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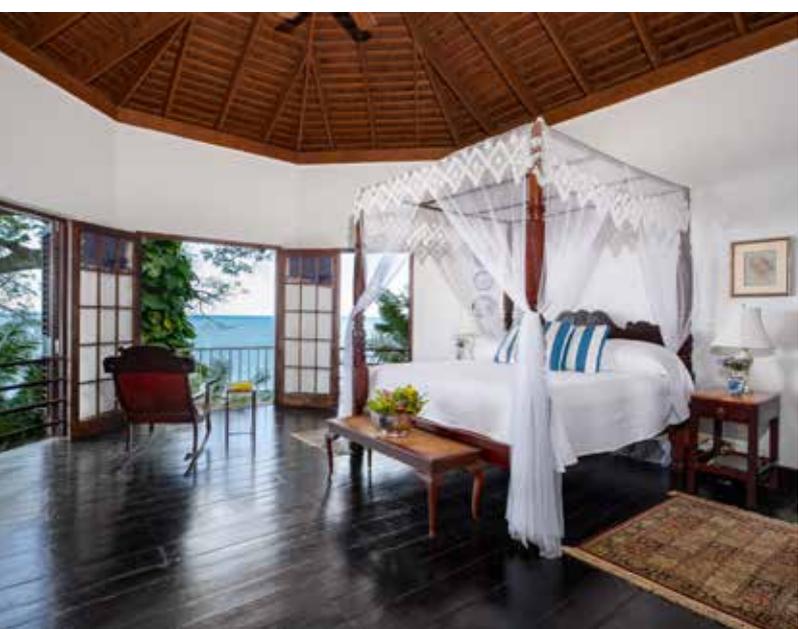
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LEISURE LIFESTYLE

Global Traveler's guide to the luxurious world of leisure travel





Pure Indulgence

Linger in luxury at the most exclusive hotel villas and private hideaways. BY SUSAN B. BARNES

As I sit poolside overlooking the Caribbean Sea, the warm Jamaican sun shining down and all the cares of the world gently slipping away, the villa's butler approaches, carrying frosted glasses of piña coladas on a silver tray, ready to quench a thirst I had not yet realized I had. The blend of fresh pineapple juice and coconut milk, not to mention island rum, is perfection, and with one sip even more cares melt away.

After I finish the refreshing drink and take a quick dip in the pool, I return to my spacious room to ready for dinner. The villa's private chef is preparing another tantalizing meal, likely organic and locally sourced, that will be served on fine china with silver service by candlelight, the trade winds and evening island sounds adding to the ambience. Though elegant, the villa's vibe is island casual, and I am asked to make myself at home. After all, the villa is my home, at least while I'm in Jamaica.

This provides but a taste of the exceptional and attentive yet never intrusive service I enjoyed during a stay at The Hermitage, one in a collection of six private, seaside, open-air villas at Bluefields Bay Villas along the hilly Jamaican coastline. Each of the villas, ranging in size from two to six bedrooms, features expansive views; private pools; and a dedicated butler, maid service and chef to tend to guests' every want. Island activities like kayaking, deep-sea fishing, tennis, hiking and sunset cruises are a request away, as are private rum and cigar tours and in-villa spa treatments. Bluefields Bay Villas was recently added to the distinctive Small Luxury Hotels of the World.

Bluefields Bay Villas is one of myriad private hideaways and exclusive hotel villas around the world. Here we take a look at international and domestic destinations to inspire your next luxurious getaway.

ELSEWHERE IN THE CARIBBEAN, Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort on St. Lucia, has a Four Bedroom Beachfront Collec-

tion that is hard to beat. Each expansive villa in the collection features more than 4,000 square feet, four ocean-view master bedrooms and floor-to-ceiling sliding doors that open to views of the island's iconic Pitons or the Caribbean Sea. Outside, enjoy a private infinity pool, walled garden, balcony terrace and outdoor kitchen and shower. The resort's signature butler service will have you feeling at home right away, taking care of unpacking your luggage, organizing dinner reservations

all-villa, 5-star luxury eco resort with a sense of unhindered relaxation. Earlier this year the resort debuted 34 new private beachfront pool suites, complete with private outdoor terraces, heated plunge swimming pools and outdoor showers. Soak in a curated bath experience, the menu of which includes a Moor mud bath or honeyed milk and rose beauty soak. Stay in and enjoy a meal with a private chef, take a Mexican cooking class or indulge in mezcal tastings.



and arranging island activities to make your stay memorable for years to come. Sugar Beach has a private jet partnership with XO Private Jet Travel, making getting to and from St. Lucia seamless.

Travel by private jet to the Bahamas with NetJets, and upon arrival at The Ocean Club, a Four Seasons Resort on Paradise Island, your private butler will escort you to your beachfront villa. Offering two, three or four bedrooms, each villa boasts its own pool, either with panoramic views of the ocean or surrounded by lush gardens. A personal chef will prepare a casual poolside barbecue for you and your family, or dine on a private beach and watch the sun dip into the horizon.

On the Caribbean coastline on Mexico's northeastern Yucatán Peninsula, Banyan Tree Mayakoba in Riviera Maya is an exclusive,

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS — the international scene abounds with exclusive options. The Top Floor Collection at Hôtel Metropole Monte-Carlo is for the most discerning travelers. Spanning approximately 4,300 square feet, the collection includes seven penthouse suites, each designed by iconic French designer Jacques Garcia. The service at Hôtel Metropole Monte-Carlo is as impeccable as the accommodations, including helicopter transfers, private check-in en suite, butler service and much more.

Take a 40-minute private seaplane transfer from Malé Airport and arrive at your own private oasis in the Maldives, Velaa Private Island. The villas are designed to provide effortless comfort, and the private staff will tend to your every whim. One to consider is Nirohlu Private Residence, including its

Caribbean Treasures: Bluefields Bay Villas pool (top), room (bottom left), and private dining (bottom right); and Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort, St. Lucia (right)

PHOTOS:
© BLUEFIELDS BAY VILLAS,
© SUGAR BEACH, A
VICEROY RESORT



Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve in Zimbabwe. Each of the house's five bedrooms has its own private deck, and the living spaces open to a private infinity pool with panoramic views of the 130,000 acres of the virtually untouched surrounding wilderness. During your stay you will have a dedicated private chef, game vehicle and field guide to make the most of your safari.

BACK STATESIDE, LITTLE PALM ISLAND Resort & Spa in the Florida Keys, the only private island resort in the United States, is available for a complete buyout. Arrive on the island via private yacht; and once on its sandy shores, choose from the resort's 16 Escape Suites, 10 Romantic Suites, two Island Grand Suites or two Island Premier Suites. Complete buyouts include gourmet meals for up to 60 guests each day; full access to the brand-new, world-class spa; and island activities including standup paddling, kayaking, fishing and snorkeling.

Villa del Sol at the Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona, is dedicated to complete wellness, with distinct spa-centric amenities and a strong emphasis on the whole mind-whole body focus of the world-class Sanctuary Spa. The 3,500-square-foot, four-bedroom villa features a treatment room for in-villa massages as well as a private movement studio for classes and personal training. A spa concierge and dedicated Sensei in Residence are on hand for a complete wellness escape.

California's wine country sets the stage for one of TurnKey Vacation Rentals' prime properties, a palatial getaway set on more than four acres at the former Spreckles Estate. Filled with natural light, the 2,700-square-foot home features three bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 14-foot-high wood ceilings and French doors that open to the outdoors. Bring in a private chef to whip up a decadent meal in the incredible kitchen, and afterward gather poolside to gaze at the views of the Mayacama Mountains or wander down a private path to a stone fire pit with spectacular views of the Valley of the Moon.

Say "aloha" to your private suite at ESPACIO The Jewel of Waikiki in Honolulu. Each suite in the nine-story, nine-suite boutique luxury hotel features 2,250 square feet of living space, accessible by personal elevator entry. The two- and three-bedroom suites boast spa-like, Italian marble bathrooms with dry saunas, designer kitchens with wine cellars and fully stocked refrigerators, and balconies with Jacuzzis and panoramic views. Your personal butler stocks the pantry to your specifications and can arrange styling from Neiman Marcus Ala Moana as well as private expeditions to secret local beaches, private chef dinners and use of a fleet of luxury vehicles to explore Oahu.



Exquisite Escapes:
Villa del Sol, Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort & Spa, Scottsdale (above); and ESPACIO The Jewel of Waikiki dinner setting (right)

PHOTOS: © VILLA DEL SOL, SANCTUARY CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN RESORT & SPA, © ESPACIO THE JEWEL OF WAIKIKI

own brand-new hammam spa complete with steam room, cold plunge pool and marble treatment bed. Indulge in a full Turkish bath ritual featuring pure, cold-pressed black soap and a foam body massage performed on the heated hammam marble bed. Worries? What worries?

The Grand Riad at Royal Mansour Marrakech may be the most luxurious villa you can imagine. The palace-within-a-palace measures more than 19,000 square feet with its own landscaped gardens.

Dine on dishes created by your private chef in the courtyard on the ground floor. The first floor features four en-suite bedrooms, while a private spa, gym and cinema occupy the second floor. The two-level roof terrace, complete with a solarium, Berber tent and swimming pool, boasts incredible views over the Medina, Atlas Mountains and Koutoubia.

For an exclusive African safari, opt for Singita Malilangwe House, perched on a hilltop alongside the Singita Pamushana Lodge in the remote