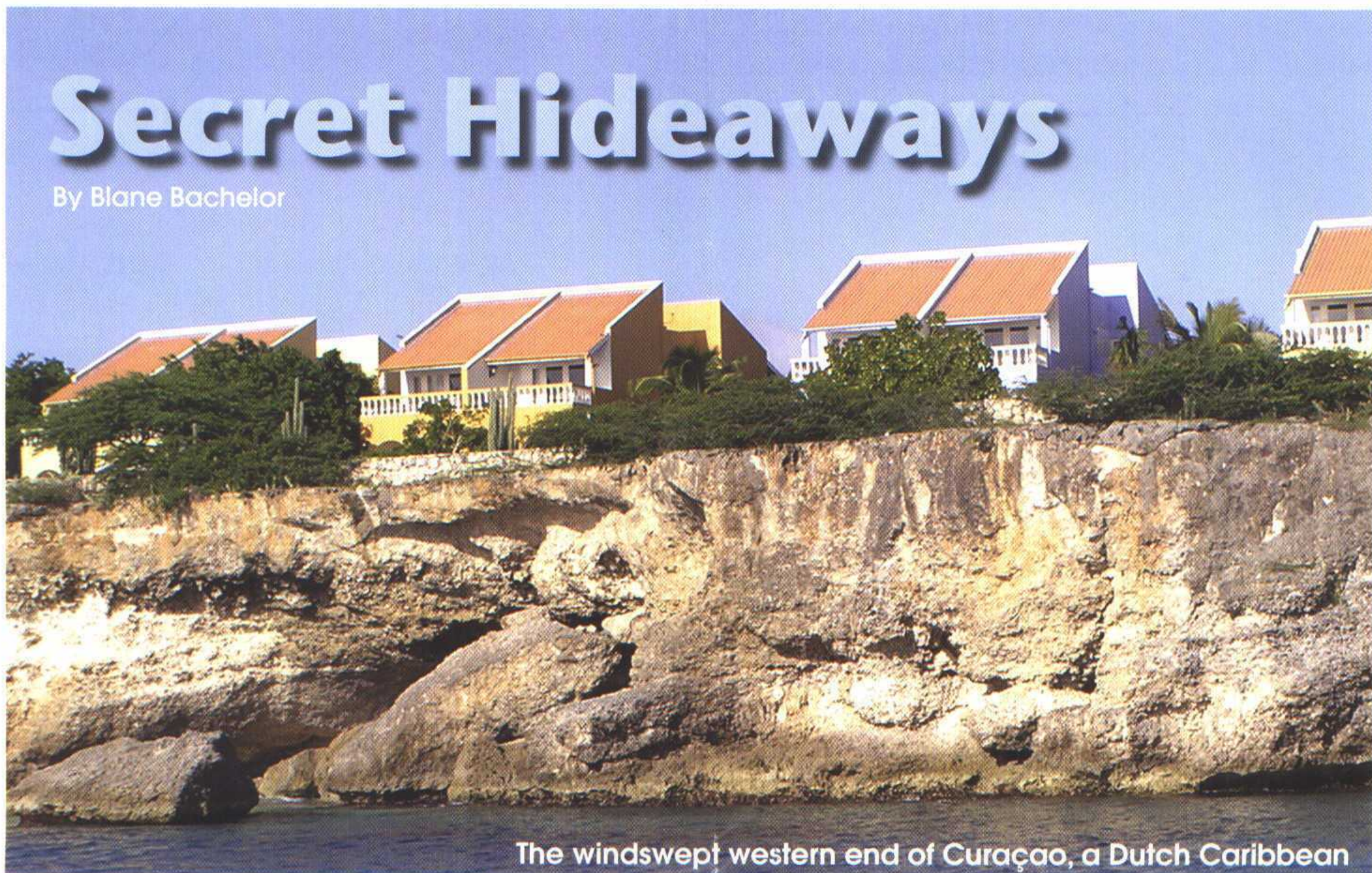


Secret Hideaways

By Blane Bachelor



The windswept western end of Curaçao, a Dutch Caribbean island just 60 miles from the coast of Venezuela, boasts secluded beaches, breathtaking natural geography and relatively few tourists. But until recently, the area also had relatively few options for top-notch accommodations, keeping many visitors to Curaçao planted near the capital city of Willemstad, about a 40-minute car ride away.



Photo by Blane Bachelor

The Lodge at Kura Hulanda, West Punt, Curaçao

All that changed with the recent opening of the Lodge Kura Hulanda, the 350-acre sister property of the award-winning Hotel Kura Hulanda in Willemstad, and the first luxury hotel on the western part of the island. Perched atop the craggy coastline, the Lodge has just 80 suites and villas, housed in two-story buildings awash in cheerful Caribbean pastels, and its own private beach, all of which create a distinct “private island” feel. Accommodations feature first-class amenities: 300-thread-count sheets, CD/DVD players and outdoor showers.

But don't get too comfortable in your room – the Lodge's proximity to a spectacular natural reef located off its beach makes for some prime snorkeling and diving (an on-site dive

shop provides daily excursions to Curaçao's top dive sites). You can also charter a boat to explore the untamed beauty of the nearby coastline. Landlubbers can take advantage of the free transportation to Willemstad, which boasts an enticing array of shopping and museum destinations.

Also within a short drive of the lodge are Christoffel National Park, where the 1,239-foot Mt. Christoffel rewards hardy hikers with gorgeous views of Curaçao and sometimes Venezuela, and the Boca Tabla Caves, where the sea crashes in spectacular fashion against the cliffs. Still, you don't have to climb Mt. Christoffel for some of the most spectacular sunset views on the island, which are there for the taking every day at the lodge's sweeping outdoor bar and restaurant area.

www.kurahulanda.com

Reservations: 1-877-264-3106

