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on the Amazon



On tour

Bonding at GoldenEy

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Bonding at GoldenEye



Photos: GoldenEye Hotel & Resort

Established in 1946 by Ian Fleming, the renowned creator of James Bond, GoldenEye is a magical place where, to this day, you can put a little “easy” distance between yourself and the rest of the world.

What fun to be given a tour of Fleming's minimalist house—the very spot where the former naval secret service agent wrote the first of his 007 thrillers, *Casino Royale*, during the winter of 1952. Designed by the writer himself, its one barn-like room has a giant window, sans glass, put there just to frame the picture-perfect view. The whole point was to be outdoors! Here, with only a few old painters' chairs, hard benches and a cast-off

canasta table from the governor of Jamaica's wife, Fleming wrote all 14 of his famous books. (Only three, incidentally, are set in Jamaica.) And just a few miles down the road there's Firefly, the hill-top estate of Fleming's old friend, the consummate theatrical personality Noel Coward.

After Fleming's death in 1964, GoldenEye remained a part of the family estate until Chris Blackwell, founder of the torrentially successful Island Record company, bought it by default when Bob Marley got cold feet at the last minute.

A member of Blackwell's eclectic collection of resorts, the property has been lovingly restored in recent



months. Aside from the easy-living, casual-chic cottages on the beach, architect Ann Hodges has created 11 new hideaways on a sandy crescent sheltered by a coral reef. Now for sale, they're a modern spin on the classic wood-clad Caribbean cottage. Each has a traditional wrap front porch, jalousie shutters and an exotic outdoor shower...all throwbacks to the good old days.

Today, life at GoldenEye is easy. We swim in our own pristine lagoon, spend time in a kayak and take a "learn to jet-ski" lesson that whisks us down the coast to James Bond Beach. The fresh, simple food is a pleasant fusion of cultures and influences. Our



Take a kayak to the FieldSpa, a spa cottage on the water where you can book a purifying body treatment or meet Orah for a private healing-bowl meditation.

casual meals are served at the Bizot Bar overlooking the Caribbean Sea and at the Gazebo, a chit-chatty, happening spot beside the lagoon. Dishes are cooked with Jamaican herbs and spices, seasonal fruits and vegetables organically grown at Pantrepant, the resort's farm in the parish of Trelawny. And the rum? Chances are if you're

anything like us, you'll be sipping Blackwell's homemade Well Black. It's a riff on an old-style, richly flavoured family recipe that's been around since 1916 when Blackwell's ancestors went into the rum trade. Available only on the island, more's the pity! Just one more reason to visit this winter. **H** www.goldeneye.com