



Natural Wonders of the Caribbean

With American Horticultural Society Host
HOLLY H. SHIMIZU

Aboard the Deluxe *Le Bellot*
January 28 - February 5, 2024





Barbados

Dear Friends,

I personally invite you to join fellow AHS members and other like-minded travelers for an unforgettable journey in January 2024 to the Caribbean, an ideal winter getaway for garden lovers.

Aboard the beautifully appointed small ship, *Le Bellot*, we'll explore the Windward Islands, a fascinating archipelago located at the southern end of the Lesser Antilles where clear waters caress spectacular coral reefs. Charming harbors and quaint towns serve as gateways to breathtaking gardens, each offering extraordinary plant species.

As we sail from Saint Lucia north to Dominica and Guadeloupe, then south to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, and Barbados, we'll discover the delightful tropical fruits and flowers that grace these idyllic islands. To enhance this horticultural odyssey, AHS Host Holly Shimizu and her husband, garden designer Osamu Shimizu, will provide enriching lectures that will shed unique light on the Caribbean's remarkable natural wonders.

I hope you'll escape the January chill and join fellow AHS travelers to experience the warm embrace of the Caribbean sun. Limited spaces are available for this exclusive winter retreat, so we recommend making your reservation early. For your convenience, a reservation form is enclosed in this brochure.

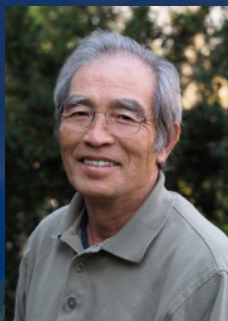
Sincerely,

Suzanne Laporte
President and CEO

FEATURED GUEST SPEAKERS AND AHS TOUR HOSTS



HOLLY H. SHIMIZU, former Interim Executive Director and member of the American Horticultural Society Board of Directors and retired Executive Director of the United States Botanic Garden, is an internationally recognized horticulturist. She has worked in gardens in many parts of the world and is often recognized from her ten years as a host of the popular *Victory Garden* television show on PBS. Holly has received numerous awards, most recently The Scott Medal & Award from The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College, as well as the prestigious Thomas Roland Medal for outstanding contributions to horticultural education from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the Professional Award for an Outstanding Public Garden Director from the American Horticultural Society. Dedicated to heightening an awareness and love of plants through her work, she has written for numerous publications and has been an international flower show judge. Her husband Osamu is a garden designer whom she met while working in Europe.

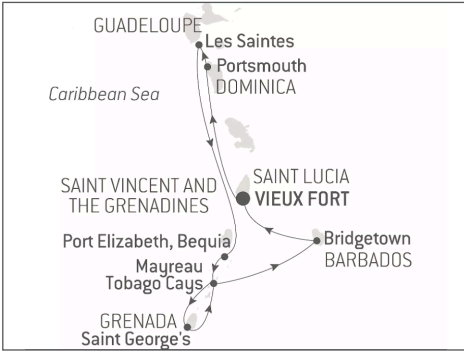


OSAMU SHIMIZU grew up in Japan where he studied and worked in both historic and contemporary Japanese gardens. He worked in Europe for over ten years helping with garden designs, mapping, and garden improvements. In 1982 he started his own garden design/build company, Shimizu Landscape Design, and has been creating gardens for residences as well as public spaces. Many of his gardens are Japanese but some represent a blending of styles with influences from east and west.



Grenada

ITINERARY



Sunday, January 28, 2024

VIEUX FORT, SAINT LUCIA | EMBARKATION

Arrive at Hewanorra International Airport in Vieux Fort, where you will be met and transferred for embarkation on *Le Bellot*. (D)

Monday, January 29

PORTSMOUTH, DOMINICA

From Portsmouth, travel to Paradise Valley Garden & Nursery, a 60-acre oasis, with the vision to cultivate a variety of plants and animal species. You'll also visit Papillote Tropical Gardens, with the opportunity to make and sample several local dishes, as well as Dominica's Botanic Gardens, once considered the most beautiful in the Caribbean. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, January 30

LES SAINTES, GUADELOUPE

Begin on Terre de Haut, one of two inhabited islands in the Îles des Saintes Archipelago to visit the 19th-century Fort Napoleon. Situated on a promontory some 300 feet above La Baie des Saintes, enjoy beautiful views of the nine islands of the archipelago, as well as Guadeloupe's main island to the north. Within the Fort is Le Jardin Exotique, a botanical garden home to rare and endangered cacti, created in 1984 and now a joint venture with the Jardin Exotique of Monaco. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, January 31

PORT ELIZABETH, BEQUIA

Your visit to Bequia begins with a drive through the brilliant, tropical Port Elizabeth on the way to the 18th-century Hamilton Fort, with beautiful views over Admiralty Bay. Travel inland to Firefly Plantation, a lush 30-acre estate of orchards with a variety of tropical fruits and flowers, where the head gardener will guide you on a leisurely walking tour through the grounds, and share the story of the plantation and sugar mill that produced the wealth that built the estate. (B,L,D)

Thursday, February 1

MAYREAU ISLANDS, SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

Spend the entire day ashore, taking advantage of the sun and surf, enjoying a drink in the shaded bar, or just relaxing on the beach. The ship's staff will come with you to prepare and serve a barbecue buffet, and a local steel band will provide the perfect musical backdrop to a delightful day of swimming, snorkeling, and soaking up this tropical paradise. (B,L,D)

Friday, February 2

SAINT GEORGE'S GRENADA

On Grenada, the Caribbean's 'Spice Island,' AHS travelers will enjoy an exclusive visit at The Tower Estate, a beautiful Caribbean Great House offering insights into the island's past. The garden's designer will share her plans for the seven-acre estate: an acre and a half of tropical floral gardens, and six acres of spice, fruit, hardwood trees, and herb gardens, crisscrossed with walkways. Each year, flowers from the garden are featured at the Chelsea Flower Show, where Grenada routinely wins gold. (B,L,D)

Saturday, February 3

TOBAGO CAYS

During your time in the Tobago Cays, your activities may include swimming, snorkeling, or diving among one of the largest remaining pristine coral reef groups in the Windward Islands. Or, find yourself relaxing on board *Le Bellot* while keeping a lookout for indigenous wildlife: pelicans, terns, iguanas, even a remarkable array of sea turtles. (B,L,D)

Sunday, February 4

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

Begin your exploration of Barbados in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bridgetown. Drive into the interior, pausing at Gun Hill Signal Station for panoramic views over the island, before continuing to Hunte's Garden, a creation of noted horticulturist Anthony Hunte, showcasing not only precious flora, but also a series of statues among the foliage. Continue to Flower Forest Botanical Gardens, where beneath the trees are an assortment of unique shrubs and flowering herbs. (B,L,D)

Monday, February 5

VIEUX FORT, SAINT LUCIA | DISEMBARKATION

After breakfast on board, disembark for a morning tour, then transfer to the airport for flights homeward. (B)

Saint Vincent & the Grenadines



Tobago Cays



Les Saintes, Guadeloupe



PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- ✓ Comprehensive 8-night cruise aboard *Le Bellot*.
- ✓ All accommodations are outside staterooms and suites and all feature a private balcony.
- ✓ Shore excursions as described in the itinerary.
- ✓ All meals aboard ship including early riser's coffee & pastry, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner, and special sweets from Ladurée.
- ✓ French-inspired gourmet cuisine, with menu creation and chef training by Ducasse Conseil.
- ✓ Complimentary open bar aboard ship, including select wines served with lunch and dinner.
- ✓ Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship.
- ✓ 24-hour room service.
- ✓ Unlimited WiFi (as available via satellite).
- ✓ Airport/pier/airport transfers and handling of luggage.
- ✓ Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, guides, and drivers.
- ✓ Port taxes and charges.
- ✓ Pre-departure materials.

Not included

Airfare; airport taxes; visa and passport fees and/or immigration reciprocity taxes; luggage, cancellation, medical, repatriation and accident insurance; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone; spa; and beverages other than those specified above.

Saint Vincent & the Grenadines





OPTIONAL PRE-CRUISE EXCURSION

ST. LUCIA: NATURAL BEAUTY AND CREOLE CULTURE

January 26 - 28, 2024

3 days, 2 nights

\$1,590 per guest, double occupancy

\$2,160 per guest, single occupancy

With its dense, green, rain-forest-covered peaks rising from the turquoise Caribbean, Saint Lucia is known throughout the world for its remarkably beautiful variety of landscapes and seascapes. It is also one of the most culturally diverse places in an area celebrated for its multicultural heritage. This specially designed program provides the opportunity to experience both of these aspects of a fascinating island.

Friday, January 26, 2024

SAINT LUCIA

Arrive at Hewanorra International Airport, where you will be met and transferred to the northern tip of the island to the Bay Gardens Beach Resort, your home for the next two nights. A local representative will be present at the hospitality desk in the afternoon to welcome you and answer any questions you may have. Relax and enjoy the many amenities of the resort before joining your fellow travelers for a welcome cocktail reception and dinner at the hotel. (R)

Saturday, January 27

SAINT LUCIA

Because of its history as both a French and British colony (control of the island changed hands between these two European powers 14 times between 1639 and 1814), the creole culture of Saint Lucia is a fascinating blend of English, French, African, and indigenous Caribbean language and traditions. Today's excursion begins with a visit to a local farm that is part of the international "FarmHer" movement to highlight and support the role of women in agriculture. Meet with the owner and learn about her entry into the business, and about the support she receives from her creole background, and, of course, sample some of the produce from the farm. Continue to Stony Hill, a private residence with a splendid tropical garden and panoramic views of Pigeon Island and Rodney Bay. Enjoy a guided tour of the garden led by the owner before returning to your hotel, where the balance of the day is at leisure, until dinner. (B, D)

Sunday, January 28

SAINT LUCIA | EMBARKATION

Breakfast and check-out are followed by a day exploring the western coast of Saint Lucia. Your panoramic tour begins with a drive through the town of

Castries to a viewpoint overlooking the harbor of this busy port and capital city. Drive further south through lush valleys to the yachtsman's paradise of Marigot Bay, where you pause before continuing to Soufrière, home to the iconic Pitons of Saint Lucia. Here, you will enjoy guided tours of the Diamond Botanical Gardens and Sulphur Springs Park, with views of the bubbling pools of sulphur that give Soufrière its name. Your final stop will be at Morne Coubaril Estate, a working farm that produces cocoa, coconut, and manioc and that preserves a sense of 18th-century life on a French creole plantation. Enjoy a delicious creole lunch at a local restaurant before transferring to the pier in Vieux Fort to embark *Le Bellot* in late afternoon. (B,L)

Your hotel:

The Bay Gardens Beach Resort & Spa is a luxury resort on the spectacular golden sands and crystal-clear blue waters of Reduit Beach on Rodney Bay. It boasts a large pool with a Jacuzzi in the middle, two ocean-side restaurants, a fitness center, and a business center. The luxurious on-site La Mer Spa and Salon offers a variety of massages and couples treatments.

Your program includes:

- ✓ 2 nights at the Bay Gardens Beach Resort & Spa (or similar)
- ✓ Transfer and luggage handling from the airport to the hotel on the scheduled program arrival day
- ✓ Transfer and luggage handling from the hotel to the ship on embarkation day
- ✓ Sightseeing and programming as noted in the itinerary
- ✓ Local English-speaking guide
- ✓ Gratuities for the drivers and local guides

Your program does not include:

- ✓ Transfer from the airport to the hotel on any day other than the scheduled program arrival day
- ✓ Personal expenses and other services and meals not mentioned as included in the program

Please note:

It is imperative that your flight arrival details are communicated at least 30 days prior to the beginning of your cruise in order to secure your transfer from the airport to the hotel. Early check-in and/or late check-out are available depending on availability and at a supplement. An additional night is possible, upon request and depending on hotel availability. Please contact reservations for further details. The official currency is the Eastern Caribbean dollar. US dollars and credit cards are widely accepted in hotels, shops, and restaurants. This pre-cruise program is offered as a package. There will be no refunds for unused accommodations, meals, or excursions. Program is offered on a space available basis and subject to change without notice.

Hotel contact information:

Bay Gardens Beach Resort & Spa
Reduit Beach, Rodney Bay Village
P.O. Box 1892
Castries, Saint Lucia
Local Telephone: + 758 457 8514
Toll Free US & CAN: + 1 877 620 3200



The five-star *Le Bellot* is one of PONANT's Explorer ships, designed to explore the world's most inaccessible locations. These state-of-the-art vessels combine PONANT's understated elegance with a spirit of adventure, and feature the Blue Eye, the world's first underwater guest lounge. *Le Bellot* is a small-capacity ship with just 92 staterooms (each with their own private balcony) and a crew of 110. Guests enjoy attentive service, gourmet French-inspired cuisine, and a relaxed, congenial ambiance.

LE BELLOT DECK PLAN

DECK 7



DECK 6



DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



FARES PER PERSON, DOUBLE AND SINGLE OCCUPANCY

	DOUBLE	SINGLE
DELUXE STATEROOM	\$6,990	\$11,150
PRESTIGE STATEROOM, DECK 4	\$7,240	\$11,620
PRESTIGE STATEROOM, DECK 5	\$7,380	\$11,910
PRESTIGE STATEROOM, DECK 6	\$7,560	\$12,270
DELUXE SUITE	\$9,320	\$15,790
PRESTIGE SUITE	\$9,840	\$16,830
PRIVILEGE SUITES, DECK 5	\$10,080	\$17,310
PRIVILEGE SUITES, DECK 6	\$10,270	\$17,680
GRAND DELUXE SUITE	\$10,500	\$18,150
OWNER'S SUITE	\$12,720	\$22,590

- Owner's Suite—Deck 5
- Privilege Suites—Deck 6
- ↔ Privilege Suites—Decks 5 - 6
- Grand Deluxe Suites—Deck 6
- Deluxe Suites—Decks 3 - 4 - 5 - 6
- Prestige Staterooms—Decks 4 - 5 - 6
- Deluxe Staterooms—Deck 3

Single occupancy staterooms subject to availability. Contact PONANT at 877-415-0407 for more information.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Compagnie du PONANT, PONANT Group USA, LLC, and PONANT USA, LLC are hereinafter collectively referred to as "PONANT GROUP" is the tour Operator/Organizer of this cruise and has invited members of the American Horticultural Society (Sponsor) to participate. Please carefully read this information as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms & Conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the passenger and PONANT GROUP and the tour's sponsoring organization.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: To secure a booking, each guest is required to pay a \$1,500 deposit: \$500 donation per person, payable to the American Horticultural Society and an additional \$1,000 per person payable to PONANT. Final payment is due by October 30, 2023, 90 days prior to departure. Checks and credit cards are accepted.

CANCELLATION, MODIFICATION PENALTIES & REFUNDS: All cancellations or modifications must be in writing. Any and all guests not reporting for departure or prevented from reporting for departure or waiving for any reason whatsoever the benefit of services included in the program cannot claim any refund. PONANT GROUP shall not be required to refund any monies to any guests who must leave the cruise prematurely for any reason, nor shall PONANT GROUP be held responsible for any costs, fees, damages or causes of action which result from the transportation expenses incurred by guest's early departure. For any deposited or fully paid booking, cancellation penalties will be assessed as noted below. These cancellation penalties are applicable on all services booked with PONANT GROUP.

- From confirmation of booking date to October 29, 2023 (91 days prior to departure): \$1,000 per person cancellation penalty
- From October 30, 2023 – November 28, 2023 (90-61 days prior departure): 50% of full fare cancellation penalty
- From November 29, 2023, until departure (within 60 days prior to departure): 100% of full fare cancellation penalty
- \$500 donation to AHS is non-refundable.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Passengers shall be responsible for subscribing to cancellation/luggage/assistance repatriation/medical insurance(s).

ITINERARY: PONANT GROUP reserves the right to withdraw and/or cancel a sailing to make changes in the itinerary whenever, in its sole judgment, or in the judgment of the vessel owner or operator, conditions warrant it.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS/LIMIT OF LIABILITY: The passenger agrees that PONANT GROUP acts as agent and/or trustee for any person, ground and maritime agents and subcontractors, who provide any service forming, or in connection with, any part of the cruise. Transportation services to the port of departure, transfers to the ship, including, as applicable, hotel room and restaurant bookings or guided tours, are performed by independent suppliers who are not employees of PONANT GROUP. In this respect, PONANT GROUP acts only as an

agent and shall not be held liable for said services or for the acts or omissions of sub-contractors or other contractors. PONANT GROUP shall not be held liable for bodily injury to, or death of passengers, or for loss of, or damage to luggage or other personal belongings, unless it is proved that the carrier has infringed statutory obligations or that it or one of its employees or agents has committed gross negligence. However, in the event the liability of PONANT GROUP is incurred, such liability is limited (details available upon request). PONANT GROUP shall in any case not be liable for failure of an improper performance when the same is due to or caused by the fault of the passenger; the unforeseeable or unavoidable fault of a third party unconnected with the provision of any services to be provided under the contract; unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond the control of PONANT GROUP; an event of "Force Majeure" such as a war, threat of war, riots, civil commotion, acts of God, terrorist activities, natural and nuclear disaster, fire, technical problems with transport, closure of ports, strikes and any industrial action, or any other event beyond the control of PONANT GROUP.

RATES: The prices given at the time of booking are based on economic conditions known on July 19, 2023, and are subject to change. These conditions are, amongst others, the cost of transport and fuel, relevant dues, and taxes for the proposed operation (port taxes, embarkation and disembarkation taxes, entrance costs to tourist sites), currency exchange rates relevant to the pricing of these programs. PONANT GROUP reserves the right within the legal limits of applicable laws to vary the prices if necessary. All variation of the cost of transport, fuel, taxes, dues, and visa costs will be passed on within the voyage cost. Any change in fare cannot be imposed less than 60 days prior or November 29, 2023, to departure.

PERSONS WITH REDUCED MOBILITY: Report any physical conditions and dietary or treatment requirements to PONANT GROUP in writing at the time of booking. PONANT GROUP will try to accommodate special needs where possible, but any extra costs associated with special accommodation are the responsibility of the passenger. For limited mobility, wheelchair users, or conditions requiring assistance, inform PONANT GROUP in writing as soon as possible, but at least 30 days or December 29, 2023, before the service starts.

JURISDICTION: These terms & conditions are subject to and interpreted according to international regulations and concern the transportation of passengers and their luggage from the time of boarding the ship to the moment of disembarking, as well as at ports of departure, destination, or stopover. PONANT GROUP shall incur no liability outside this period. Without prejudice to required legal regulations, any actions related either to the interpretation, or execution of this agreement shall be brought before the competent courts of Marseille-France. PONANT is not responsible for omissions, printing and/or presentation errors and reserves the right to make corrections as required.

REGISTRATION

AHSO - EE280124

Enclosed are my checks: (1) made out to American Horticultural Society for \$500 per person non-refundable donation; (2) made out to PONANT for \$1,000 per person deposit to hold ___ place(s) on **Natural Wonders of the Caribbean**. I understand that final payment is due 90 days prior to departure, or by October 31, 2023. Please mail donations to:

American Horticultural Society
7931 E Boulevard Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308

Please provide payment details via the secure DocuSign link or mail deposit to:

PONANT Yacht Cruises & Expeditions
420 Lexington Ave., Ste. 2838
New York, NY 10170

To provide secure credit card details and a signature online, please visit the secure DocuSign link (you will receive a confirmation email once the payment has been processed):

<https://tinyurl.com/AHS-Caribbean>

Or, scan QR code:



Please select cabin category in order of preference (1st, 2nd & 3rd choice):

Deluxe Stateroom: Deck 3 ___

Prestige Stateroom: Deck 4 ___ Deck 5 ___ Deck 6 ___

Deluxe Suite: Deck 3 ___

Prestige Suite: Deck 5 ___ Deck 6 ___

Privilege Suite: Deck 5 ___ Deck 6 ___

Grand Deluxe Suite ___

Owner's Suite ___

Two Beds King Bed Single Occupancy

FIRST LAST DATE OF BIRTH

FIRST LAST DATE OF BIRTH

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE (DAY) (EVENING)

E-MAIL

**Each participant must sign below:
I/We have read the "Terms & Conditions" section
and agree to its terms.**

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

The Operator and the Sponsor are not joint venturers and are not otherwise connected with each other. All organizational and operational matters associated with this cruise tour, including the handling of all payments and/or refunds, are controlled by the Operator and any communication and/or disputes relating to any such matters shall not be brought against the Sponsor.



American Horticultural Society
7931 East Boulevard Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308

Indicia
Placement



NATURAL WONDERS OF THE CARIBBEAN

Aboard the *Deluxe Le Bellot*
January 28 - February 5, 2024

For reservations or information, please call
(703) 768-5700, ext. 117 or 132 • www.ahsgardening.org

AHSO - EE280124