his relentless questioning of anyone—from the premier to the man on the street. As one judge stated, "He always just goes for it." ✦ Bermuda Broadcasting, 4 Fort Hill Road, Prospect, 295-2828, www.bermudabroadcasting.com *Jasmine Patterson abstained from voting in this category.

RADIO STATION VIBE 103.3

► If this feels a bit like deja-vu, you would be right. Bermuda's energy station, VIBE 103 has won this award in 2013, 2014 and 2016, and now in 2017 is once again crowned the best radio station in Bermuda. With the island's hottest DJs spinning the latest tunes all day everyday (except Thursdays when they make everyone late for work playing those old-school dance hall tunes), the VIBE team simply can't be beat (as the next two categories suggest). ✦ 2 Whale Bay Road, Southampton, 232-0699, info@vibe103.com, www.vibe103.com

RADIO PERSONALITY DJ Chubb

► The awards are also piling up for VIBE 103 radio personality of the year, DJ Chubb. His easy-going morning rush commentary, entertaining interviews and sizzling mixes make the tough commute to work almost enjoyable. And no one gets more people talking and tuning in than Chubb with his torturous "One Gotta Go" segments (how can you possibly choose between icons like Lauryn Hill, Erykah Badu and Mary J?) and, of course, his hilarious daily banter with DJ Genie. ✦ www.vibe103.com

CLUB/PARTY DJ DJ Rusty G

► Russell "Rusty G" Griffiths is another perennial winner of the "Best" awards. Best known for his road-ready soca mixes, the popular DJ is also noted by our

judges as the "most professional and versatile DJ on the island." "He can easily play everything from country to reggae while tuning into the crowd and working flawlessly with the MC," said one judge. And while DJ Chubb gets your morning started, Rusty starts the night right with his slamming 5 p.m. Traffic Mix on VIBE 103! ✦ www.djrusty.com

BEAUTIFUL GARDEN Palm Grove Gardens

► Otherwise known as Gibbons Gardens, the 18 acres of manicured garden in Devonshire is privately owned by former premier Sir David Gibbons who graciously opens it to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Thursday. A popular location for wedding photography, the garden features a moon gate and wishing well, an aviary full of exotic birds and a lily pond featuring a map of Bermuda. As the name suggests, palms are



the main vegetation of note, but there is also an impressive citrus grove worth exploring. The garden is a lovely place for a serene walk and a great spot to let the kiddies play—just make sure they don't fall in trying to jump onto the Bermuda map! ✦ South Shore Road, Devonshire

PLACE TO PLAY A ROUND OF GOLF • Port Royal Golf Course

► With outstanding south shore vistas and a challenging 18 holes, Port Royal has always been one of the island's premier golf courses. However, after its extensive renovation in 2009, it became one of the best in the world—and good enough to host the PGA Grand Slam of Golf for five consecutive years. Our judges voted it the best for being accessible to all and having such impressive coastal views that even the worst golfer can't have a bad day on this course. ✦ 5 Port Royal Golf Course Road, Southampton, 234-0974, prgc@bermudagolf.bm, www.portroyalgolf.bm





BERMUDA BOOSTER
The 35th America's Cup

► By the time of this magazine's publication, Bermuda will be smack-dab in the middle of a month of the most exciting sailing action anywhere in the world! With our beautiful waters highlighted on television screens worldwide and a gaggle of international reporters showcasing our island as *the* premier racing location for 2017, there can be no booster better for us than the 35th America's Cup. May the winds be forever in our favour!

BEST SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS & INFORMATION
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► In this fast-paced digital age, people want their news delivered immediately and they share it instantly. However, not every source can be trusted—we all know that fake news can spread like wildfire just as easily. When it came to choosing the best source for local news, our judges unanimously voted for Bernews. With trusted journalists, respected columnists, live feeds and regular updates, Bernews is almost always the first to post breaking news and cover major events accurately and with integrity. ✨ www.bernews.com

COLUMNIST/BLOGGER
Liana Hall

► Self-described as a “Bermudian-British-Malaysian actor, writer, producer, designer and multi-disciplinary human who wanders the world in search of the magic of life,” Liana Hall is a fascinating woman and an equally engrossing columnist and blogger. Hall is the daughter of the late Julian Hall, and his influence had a profound effect on her life—and his death an even greater impact. A talented writer, Hall is now the public relations officer for the PLP and an outspoken advocate for women's rights, mental health care and all those struggling in an imperfect society. ✨ www.lianahall.com

SOCIAL MEDIA SUPERSTAR
BERMEMES

► Whether near or far, Bermudians looking for their daily dose of “kulcha” need look no further than BERMEMES! With their hilarious twist on all things Bermudian, the members of the BERMEMES team celebrate our island life and make us laugh on a daily basis. Keep it coming! ✨ www.bermemes.com

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THE COMMUNITY
MAJ's List

► Whether you wish to write a review, request a recommendation, ask a question or post pertinent information, the nearly 10,000 members of the Facebook group MAJ's List are quick to respond—generally helpfully, sometimes hilariously and occasionally harshly...so be forewarned. And once in a while, a post goes WAY LEFT (remember the epic red and purple dress post by Leah Scott?) so write with care!

JUDGES

Jasmine Patterson
 News Reporter,
 Bermuda Broadcasting Company

Ally Tatem
 Vice President, Two & Quarter Photography Ltd

Darren Woods
 Senior Community Support Worker,
 Family Centre

Craig Ferguson
 Web Services Director, Cosmic

Patrina O'Connor-Paynter
 Managing Director,
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bermuda



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