
Arts & Entertainment

Crop Over and the Barbados Jazz Festival are admittedly the most high profile events on the calendar in Barbados' entertainment scene; however, they are not the only events.

Barbados is host to many other events throughout the year from Gospel Fest to international classical acts, and then there is the Holders Season which has boasted the likes of the late Luciano Pavorotti as a headliner.

The entertainment year begins in January with the Barbados Jazz Festival, which is an excellent way to appreciate wonderful music and enjoy great Barbadian historical locations as some of the main events for this festival are held at Farley Hill National Park and Sunbury Plantation House.

Past performers have included Lionel Richie, Jill Scott and Patti LaBelle but if you can tear your eyes from the stage take a look around at the rich history of Barbados

In March Wendy Kidd opens the gates of her luxurious plantation house at Holder's to showcase some of the finest local and international actors and actresses during the Holders Season.

The Reduced Shakespeare Company is a perennial favourite bringing their irreverent brand of comedy to the stage. The acts really should not be missed. After-show dining is available and Daphne's located just a few hundred yards downhill from Holder's House is often open late to accommodate the post-show traffic.

In June the Crop Over Festival begins with the Cavalcades, bringing all the best of the local soca and calypso music to the 11 parishes. This national festival runs from June until its spectacular climax in August with the colourful and fantastic spectacle of Grand Kadooment.

In November Barbadian creativity at its best is on display with the National Independence Festival of Creative Arts (NIFCA) festival. Art and craft, photography, dance, music, theatre all come together to highlight the talent and creativity of the Barbadian populace.

It is always possible to see examples of local talent in Barbados. Just walk into Zemicon Gallery in Bridgetown or into the Pelican Craft Village on the Harbour Road to see a wide-ranging selection of local art.

There are many art galleries as well located within the cozy confines of fine dining restaurants like The Tides, Mangoes by the Sea and the Waterfront Caf#233.

If night life is what you seek you can head either to the West Coast or to the South Coast of the island where there is an abundance of establishments offering local and international entertainment acts either with dinner or just over drinks.

From the piano bar to the sounds of Dixieland jazz, from calypso and "spoken word" poetry to lively DJs with their music mix, you'll find it in Barbados.

And it's not difficult to party until dawn as there, especially during the Crop Over season. You can't get bored in Barbados.