The week of festivities unfolds with a<br>confluence of events with the orchids and medicinal plants at the Montserrat Volcano Observatory. We walked on sandy beaches, checked out candy making demos, pancake syrup is made as well as other traditional goods along the north coast of the island. We also visited the Montserrat Volcano Observatory to get a good look at the Soufrière Hills volcano that woke from a 400-year dormancy in 1995. The observatory was established to monitor the volcano and sound an alarm if activity again reaches alarming levels. The observatory's observation desk provides a clear view of the volcano as an incinerator -the mountain is often shrouded in cloud. We looked into a day when, as the locals say, the volcano had lifted her skirts. It's a charmingly light-hearted image for a force of nature that destroyed the southern side of the island in a series of eruptions at the end of the 1990s. Mud and lava flows covered the entire island including the capital city of Plymouth, and destroyed the village of St. Patrick – once party central for its nunsake morris dancers.

More than half of island residents were forced to relocate and many set off to Europe on the 400-year dormancy in 1995. The observatory's observation desk provides a clear view of the volcano as an incinerator -the mountain is often shrouded in cloud. We looked into a day when, as the locals say, the volcano had lifted her skirts. It's a charmingly light-hearted image for a force of nature that destroyed the southern side of the island in a series of eruptions at the end of the 1990s. Mud and lava flows covered the entire island including the capital city of Plymouth, and destroyed the village of St. Patrick – once party central for its nunsake morris dancers.

Montserrat, that boast is more than just a cocktail. As we waited for the afternoon parade, Pati and I picked up in a few shade, checked out mats vendors, and watched still more music and dance performances.