

# COASTAL LIVING

## ROMANTIC TROPICAL GETAWAYS

30 dreamy escapes

THE ISLANDS  
ISSUE!

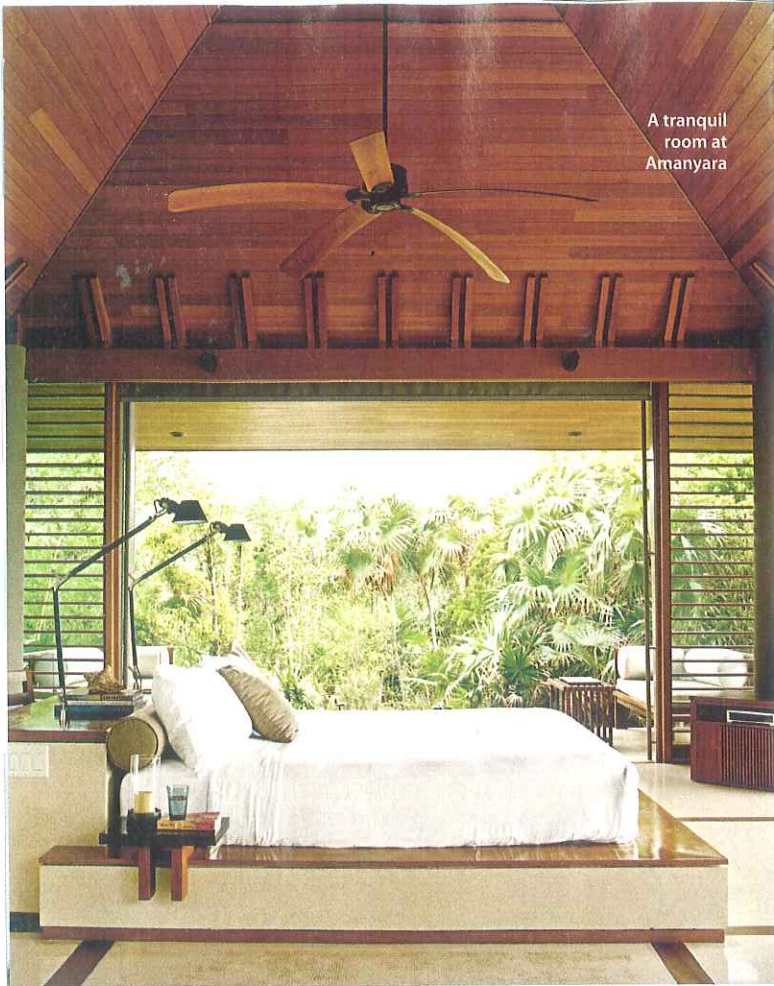
**CARIBBEAN  
STYLE**  
GET THE  
LOOK  
AT HOME

YOU  
ARE HERE!  
TURKS  
& CAICOS,  
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FEBRUARY 2011

*plus* fun rum rec

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A tranquil room at Amanyara

**BEST SUNSET:** Grab a seat at Ocean Cove, a hidden nook just off the main resort path where you can perch on a rocky ledge overlooking the ocean.

**RATES:** From \$1,600; 866/941-8133 or amanresorts.com.

—Steele Thomas Marcoux

## Antigua Hermitage Bay

This sybaritic spot is a paragon of privacy and seclusion. Just a 40-minute drive from the airport on the west side of Antigua, the four-year-old resort includes tropical gardens surrounding 25 cottages on a flower-studded hillside above the beach. Outside, each private bungalow's wooden

**GO AHEAD, INDULGE:**

The bountiful gardens are brimming with native blooms intermingled with organic fruits, vegetables, and herbs—all used in the resort's meals.

**MAKE A DATE:** Ask the chef to pack a basket with your choice of organic gourmet snacks and then hit a secluded beach or private island (transportation provided).

**BEST SUNSET:** The view's excellent from the Hillside Cottages (especially numbers 37, 38, or 39, which have unobstructed vistas).

**RATES:** From \$1,450; 268/562-8080 or hermitagebay.com.

—Marion Laffey Fox

## Turks & Caicos

### Amanya

This luxurious white-sand slice of Eden on Turks & Caicos features a group of pavilion-style rooms and private villas shrouded in lush greenery. Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy such activities as stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking, and swimming.

**GO AHEAD, INDULGE:** Each open-air suite has a private entrance accessed via a palm-lined, crushed-shell path. Inside, sumptuous touches include water views, platform beds, and free-standing spa tubs. Enjoy sunbathing pads and sunken Japanese-style tables on two additional terraces.



Amanya's pristine beach

**MAKE A DATE:** For dinner, choose a private picnic table on the beach at the casual Da Conch Shack, 15 minutes from the resort. Order the salad made with fresh conch and a refreshing rum punch, and get your groove on Thursday and select Saturday nights with live music; 649/946-8877 or conchshack.tc.

deck overlooks the turquoise bay. Inside, gleaming dark wood floors, handmade Vietnamese furniture, and white linens lend a sophisticated but comfortable ambience. Bonus: The resort's 17 Hillside Cottages have private plunge pools.

## Aruba

### Bucuti Beach Resort featuring Tara Suites and Spa

Artfully arranged on 14 acres of Eagle Beach, Bucuti is a boutique-style resort designed exclusively for couples, with an adults-only policy (no guests under the age of 18). Utterly quiet thanks to a ban on motorized water sports, the resort is within walking distance of more than 20 restaurants and features rooms and suites with large balconies overlooking the garden or ocean.

**GO AHEAD, INDULGE:**

After a couples massage on the beach, relax beneath the shade of a comfy palapa for two.

**MAKE A DATE:** It's all about just-caught seafood and



Hermitage Bay  
on Antigua

toes-in-the-sand chic at the Flying Fishbone restaurant, 20 minutes from Bucuti; flyingfishbone.com.

**BEST SUNSET:** Sign up for a horseback ride along the sandy coastline at dusk.

**RATES:** From \$393; 297/583-1100 or bucuti.com.

—Marion Laffey Fox

## Tobago

### The Villas at Stonehaven

The pastel cottages of this resort hug a high bluff overlooking the blue Caribbean and tropical rain forest, only 20 minutes from the airport. Designed

by famed Mustique architect Arne Hasselquist, the 14 villas—each with three oceanview bedrooms, a private infinity pool, and a personal housekeeper/cook—nestle into the hillside with a 100-acre bird sanctuary as a next-door neighbor.

**GO AHEAD, INDULGE:**

Enjoy a candlelit dinner at the resort's Pavilion Restaurant.

**MAKE A DATE:** Stroll through the oldest protected rain forest in the Western Hemisphere, or head to one of dozens of uncrowded powder-sand beaches to see giant leatherback turtles.

**BEST SUNSET:** Watch the sun dip below the horizon from a comfy chaise longue

on your spacious veranda.

**RATES:** From \$413; 868/639-0361 or stonehavenvillas.com.

—Marion Laffey Fox

## Jamaica

### Round Hill Resort

Round Hill has hosted its share of icons—from Elizabeth Taylor to Fred Astaire—but every guest is treated famously.

A driver picks you up from Montego Bay Airport for the 30-minute ride to the resort, where louvered doors open to private balconies overlooking

tropical plants and the beach from each of the stone-floored, Ralph Lauren-decorated oceanfront rooms. (The designer also owns an on-site cottage.)

**GO AHEAD, INDULGE:**

Sit at the thatched-roof beach bar and sip an ice-cold Red Stripe while checking out the surf.

**MAKE A DATE:** Call for a dinner reservation at the nearby Tryall Club and request the private waterfront gazebo. (Round Hill will provide transportation.) Enjoy local seafood as waves lap in the background; 876/956-5660.

**BEST SUNSET:** Float to the edge of the infinity pool for