



LA SAMANNA,
ST. MARTIN

WHERE TO GO NEXT: THE CARIBBEAN

The latest news from islands big and small, for travelers who want to escape to a peaceful paradise or party like rock stars (with great food and wine written into their riders). By M. Elizabeth Sheldon

ST. MARTIN

La Samanna Oprah and Jackie O have stayed at this iconic Caribbean hotel, where all 83 rooms have a view of the ocean and private white-sand beach. A recent renovation has added comfortable cabanas and two restaurants—one beachside-casual, one high-end French. At the latter, chef Gil Dumoulin, of Paris's famed Les Ambassadeurs, cooks Caribbean-inflected dishes like foie gras with mango. Guests can book the table in the candlelit wine cellar—at 12,000 bottles, the largest in the Caribbean—where sommelier Christian Mirande leads wine-and-cheese tastings and staffers pour local rums. *Doubles from \$445; lasamanna.com.*

French
Wine
Cellar

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Guana Island At this property on an 850-acre private island, the gregarious staff is part of the charm: A resident scientist leads walking tours to see rare species like the rock iguana, and the gardeners are known to recite Chinese poetry. The newest addition is an El Bulli-trained head chef, Xavier Arnau, whose dishes, like apple gazpacho with shrimp, incorporate local fish and fruit from the organic orchard; he also plans to harvest winter vegetables from a new greenhouse. There are 15 cottages and four villas to choose from, half of which were just renovated. *Doubles from \$695; guana.com.*

PUERTO RICO

St. Regis Bahía After kayaking through the adjacent 5,000-acre Espíritu Santo nature reserve, guests at this sprawling, palm tree-dotted golf resort can watch a Champagne-sabering ceremony or have dinner at the Jean-Georges Vongerichten restaurant Fern. The menu is Asian-influenced—hamachi sashimi, grilled tenderloin with gingery shiitake mushrooms—with nods to local flavors in dishes like octopus with *aji dulce*, Puerto Rico's ubiquitous sweet peppers. After dinner, guests can head back out into nature, to the glowing bioluminescent bay in Fajardo. *Doubles from \$830; stregisbahiaibeach.com.*

Star Chef
Restaurant