



## And you thought you knew... **Antigua**

■ Most people know that... Antigua is a Caribbean island beloved of yachties, but it also has a namesake: a sleepy, 16th-century Spanish colonial town, once capital of Guatemala. The country's old money has always loved it here, and now the Hamptons are so over it's the next big thing for Manhattan weekenders. Even **Bill Clinton** likes its cobble streets.

■ Some people know that... you should hit town at Easter when the old capital rocks with processions and parties. It's the place to learn Spanish in classrooms set in the lush cloistered gardens of traditional houses. **Daryl Hannah**, left, thinks it's shopping heaven, with gems at Joyeria del Angel, handmade chocolates at Chocotenango, cool interiors at El Telar and roast iguanas a tuk-tuk ride away at the central market. Every night is cocktail time watching the still-smoking Fuego volcano from the Café Sky rooftop, followed by haute cuisine and high art at Nicolas from Norwegian chef Niels.



■ But not everyone knows that... it's where **David Hare** and **Nicole Farhi** like to see in the new year. Friday is Cuban jazz at Panza Verde, where NY refugee Bruce entertains **Ronaldo** with his classic whisky collection and chef Christophe cooks for **AA Gill**. No night's complete without an after-hours poker session with **John Pexer** at his hole-in-the-wall joint Café No Sé, where fine mescal is dealt with every hand. The ideal weekend bolthole is Casa Palopó, a three-room colonial mansion; the best place for lovers is the rooftop suite at Lion's Inn; the latest lunch table for social X-rays and Spanish infantas is Casa Palopó's country retreat on the shores of Lake Atitlan, an easy helicopter ride away; the house to rent is Quinta Maconda, owned by **John Heaton** who toured South America for three years with **Clio Goldsmith**, living out of a car; guests like **Francis Ford Coppola**, **Harrison Ford** and **Marina of Greece** think it's the best place in town.

UK reservations: The Ultimate Travel Company (tel: 020 7386 4646; [theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk](http://theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk)).