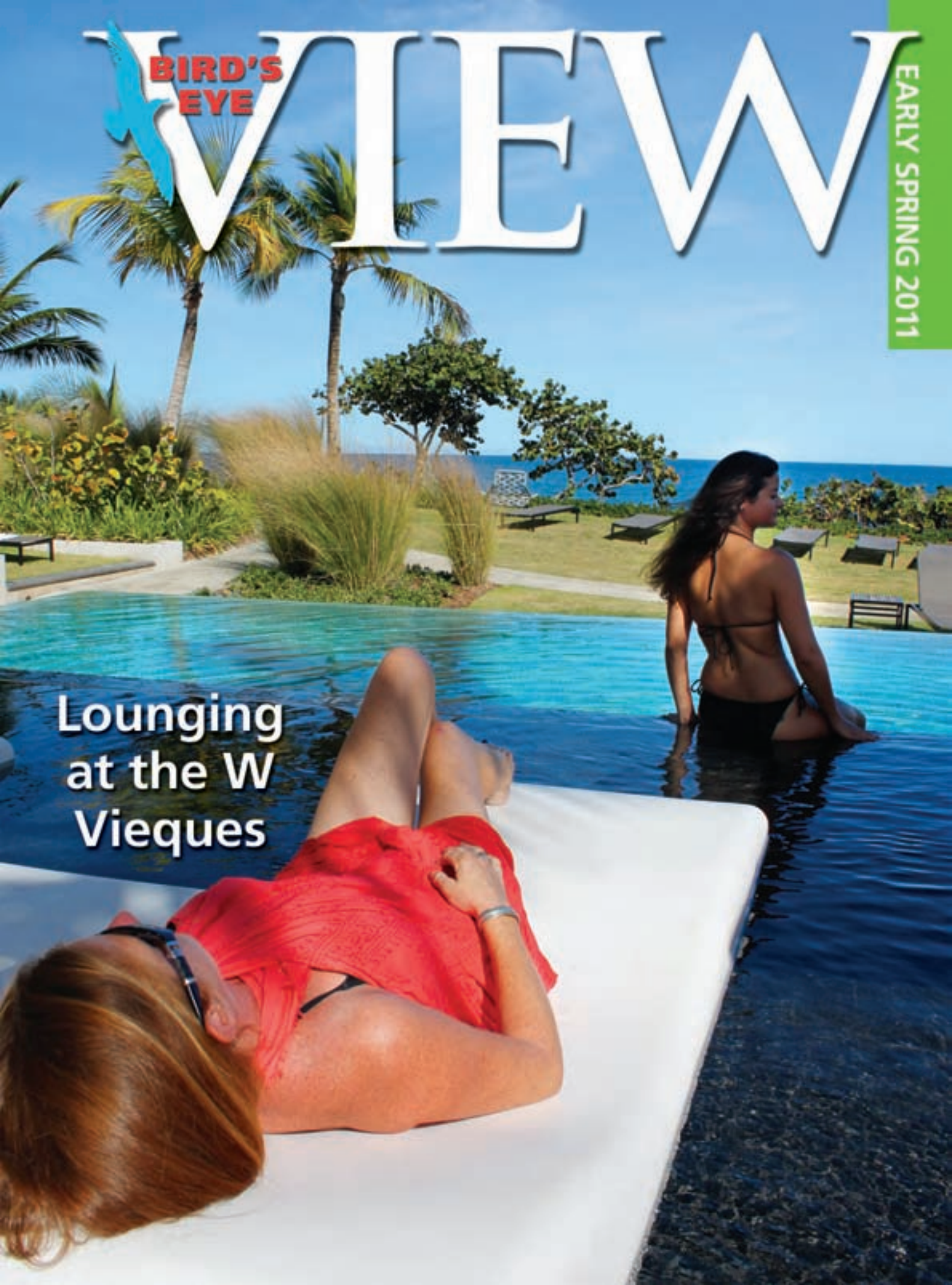


# VIEW

**BIRD'S  
EYE**

EARLY SPRING 2011

Lounging  
at the W  
Vieques





# PLAYA NEGRITA (BLACK SAND BEACH)

By Michelle Haynes

*This is a hard to find beach that can make for a Vieques adventure. Find your way to the Island's new Gallery Galleon just past Esperanza. (Check their ad on page 13) After a visit to the gallery start down the little dirt road on the left hand side for a five minute hike to one of the few natural mineral beaches in the entire Caribbean. To make it interesting bring a magnet with you.*

Photo: ViequesTravel.com

Just down the road you will find Esperanza's Malecón, (mal'lay·cohn) the Spanish name for boardwalk, but in this case it is more of a sidewalk promenade running the length of the Esperanza. There are *Kodak* moments at every turn along with little stands offering handmade crafts and jewelry. A 'must' stop here is *Vieques Flowers & Gifts* selling anything and everything you could possibly imagine. Owners Denise and Bob are Massachusetts transplants who fell in love with Vieques thirteen years ago while on vacation. "The quiet pace here is not for everyone," says Denise, as she arranges fresh flowers for Bob's delivery order. "To be honest we are thrilled to be here and are never bored with the easy and relaxing lifestyle and we love having the chance to meet so many new people. They all find their way to our door, from the States, Europe and Canada and as far away as Alaska."

Photo: Christine Twombly



Denise of Vieques Flowers & Gifts