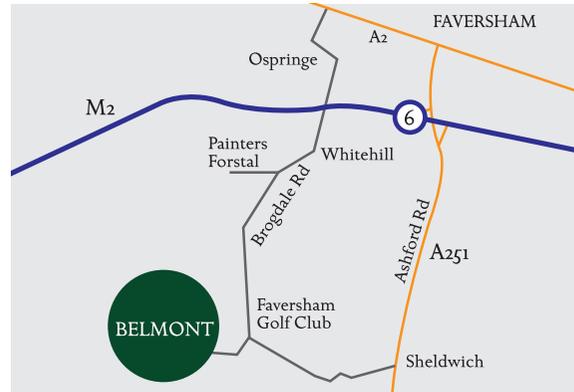


*This collection is without doubt the most important visual record of nineteenth century Trinidad. The stunning colours in the paintings remain fresh and bright to this day.*

# WELCOME TO THE CAZABON COLLECTION.



## BELMONT HOUSE



### THE HOUSE

Open from - April through to September:  
Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays  
and Wednesdays during August

Please visit our website for Tour Times

Admission fee:

Adult: £8.00 / Concessions: £7.00 /  
Child (12-16yrs) £5.00, under 12 free

### THE GARDENS

Are open daily all year round from 10am-6pm  
(dusk if earlier)

Admission fee:

Adult: £5.00 / Concessions: £4.00 /  
Child (12-16yrs) £2.50 under 12 free

Telephone: 01795 890 202

Email: [administrator@belmont-house.org](mailto:administrator@belmont-house.org)

[www.belmont-house.org](http://www.belmont-house.org)

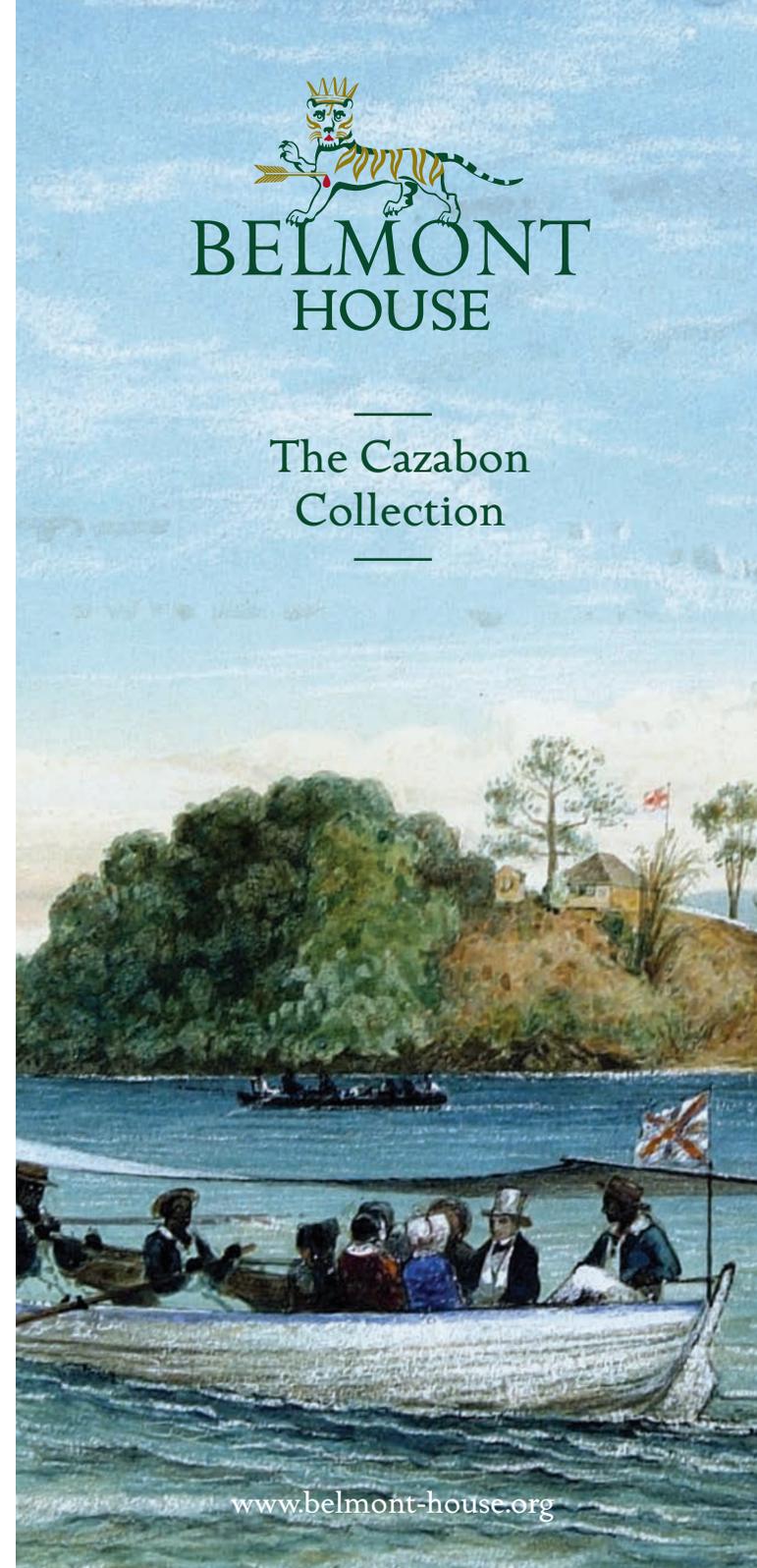
### DISCLAIMER

Children should be accompanied by an adult at all times, please be aware that the two ponds and Ha-Ha can be hazardous. It should be noted that the Drive is in constant use by cars and agricultural vehicles.



## BELMONT HOUSE

### The Cazabon Collection



[www.belmont-house.org](http://www.belmont-house.org)



From far left: *Government House, St Ann's*, *View from Carenage*; *Sunset Port of Spain*; *View of Mount Tamana from Arima*; *Marriage Ceremony*; *Marriage of Lord Harris & Sarah Cummins*.

Trinidad's eleventh English Governor, George Francis Robert, 3rd Lord Harris, was born in 1810 and came from a family of distinguished British Governors and Administrators.

A popular Governor, in 1850 he endeared himself to the population by marrying a Trinidadian, Sarah Cummins. The marriage of Lord Harris is captured in two paintings, the first of which depicts the excitement of the crowd and the drama of the occasion as Lord Harris arrives in his carriage at the north door of Trinity Church Square, Port of Spain and the second is an interior view of the ceremony from the rear of the church. They are currently displayed in Lucy Ada, 4th Lady Harris' bedroom at Belmont House.

Michel-Jean Cazabon was born in 1813, the son of Creole French landowners. His parents, owners of a sugar plantation, were "free coloured" immigrants from Martinique, who came to Trinidad in 1783.

Despite their different backgrounds, Cazabon and Lord Harris had much in common, in particular was their love for Trinidad.

During the period 1849 to 1854, Cazabon produced a number of watercolours and oil paintings for the Governor. This collection is without doubt the most important visual record of nineteenth century Trinidad.

Many people believe Michel-Jean Cazabon to be the first great Trinidadian painter, he is often called the "layman painter" and is the island's first internationally known artist.

The stunning colours in the paintings at Belmont remain fresh and bright to this day. Among the watercolours there are images of creole women, views of Port of Spain docks, the districts of Corbeaux Town and Carenage, sea views from Gasperey and Caledonia Island, studies of landscapes, Mt Tamana, sunrises and sunsets.

There is little doubt that Cazabon found favour with Lord Harris. Both a similar age, both educated in England and France – both enjoyed intellectual pursuits and were socially sophisticated. A strong friendship must have developed, Lord Harris preferring to commission Cazabon than to patronise James Wildman, who was not only a talented artist himself, but also the Governor's cousin. During his stay in Trinidad, Wildman studied with Cazabon and there are examples of his work at Belmont which are alleged to be copies of Cazabon's work.