

# VOGUE

TRAVEL

## Inside the Celebrity-Favorite Hotel That Inspired James Bond

BY ELISE TAYLOR

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A lagoon cottage at GoldenEye. Photo: By Brie Williams

In the beginning of *No Time to Die*, Daniel Craig's James Bond relaxes in Jamaica, sipping rum and enjoying his retirement. Now, \*no further plot spoilers here—\*but, for 007 aficionados, the scene is something of a historical easter egg.

“I purchased GoldenEye in 1976, but I came here many times in the fifties when Fleming lived here, because it was my uncle who found the property for him,” Blackwell tells *Vogue*. “My mother and him were also good friends and we would all enjoy leisurely lunches in his sunken garden, which still remains for guests.” (In fact, the liquor Craig is drinking in *No Time to Die*? It’s Blackwell Rum, a label founded by Chris in 2008.)



The property is a snorkeler's paradise. Photo: Courtesy of GoldenEye

GoldenEye, which now sits at 52 acres, is where an illustrious history meets an idyllic setting. In addition to Fleming's original home, the property is now dotted with cottages that border the teal lagoon and curving Low Cay Beach, which looks like it could be a Windows 2000 screensaver.

Beyond its shores is a coral reef and the Oracabessa Fish Sanctuary, a true snorkeler's delight. After your day at the beach is done, grab a piña colada at Bizot's Bar, named after the Paris-based Radio Nova founder and frequent guest Jean-Francois Bizot.

Goldeneye's interiors, by Barbara Hulanicki (famously known for her swinging sixties haunt Bibi's in London), feature custom Jamaican furniture, airy white linens and African-artisan upholstery.





Interior design details at Goldeneye. Photo: Courtesy of GoldenEye

Its impressive list of celebrity clientele is apparent from the moment you walk in: the driveway is lined by trees donated by the likes of Kate Moss, Naomi Campbell, Jude Law, Willie Nelson, and Martha Stewart. A mere few weeks ago, Hailey and Justin Bieber were rumored to be staying at the hotel.

Why do the well-heeled keep returning again and again? Possibly because they too felt the same creative draw as Fleming himself: “One of the things he said was he didn't think he could have written the books if he wasn't in a location like this, because of the feeling it gave to him,” Blackwell says.