

STAY

ON THE BAY

On Rodney Bay, one of St Lucia's most favoured beaches, The Landings Resort and Spa has villas overlooking either the Caribbean or the resort's yacht marina, with views of the beach, harbour or lagoon. BA offers seven nights, from £1,399pp for selected departures in November, including return flights from London Gatwick.* ba.com/stlucia



ART

HIRST IMPRESSIONS

Immerse yourself in a titanic new art installation in Venice

"I admire his readiness to expose himself to danger," says Palazzo Grassi president, François Pinault, about Damien Hirst's extraordinary new exhibition, *Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable*. He could be talking about the perils of Hirst apparently investing £50m of his own money in the show... or possibly reading some of the scathing early reviews ("Should be returned, discreetly, to the bottom of the sea," said *The Telegraph*). One can see why the exhibition has attracted so much comment. Across two galleries on the Venetian waterfront, it centres on artwork 'salvaged' from the mythical wreck of the *Apistos* ('unbelievable' in Greek) – a ship carrying the worldly wealth of the fictional ancient king Cif Amotan II. Among the classical gods, a sword bears a SeaWorld logo, one pharaoh looks like Pharrell Williams and the *Bust of the Collector* looks quite like Hirst himself.



Curator Elena Geuna and critic Dr Daisy Dunn explain what you need to know before you go

SINK OR SWIM

Dunn: "Hirst is always shocking and radical. This exhibition plays with a traditional idea, but strives at the same time to be novel."

BEAUTY AND BEAST

Dunn: "I like the contrast between glitzy treasures – gold, portraits, the idea of luxury travel – and the enormous, terrifying sea creatures, as in *Andromeda and the Sea Monster*."

UNDERWATER ECHOES

Geuna: "Correlations and affinities arise within the collection. *The Severed Head of Medusa*, for example, recurs in bronze, gold, crystal and malachite."

CIF AMOTAN II IS AN ANAGRAM OF 'I AM FICTION'

Geuna: "Amotan shared the same passion and obsession with objects as all collectors. He freely crossed cultures and centuries. So the exhibition is suspended between past and present, between lies and truth."

CLASSICAL TASTES

Dunn: "It's not always tasteful... Ancient texts tell the story of Trimalchio, a self-made man with terrible taste. He's obnoxious and he buys things that are brash and in-your-face. I think Hirst has got that quite accurately."

MOCKING THE COLLECTOR

Dunn: "There are portraits with emeralds in their eyes. Obviously it's not necessary. It's about catering to people with a lot of money to spend." *Damien Hirst's Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable runs at the Punta della Dogana and Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy, until 3 December.* palazzograssi.it



From top:
Aspect of Katie Ishtar ʔo-landi;
Hydra and Kali
and *Hydra and Kali Beneath the Waves*