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)

TRUTH IN TRAVEL
MARCH 2011

ONLINE
“WHERE ARE YOU?”
CONTEST
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, Pantrepan, in Tre-launy 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—Noel 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 guest book entry: "I came. I saw. You conquered me!" (876-946-1958; doubles, $995-$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.
Who Went Where

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.

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?

“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.”

ARGENTINA, p. 74
Colin Barraclough
“NORTHWEST PASSAGE”

Impressed by the resurgence of ancient tradition in Salta, Argentina, Barraclough (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, Barraclough moved to Buenos Aires in 2001.

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.”

THE WORLD, p. 90
Esin Göknar
“WHERE ARE YOU?”

The magazine’s picture editor, Göknar 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 Olenski’s shot of Michigan’s Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore,” says Göknar, 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 Göknar to Mali, where photographer Malick Sidibé snapped this shot of her and daughter Leila.

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.”
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; earrings by Hervé Van der Straeten. On the balcony at the Highgate villa (opposite): Dress by Akris, necklace 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

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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 other cool hotels in Chris Blackwell’s Island Outpost empire, and the breakdown on Mark Connolly’s excellent Jamaican adventure, turn to page 16.
"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 Delfina Delettrez, bracelets by John Hardy, watch by Bulgari, ring by Branch, shoes by Edmundo Castillo, Strawberry Hill hair gardenia. 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 store see “Where to Buy,” page 110. Hair and makeup by Gianluca Mandelli at Creative Management at MCZ, using Kiehl’s and Bobbi Brown.