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This spread photographed by **ROLAND BELLO**
Styled by **MIMI LOMBARDO**

though a 10-minute walk leads to a large sandy strand in the village of Sa Tuna. For dinner, your best bet is the fresh fish at the hotel's open-air restaurant (try the grilled *dorade* drizzled with olive oil and lemon). *3 Cala d'Aiguafreda, Begur; 34/97-262-2845; hostalsarascassa.com; \$107.*

CARIBBEAN

ANTIGUA ▶ Judging by the multimillion dollar yachts moored in English Harbour, you wouldn't expect to find an affordable hotel for miles. But that's not the case: the intimate **Ocean Inn**, whose wooden walkways connect 12 bright rooms, is a steal. Try No. 3, which goes for the same price as a standard room but has a balcony thrown in for free, or one of the two suites in the master cottage, perfect for privacy seekers. *Hospital Hill; 268/463-7950; theoceaninn.com; \$110.*

ARUBA ▶ The **Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa**—a spiffed-up former Best Western on the western coast of the island—has 71 simple rooms, most of which open right onto one of the Caribbean's most beautiful stretches of sand. If you're in search of *palapas*, azure water, and a cocktail, what more could you need? Maybe a shiatsu massage at the beachfront spa, set in a tropical garden. *55 J.E. Irausquin Blvd.; 888/673-8036 or 011-297/582-3444; manchebo.com; \$169.*

BEQUIA ▶ Built by a sea captain for his family more than 100 years ago, the 15-room **Frangipani Hotel** stands at the head of Admiralty Bay. Behind the two-story main house, with its pitched roof, gingerbread fretwork, and five simple rooms, are 10 suites shaded by the hotel's eponymous trees. The open-air bar draws a local crowd for its proximity to the sea—gentle warm waves lap right up under your table. *no address; 784/458-3255; frangipanibequia.com; \$75.*

DOMINICA ▶ The diminutive **Calibishie Cove**—on the mountainous island's beach-studded northeastern corner—is a colonial-style hotel with just four rooms, each with platform beds, large shutters, and a private patio overlooking the Caribbean Sea. Snorkel with sea horses and turtles in the warm waters off the near-empty Hodges Beach; or arrange for a picnic lunch of spiny lobster, borrow one of the hotel's kayaks, and head to Treasure Island, an uninhabited islet 10 minutes away. *Point Dubique, Calibishie; 443/987-6742; calibishiecove.com; \$148.*

JAMAICA ▶ The restaurant at **Hotel Mocking Bird Hill** has become a destination unto itself, thanks to chef Melvin Laidlaw, who gets most of his produce from an on-site garden (try the coconut-and-garlic soup followed by the orange custard with wild-orange liqueur).

The 10-room eco-hotel is nestled in six acres of tropical gardens. A five-minute drive away is the pristine Frenchman's Cove, where warm salt water mixes with cold fresh water that flows from a spring in the hills, causing a natural phenomenon—vivid layers of color. *Port Antonio; 876/993-7267; hotelmockingbirdhill.com; \$195.*

TORTOLA ▶ Guests hardly need to leave the 52-acre, plantation-style **Long Bay Resort**, which has two restaurants, a spa, three bars, and tennis, snorkeling, and diving, except for a day sail to the cave-filled Norman Island, the backdrop for the 1950 film *Treasure Island*. The 157 rooms here—some are rustic cabanas on stilts—have wicker furniture and views of the remote mile-long beach. At the on-site restaurant, housed in a centuries-old converted sugar mill, the catch of the day is grilled to perfection. *Road Town, Long Bay; 866/237-3491 or 284/495-4252; longbay.com; \$205.*

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

BELIZE ▶ Near the tip of Ambergris Cay, a 25-mile-long island off the northeastern coast of Belize, **Xanadu Island Resort** is set along a gorgeous stretch of white sand. The hotel's six thatched-roof casitas—surrounding a coconut palm-flanked pool—hold 19 one-, two-, and three-bedroom suites, each decked out with plush colorful sofas, full kitchens, and private balconies that look out on the Caribbean Sea or verdant gardens. Ask the staff to arrange a snorkeling excursion to the second-largest barrier reef in the world, which is teeming with rainbow parrot fish, loggerhead turtles, and octopuses. *San Pedro; 011-501/226-2814; xanaduresort-belize.com; \$190.*

COLOMBIA ▶ The privacy at **Playa Koralia**—a complex of 19 brightly painted bungalows fronting a secluded stretch of Colombia's Caribbean Riviera—has made it popular among Latin American celebrities such as pop star Shakira and model Natalia Paris. Oversize rooms are minimalist (white walls and floors; beds draped with sheer netting; pink hammocks), and a tiny spa offers spice-infused massages and mud scrubs. Ask the front-desk staff to arrange a guided trek to mountaintop waterfalls in nearby Tayrona National Park. After-hours, head for Koralia's open-air bar, where rum and salsa music flow freely all night long. *Km 47 desde Santa Marta, Crta. Troncal del Caribe; 57-310/6422-574; koralia.com; \$106.*

COSTA RICA ▶ The **Hotel Banana Azul**, a 14-room retreat on a black-sand strand, embodies the area's laid-back feeling. Bright wood-paneled rooms feature such tropical touches as dangling bromeliad plants and locally made easy chairs. *(Continued on page 156)*