

## Best Caribbean Resorts and Hotels



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Jamaica, St. Bart's, Aruba—choosing a favorite Caribbean island is tough. But T+L readers have no problem choosing the best Caribbean resorts.

From April 2014  
By Colleen Clark

The sun hangs lazy on the horizon. Your bartender Teddy just shook up another round of Planter's Punch with the same recipe he's been using for the past half century. The walls here at the Jamaica Inn have seen everyone from Marilyn Monroe to Katharine Hepburn—probably because they also share that intangible "it" factor.

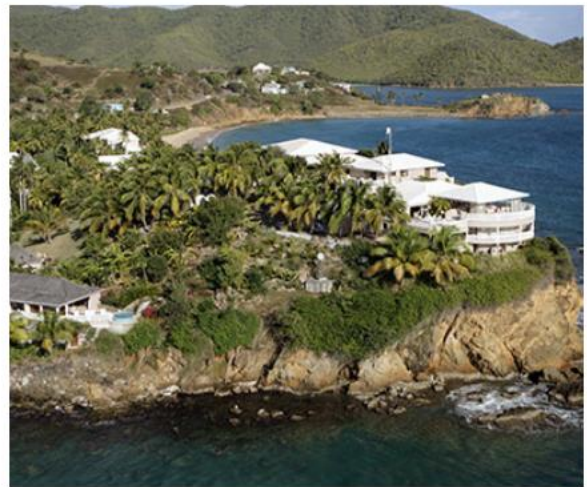
It's that undeniable energy, that nexus of setting and service, design and story, that scored Jamaica Inn the No. 7 spot on *Travel + Leisure's* 18th-annual **World's Best Awards**. Lots of hotels have great rooms and restaurants, but only a few—like this beachfront hotel—truly capture our imaginations.

That's why we tapped our globe-trotting readers to weigh in on which hotels and destinations have *it*—and which don't. The result: a definitive list of top Caribbean hotels, from glam St. Bart's starlets to old-world Bahamas charmers.

One secret to ranking high: nothing beats a winning location. This year's No. 1 hotel, Jade Plantation, has walls open to the emerald-hued crags of St. Lucia's Pitons. Other top Caribbean hotels ramble over former sugar plantations, are tucked away on private islands, and cling to cliffs above pink-sand beaches.

Winning resorts also know how to serve up serious cuisine, be it locally foraged ingredients or star chef-certified kitchens, like Jean-Georges Vongerichten's buzzy offerings at St. Bart's Eden Rock (No. 11). The World's Best winners redefine all-inclusive food offerings, know how to make local street food accessible, and even have their own organic farms.

The top 20 best Caribbean hotels and resorts have a stretch of sand for everyone. After this winter, isn't it time for a vacation?



Courtesy of Curtain Bluff Resort

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## No. 17 Grace Bay Club, Turks and Caicos

**Grace Bay Club** is as rarefied as it gets—think butlers, 1,100 feet of prime-time beach real estate, three pools, a 5,000-square-foot spa, and the longest bar in the Caribbean. But it manages to be utterly pretension free. A 12-and-older policy in the main hotel and an adults-only pool ensure serenity for honeymooners while an eco-friendly kids' club and family-oriented villas please those with little ones in tow. Although it's not an all-inclusive, the resort generously includes extras such as Wi-Fi, bike rentals, afternoon tea, and nonmotorized watersports.



*Courtesy of Grace Bay Club*