

Shopping

WATCH



As Seen On TV

Souvenir hunting? Step away from those three-for-\$20 T-shirts! Roving the region on shoots for *CT+L's* TV show, *Best of the Caribbean*, I've come across some pretty fabulous stores that sell locally made items you'll be proud to give to friends and family — if you can bear to let them go.

BY SARAH GREAVES-GABBADON

The Real "It" Bag

Matilsha Marxuach couldn't find a stylish grocery bag, so she made one herself. Now the Mercado A is a bestseller at her Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, boutique, Concalma, where you can score fabric bags perfect for on the sand or off. From \$25. 787-229-0800; shopconcalma.com



About Face On St. Lucia, visiting Simon Gajadhar's Soufriere studio is like entering the lair of an artisan hopped up on hallucinogenic drugs. The former shipwright has covered the walls of his cottage with a kaleidoscopic array of masks carved from recycled wood and retired telephone poles. It's hard to pick just one, but as prices start at just \$20, you won't have to. 758-457-1504; zaka-art.com



Hat Trick

I snagged my jaunty Panama from milliner Guillermo Jeffs' Old San Juan store, Olé. Guillermo will help you select the perfect topper and, while you wait, use a blow-dryer and hat block to customize it to your noggin. From \$50. 787-724-2445

Flying Kicks

Mexico's Cancun airport is the last place I expected to find the cowboy boots of my dreams. But I stumbled into Roger's Boots on the departures concourse at Terminal 3 and strutted out with the rootin'-tootin'-est kicks you ever did see. Yeehaw! From \$200. 011-52-998-886-0771



TOP SHOPS

1 | GALLERY OF WEST INDIAN ART

Tucked away in a quiet residential neighborhood just outside the city center, this Mo' Bay gallery and craft store in Jamaica is famous for its whimsical "spotties," hand-carved wooden animals daubed in vivid colors and stippled with white polka dots. The selection of Jamaican, Haitian and Cuban art is outstanding. Pick up a piece in the store, and when you get home, grow your collection by shopping the gallery's vast online inventory. 876-952-4547; galleryofwestindianart.com

2 | BERMUDA PERFUMERY

Founded in the 1920s, this St. George's, Bermuda-based perfumery is famous for its Lili Bermuda collection of fragrances, sold exclusively on island and featured in the rooms of swanky Tucker's Point resort. Choose from 17 scents. My pick: South Water, a refreshing unisex blend made with essences of coconut and guava and spiked with tangy sea salt. 441-293-0627; bermuda-perfumery.com

3 | MIXIK Two Tulum, Mexico, locations (one store on the beachfront strip and a larger outlet in *el pueblo*)

are jampacked with a covetable assortment of local art, accessories, jewelry and handicraft. I was completely smitten by the distinctive angel-face wood carvings, on display in many Mexican resorts and equally striking in your living room at home. 011-52-984-871-2136