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Confessions of a Main Line Housewife

How ex-Saloon waitress **Amy Burnham** used charm, sass, a splashy divorce and a few good dirty jokes to get to know anybody who's anybody—and become Philly's most unlikely power player.

by **MICHAEL CALLAHAN**

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Stephanie Reitano

The owner of Capogiro takes us on her twice-yearly trek to New Orleans.



Wish You Were Here? St. John's Trunk Bay can be seen from Eco Serendib's luxe terrace pool (insert.)



Getaway: St. John

Escape the gray and go green in the Caribbean. **By Michael Callahan**

Tucked high on a mountainside on lush St. John, **Eco Serendib** is the resort for travelers who want indulgence with an Al Gore seal of approval. (Also, the William Penn seal of approval: The place was created by a Philly native.)

The blindingly white eight-suite villa, offering stunning panoramic views of the Caribbean, boasts an organic garden that's bursting with veggies and spices you can pluck for that night's dinner; solar panels; and recycled materials used in everything from the footpaths to the roof. But you still get all of that wonderful villa pampering: a kitchen fit for *Top Chef*, deep fluffy towels you can drown in, even a complete in-house spa.

The point of a Virgin Islands getaway, of course, is to do as little as possible, though your villa concierge will procure anything you desire: Ask, and she'll happily arrange a snorkeling expedition or schedule a memorable five-course meal courtesy of Mat Vacharat's (known to everyone on the

island as "Chef Mat") **St. John Catering**.

When the urge to venture out strikes, there's cute shopping at **Mongoose Junction**, juicy burgers (and cool t-shirts for sale) at **Skinny Legs Bar and Grill**, and open-air cocktails at **Caneel Bay**, a sprawling former sugar plantation once owned by the Rockefellers.

But in St. John, less is often more, and chances are you'll be loath to leave your sun-splashed palace. Such decadent luxury doesn't come cheap—the villa runs between \$5,700 and \$7,700 a night (though during some periods, you can rent individual suites). But split among eight rooms (each sleeps two), the math gets less daunting.

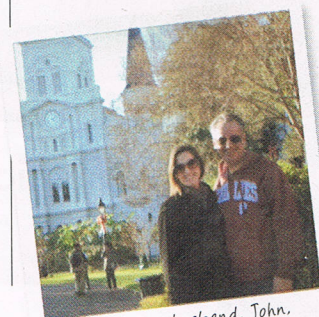
Especially if you invite Al Gore.

Eco Serendib, St. John, USVI, 215-830-8300, ecoserendib.com. St. John Catering, 877-690-9393, stjohncatering.com. Mongoose Junction, mongoosejunctionstjohn.com. Skinny Legs, skinnylegs.com. Caneel Bay, 340-776-6111, caneelbay.com.

"It's such a proud place—everyone who lives there just loves the city. And it's contagious."

Best place to stay: The Windsor Court is gorgeous and has a lovely courtyard in which to enjoy cocktails. **» Vacation splurge:** Live music. **» Overrated:** Drinking hurricanes on Bourbon Street, unless you're into reality-TV-style fun and spiked Kool-Aid. **» Underrated:** Art. More than just that ubiquitous Blue Dog, LeMieux Galleries has glorious art. **» Best midday break:** Don't avoid the tourist-heavy Café Du Monde in the French Quarter. The beignets are excellent and sweet, and the chicory coffee is hot and smoky. **» Must eat:** Casamento's fried oyster log, raw oysters and fried crab claws. **» Must pack:** A sense of levity—nothing is ever too serious. (Football is the exception.)

» Star-spotting: Trombone Shorty, Wynton Marsalis and the cast of *Treme* at the House of Blues. **» What you bring home with you:** A bottle of Steen's Pure Cane Syrup. Delicious on pancakes. **» What you wish you could bring home with you:** An endless supply of Leidenheimer bread, which is used for po'boys at Domilise's (my favorite). **» The uniform:** Favorite jeans, Osken sneakers and a light sweater, unless it's summer. Then, next to nothing. It's hot. **» Must-do activity:** Visit the cemeteries: Voodoo priestess Marie Laveau is buried in Saint Louis Cemetery #1. **» After-hours spot:** Snake and Jake's Christmas Club Lounge. Saturday and Sunday nights. It's very dark, and there's *spectacular* music.



Me and my husband, John, at Jackson Square.