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Issy Von Simson

10 OF THE BEST WINTER-SUN FAMILY VILLAS

These exotic dens are big and secluded enough to make a hullabaloo in — yet helping hands and a kit-bag full of diversions are never far away. All back to ours!



JAMAICA, CARIBBEAN

The Fleming Villa at GoldenEye

Owned by Chris Blackwell, founder of Island Records and champion of Bob Marley, GoldenEye is famous as the home of Ian Fleming. The writer's original house is now part of the five-bedroomed Fleming Villa, which has hosted Bill and Hilary, as well as Jay-Z and Beyoncé. It comes with its own pool and gaggle of staff; in the main bedroom is the museum-worthy desk where 007 was brought into existence. The villa is hidden away just off the curving, sandy bay with its snaking spine of palm and fig trees, bright wooden deckchairs, lush greenery and heavy bougainvillea.

If you don't have a party of 10, then there are a handful of two-bedroomed villas: four on **Low Cay beach** and one by the bath-warm waters of the lagoon. The former have a kitchen and breakfast bar and wooden steps straight onto the sand; the latter is more fun for older kids with hammocks, kayaks and over-water decks (more beach villas are in the pipeline for the next bay along). The style throughout is the same: polished wooden floors, painted clapboard and zesty patterned fabrics in lime and orange and aqua. There are clawfoot baths, outdoor rain showers and a set of Bond novels on bedside tables to read before lights out (the little touches are spot on, from clearly labelled lamp switches to a wooden ladder propped up against a tree by the shower for towels).

At the end of the beach, there's a pear-shaped infinity pool and the open-air Bizot bar, all turquoise and sea-blue with driftwood lights, a thatch roof and pillars decorated with vintage album covers. This is a laidback and unpretentious spot for a family mission.

Address: GoldenEye, Oracabessa Bay, St. Mary, Jamaica

Telephone: +1 876 6229 007

Website: www.goldeneye.com

Price: Seven nights' villa rental from about £24,709. Sleeps 10