



LIVELY UP! AMSTERDAM ON THE SAND

Mambo Beach, Curaçao

DEEP BACKGROUND An oasis on the sugar sands of Sea Aquarium Bay, this beach club combines sleek Dutch style with a chilled-out island vibe. The expat owners cater to European scenesters who require Heineken and sunshine by day, Robbie Williams and martinis by night. Americans who discover it might feel like they've stumbled into a St. Tropez scenario — only prettier.

CAST OF CHARACTERS A handsome, all-ages crowd sunbathes on the chaises; the Dutch are easy to spot because of their relaxed attitude toward sunblock and bikini tops. The rest are a mixed bag of American divers, windsurfers, expats and well-heeled islanders. In the early evening, the action migrates to the perennially popular restaurant then back toward the beach, which has been transformed into a nightclub complete with European DJs and Dutch women who look like models.

DIVERSIONS Rent a sun lounger for \$6 (or a four-person cabana for \$8) and chill to the strains of Euro-lounge music. There's beach volleyball, though most are too lazy to play. Tuesday's Dinner and a Movie draws 500 or more. Monthly Friday-night concerts are popular, as are live local lineups on Sunday afternoons.

SUSTENANCE A Mediterranean menu focuses on fresh seafood and light fare. The best dining experience is Friday's "Fish Market," offering the best of the morning's catch. However, you must book a table at least 14 days in advance; some people do it while reserving their hotel.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE Happy hour is literally one hour: Sundays from 5 to 6 p.m. Insiders happy-hour hop between Mambo and next-door neighbors, Wet & Wild and KonTiki, which have more generous drinking policies. — *Lena Katz*



TRY THIS AT HOME

Mambo Beach Cocktail

- 2 oz. banana syrup
- 1 scoop vanilla ice cream
- 1 oz. white rum
- ½ oz. banana liqueur

A dash of amaretto

Blend the banana liqueur, banana syrup and rum with the vanilla ice cream. Pour into a cocktail glass and finish with a floater of amaretto liqueur. *Proost!*