

La Vida Es Un Carnaval

Let's ring in the season with a little sin, shall we?

Trinidad & Tobago Carnival

When
February
11-12,
2013

The Lowdown

Forget Mardi Gras and Rio's carnival as the places to get your groove on. Trinidad and Tobago hosts the sexiest celebration in the world. The island's fetes are colorful, joyful affairs with a flirty vibe.

Don't Miss

Check out the Panorama, a popular steelpan competition/sultry dance party, or the raucous J'ouvert parade.

Eat This

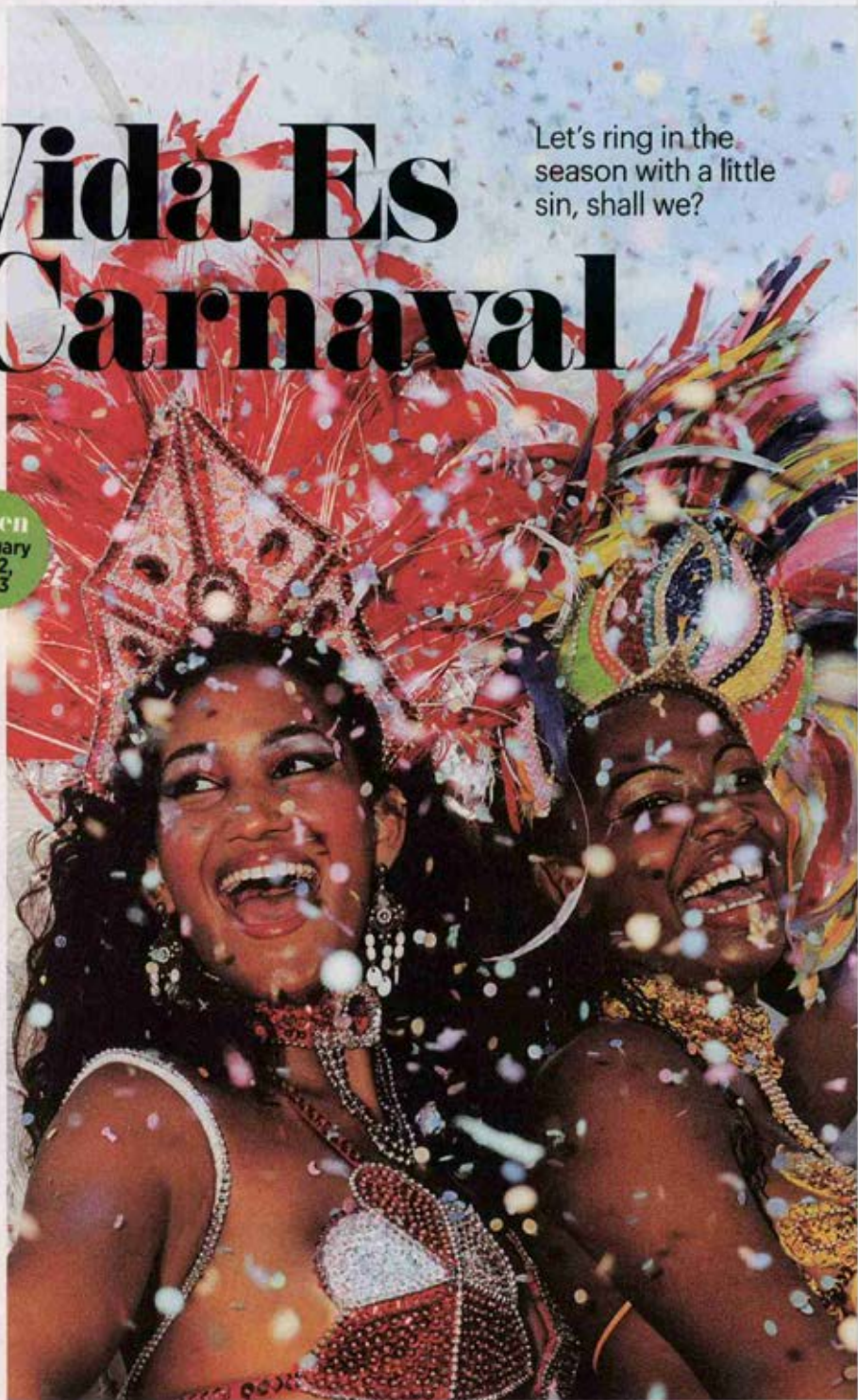
Trini-style roti from the Patraj shop is a must.

Stay Here

The Hyatt is a swank waterfront hotel, and the staff is polished enough not to turn up their noses if you come back with a hot islander.
trinidad.hyatt.com

Bring Back

A soca compilation CD.



Sónar Music Festival, Barcelona

When
June 13-15,
2013

Lowdown

Leave Coachella for the West Coast bohos. True music aficionados are all about Barcelona's premier music festival. Known for the best rave on the planet, featuring electronica music, it also draws performers like John Talabot and Nicolas Jaar.

Don't Miss

The tech fair is the perfect place for DJs...and the chicks who wanna meet 'em.

Stay Here

With Barcelona so affordable right now, why settle for a hotel when you can go for an entire flat? airbnb.com

Eat This

Pick up some *jamón*, manchego, bread, and a bottle of cava. Then relax at a nearby park or beach. ¡Vale!

Bring Back

Something from the MACBA gift shop.



When
March 10,
2013

Calle Ocho, Miami

The Lowdown

Touted as the world's largest street party, Calle Ocho spans over a mile in the Little Havana district. This event, with merengue and salsa blaring, has every type of Latin food to indulge in.

Don't Miss

Look for iconic performers at the event's 30 music stages. Past acts include Pitbull and Celia Cruz.

Eat This

Get your fill at the more than 300 food vendors, selling everything from *maduros* to *chuletas*, or stop by for a *café con leche* at the venerable Versailles restaurant.

Stay Here

The Standard's Spa Miami Beach is perfect for detoxing from those mojitos. standardhotels.com/spa-miami-beach

Bring Back

A Brazilian bikini or *tanga*.

Fiesta, San Antonio

The Lowdown

With a name like Fiesta, how can you go wrong? Created as a tribute to heroes of the Alamo, Fiesta is an 11-day celebration.

Don't Miss

Grab a prime seat at a River Walk restaurant and enjoy the Texas Cavaliers River Parade with a margarita in hand.

Eat This

Make your way down to the *mercado* and feast on Tex-Mex treats like *gorditas* and brisket tacos.

When
April 18-28,
2013

Stay Here

Hotel Havana is located on the River Walk but away from tourists. Savor the stellar drink menu at Ocho bar. havanasanantonio.com

Bring Back

A Zapata T-shirt from Mi Tierra, an iconic local eatery that never closes.



Saborea, Puerto Rico

The Lowdown

Now in its sixth year, this food festival is the ideal spring getaway for foodies who wanna have fun. Held on the beach, the event draws the best chefs from PR and around the world and celebrates their stellar cuisine.

Don't Miss

Celeb chef Kevin Sbraga will partner up with a local chef for a cooking demo.

Eat This

If you haven't gotten

When
April 6-7,
2013



your fill of munchies, go restaurant-hopping in La Placita, the Bourbon Street of San Juan.

Stay Here

The San Juan Water Beach Club's epic oceanfront location plus frosty "Playa Coladas" at the rooftop bar are perfect ingredients for romance. waterbeachhotel.com

Bring Back

A bottle of the small-batch produced Ron del Barrilito Tres Estrellas. ■
* Robyn Moreno