

Condé Nast Traveler

ONLINE
"WHERE ARE YOU?"
CONTEST

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

MARCH 2011

27
PLACES WE
LOVE IN
LOS ANGELES
NOW

JAMAICA'S
HOTTEST NEW
HIDEAWAYS

ARGENTINA'S
SPECTACULAR
WILD WEST

VIENNA
THE FOOD!
THE MUSIC!
THE PARTIES!

PLUS
**10 GREAT
THEME
CRUISES**



**SECRETS
OF THE STARS**
WHO'S TRAVELING
WHERE—AND WHY
(AND WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU)



Behind the Scenes



THE HIPPER THEY COME

Katharine Hepburn and Irene Mayer Selznick (left) ask for directions in Montego Bay in 1953; and a cottage at Strawberry Hill hotel, near Kingston.



License to Thrill

Jamaica now has some of the Caribbean's hottest hotels. Here's why they make your temperature rise—and why we shot our fashion feature there

FOR THOSE in the know—including our Style Director Mark Connolly, naturally—Jamaica is the endlessly alluring and complex star of the Caribbean. For that we can at least partially thank the legendary music producer Chris Blackwell, who introduced the world to Bob Marley in the seventies and went on to create his Island Outpost empire, which includes the hotels where Mark and his team stayed for "A High Wind in Jamaica" (page 92). A longtime supporter of the island's farmers, Blackwell also has his own organic farm, Pantrepant, in Trelawny Parish, which along with local markets supplies his hotels with 80 percent of their produce.

GoldenEye was once the modest three-bedroom house where in the 1950s Ian Fleming wrote his James Bond novels—Noël Coward used to call it Golden Eye, Nose, and Throat because of its bare-bones resemblance to a clinic—

but it's just had a major nip and tuck, acquiring nine new beach cottages, two cottages on the lagoon, two more pools, and, most important, Conroy Arnold, a young Jamaican chef who trained with Eric Ripert and Nobuyuki "Nobu" Matsuhisa in New York. His cooking "changed forever the way I think about Caribbean food," enthuses Mark. "Conroy made us the ultimate upmarket version of Jamaica's national dish, saltfish and ackee, served with a generous side of rum from Blackwell's own brand." The place, on the island's north coast, in Oracabessa, feels like the kind of private beach club where A-listers hang out away from prying eyes—Pierce Brosnan, the Clintons, and Johnny Depp have all been guests. It's also—like all of Blackwell's Island Outposts—eco-friendly, with a program that allows guests, including kids, to help reseed reefs (876-946-1958; doubles, \$840-\$1,500).

Strawberry Hill, in the Blue Mountains above Kingston, was originally a coffee plantation before it became a hotel. The bar is decorated with photos of Island Records musicians, and after dinner Mark found himself sipping rum (again) by the fireplace: "Amazingly, it gets quite chilly at night that high up" (876-946-1958; doubles, \$295-\$395).

At **The Caves**, on the cliffs of Negril, Mark booked his team a cave of their own—the ultimate in sexy privacy—where dinner was served to the sound of waves crashing in the sea below (876-946-1958; doubles, \$608-\$710).

Sadly, deadlines were too tight for our crew to visit the two remaining Blackwell-operated Jamaican hotels. **Geejam** is the newest, a six-acre complex with a villa, cabins, and a suite. Grace Jones's guest book entry: "I came. I saw. You conquered me!" (876-946-1958; doubles, \$595-\$995). **Jake's**, in Treasure Beach, belongs to Jason Henzell, whose dad, Perry, directed the hit 1973 film *The Harder They Come*, starring Jimmy Cliff (Blackwell backed the film). Have a drink with Jason if you want the inside track on Jamaica's cultural scene (876-946-1958; doubles, \$115-\$325). The latest addition to Blackwell's ever-expanding world? A private airstrip near Jake's so guests can arrive in suitably speedy—and stylish—fashion from Montego Bay or Kingston.

—GULLY WELLS

ISLAND BLISS Island Outpost properties—five hotels, each with its own distinct character—extend from one end of Jamaica to the other.



Who Went Where

VIENNA, p. 62

Guy Martin*"THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK"*

While on assignment for this story, Martin (pictured above in New York), dove headlong into Vienna's culinary scene and had a memorable encounter with some dumplings. "On a hot day last summer, my physicist buddy Dr. Werner Gruber and I tackled a bucket of them," he says. "One had a whole peach inside it, but the best were filled with fried pork skin. Each of us probably weighed 40 pounds more at the end of the meal—and that's a conservative estimate." Martin is currently writing a book about the Cold War.

RECENT CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS?

● "It wasn't recent, but I once played chess with Ray Charles backstage between sets at Atlantic City's Golden Nugget. I lost, but I didn't feel too bad—he played with members of his band every single night. Incidentally, on Ray's chess board, the squares were all beige."

CARIBBEAN, p. 92

Daniela Federici*"A HIGH WIND IN JAMAICA"*

Federici (here, at Jamaica's Strawberry Hill) loved the hotels she visited while shooting this month's cover story in Jamaica. "At the GoldenEye Resort, we were sending out e-mails from the desk Ian Fleming wrote his books on—amazing, especially for us James Bond fans. Then there was Strawberry Hill, an old plantation in the Blue Mountains with a relaxed, peaceful vibe. We had a wilder night at the Rum & Cigar bar of The Caves, where folks were dancing on the tables."

RECENT CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS?

● "It was a pleasure shooting Radiohead. We did an *Abbey Road* tribute in which the band walked across Hollywood Boulevard—in Beatles fashion save for the abundance of palm trees."

ARGENTINA, p. 74

Colin Barracrough*"NORTHWEST PASSAGE"*

Impressed by the resurgence of ancient tradition in Salta, Argentina, Barracrough (above at Jujuy's Salinas Grandes salt pans) notes that "the Salteños are still close to the land. When I was there, they were celebrating the winter solstice. Several locals trekked to 11,000 feet, the highest point in the village, and camped out in the zero-degree weather to welcome the sun." After spending a decade in the Middle East, Barracrough moved to Buenos Aires in 2001.

RECENT CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS?

● "I was in Tripoli and ran into Libya's Colonel Gadhafi three times in one day. He arrived at each event by a different means of transport—convoy of armored cars, helicopter, and battered Fiat—and he was wearing different clothes each time: flowing Arab robes; the uniform of a Libyan army colonel; and, finally, a tight-fitting white suit with a red carnation in the top pocket, which he proceeded to sniff delicately throughout the reception."

THE WORLD, p. 90

Esin Gökna*"WHERE ARE YOU?"*

The magazine's picture editor, Gökna oversees the "Where Are You?" feature, photos from which are compiled in the book *Where Are You?* published this month (Assouline, \$65). "My favorite image is Richard Olse-nius's shot of Michigan's Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore," says Gökna, who grew up nearby. (Oops, we gave away one answer!) "It's not particularly special in terms of location, but it's a flawless composition—a woman with her back to the camera brings you right onto those sandy hills." Scouting for our pages took Gökna to Mali, where photographer Malick Sidibé snapped this shot of her and daughter Leila.

RECENT CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS?

● "I bumped into Alec Baldwin on the New York City subway. It turns out he went to elementary school with my husband and was known as Zander."

Haute enclaves have long been part of Jamaica's fabric.

In the '40s, the flamboyant Errol Flynn and James Bond creator Ian Fleming fell for the island, in the '50s Noël Coward hosted a parade of A-listers in his Firefly paradise, and Mick, Bianca, and Keith alighted in the '70s.

A High Wind in Jamaica

Today, music industry titan and Jamaica BFF Chris Blackwell is taking a handful of storied hotels to hipper heights. They provide the setting, **MARK CONNOLLY** the style

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
DANIELA FEDERICI





Strawberry Hill, which overlooks Kingston from the cool seclusion of the Blue Mountains, is famous for its Sunday brunches, which include iconic Jamaican dishes like goat stew, saltfish and ackee, and locally grown produce. **On the hammock at the Mountain View 2 villa:** Dress by Louis Vuitton; watch by Jaeger-LeCoultre; bracelet by Elsa Peretti, Tiffany & Co.; earrings by Hervé Van der Straeten. **On the balcony at the Highgate villa (opposite):** Dress by Akris, neckpiece by Marc Jacobs, bangles by Robert Lee Morris.

"My dream of
happiness:
a quiet spot by
the Jamaican
seashore ...
hearing the wind
sob with the
beauty and the
tragedy of
everything.
sitting under an
almond tree,
with the leaf
spread over me
like an umbrella"

ERROL FLYNN



At owner Chris Blackwell's Strawberry Hill cottage: Tank by Petit Bateau; pants by Calvin Klein Collection; hat by Prada; bag by Fendi; bracelet and necklace by Elsa Peretti, Tiffany & Co.; sunglasses by Vogue Eyewear; shoes by Miu Miu. **Opposite:** Shirt, skirt, and sunglasses by Fendi; earrings by Noir; belt by Marc Jacobs; handbag by Louis Vuitton; watch by Bulgari.

Behind the Scenes

For details on the five über-cool hotels in Chris Blackwell's Island Outpost empire, and the lowdown on Mark Connolly's excellent Jamaican adventure, turn to page 16.



Ian Fleming built GoldenEye in 1946 and wrote all his James Bond books here. Now a spectacular hotel and resort, the property has 4 villas and 11 new cottages. **Lounging on batik cushions at GoldenEye's Ian Fleming Villa:** Dress and belt by Marc Jacobs, earrings by Noir, watch by Bulgari, ring by H.Stern.




—
On Fleming's private beach at GoldenEye: Bodysuit by Dolce & Gabbana, hat by Lola Hats, belt by Tory Burch, earrings by Hervé Van der Straeten. **On the lagoon at GoldenEye (opposite):** Shirt and pants by Dries Van Noten, sunglasses by Marni, earrings by Noir, necklace by LMD, bracelet by Fendi, watch by Baume & Mercier, belt by Etro, shoes by Giuseppe Zanotti Design, bag by DKNY, scarf by Hermès.



"It rained in rods
every day at
noon, yet I swore
that if I survived
the contest [with
the elements]
I would go back
to Jamaica, buy a
piece of land,
build a house,
and live in it
as much as my job
would allow"

—IAN FLEMING



Bashment:
Party, excitement.
Used as a
noun, adjective,
adverb—e.g.,
“Im roll up inna one
bashment car”
 (“He arrived
in an impressive
vehicle”) or
“what a bashy
piece a outfit you
wearing!”

—USEFUL LOCAL LINGO



Cooling off on Low Cay Beach at GoldenEye:
Top by Jean Paul Gaultier, swimsuit by Seventh
Wonderland, earrings by Dolce & Gabbana,
bracelets by John Hardy, watch by Bulgari,
ring by Branch, shoes by Edmundo Castillo.
**Strawberry Hill has gardens, 12 handcrafted
Georgian-style cottages, and an infinitely lovely
infinity pool (opposite):** Dress, belt, and hairpin
by Marc Jacobs; bracelets by Fendi; watch by
Baume & Mercier; ring by H.Stern.

For prices and stores, see "Where to Buy It,"
page 110. Hair and makeup by Gianluca
Mandelli at Creative Management at MC2,
using Kérastase and Bobbi Brown.