

# COLLIE'S *Bermuda*

By Andrea Milam

**Bermudian dancehall singer Collie Buddz exploded onto the scene in 2006 with his demo track, "Come Around," whose heavy beats and infectious rhythm tantalized fans around the world. Since the 2007 release of his self-titled album, he's been a mainstay on the reggae scene, releasing countless singles and touring the world. Collie has several exciting projects on the horizon, including the release of a brand new album, "Good Life," featuring his trademark reggae style with soca and dancehall influences, and his role as lead in the movie "King of Dancehall," directed by Nick Cannon. Destination Bermuda caught up with Collie during his latest tour to learn about his home—Collie's Bermuda.**

**DB:** *How often are you in Bermuda these days? What do you like to do while you're there?*

**CB:** Every year is different. I'm on the road a lot, but if I had to guess I'd say I'm home about five or six months out of the year. It feels like two weeks though; I'm not home enough. We do about 100 shows each year. If I'm being brutally honest, when I'm home I want to sleep! I do love Horseshoe Bay. They added a nice little bar there, Rum Bum Beach Bar. Sea Breeze down at Elbow Beach is also a nice spot. For the most part though, when I'm home, I'm like a homebody. I don't do too much.

**DB:** *What is one thing you think visitors to Bermuda shouldn't miss?*

**CB:** Definitely Horseshoe Bay. There's also so many beaches off the beaten path. Just walk along from

Photo by Phil Emerson



Photo by David Wong



Horseshoe and you'll find little coves and secluded beaches. I'd tell visitors to just keep walking down the beach—you never know where it's going to take you.

**DB:** *How did Bermuda's culture influence your music?*

**CB:** I was born in New Orleans, then moved to Toronto where we lived until my father passed away when I was five years old. My mum is Bermudian, so we decided to move back to Bermuda at that point. When I was growing up in Bermuda, we'd play nothing but reggae music. We were so immersed. I didn't listen to any other genre until I went away to school; reggae was everywhere. That definitely had a big influence on me. Everywhere we went, every car driving by was playing reggae music. That's how I got into it.

**DB:** *What does it mean to you to be Bermudian?*

**CB:** Bermudians are very proud of Bermuda. Anywhere I go, when I'm touring I see they're all raising the flags. They're very proud of our country. I think that says a lot because Bermuda is so small; it's a tight-knit community. I am definitely a proud Bermudian.

**DB:** *Do you have a favorite local dish, and where's the best place to get it?*

**CB:** On Sundays, codfish and potatoes. There's so many good places to get it from, but I would definitely suggest visitors try codfish and potatoes for breakfast. I also love the fish



sandwich at Art Mels—so big you can't even take a bite!

**DB:** *What do you miss when you're away from home?*

**CB:** I miss family and friends, my wife and our two kids. It's just home; it's right. I've been all over the world, and Bermuda is such a special place, more than just geographically with it being a really tiny island in the middle

of nowhere. I feel very blessed to have grown up there and to be living there. When I land back in Bermuda, there's a sigh of relief—"All right, I'm home." It's such an amazing little island. I've seen many islands and lots of different countries, but Bermuda is a very special place.

To learn more about Collie Buddz, visit [colliebuddz.com](http://colliebuddz.com).

