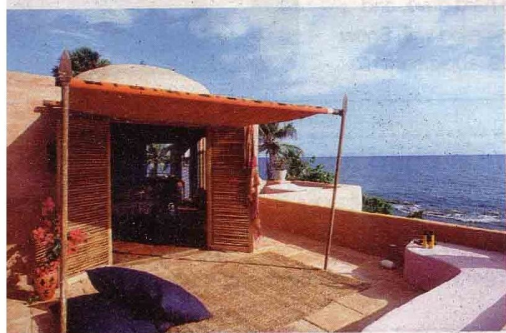


## Four of the best affordable hotels in the Caribbean, by Francesca Syz

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**NONSUCH BAY ANTIGUA** While the island is best known for super-exclusive resorts such as Carlisle Bay and Jumby Bay, both of which have price tags to match, it is refreshing to discover a new resort in Antigua that feels luxurious and is beautifully designed but won't break the bank. Only 20 minutes from historic English Harbour, the resort has been inspired by the local Georgian Colonial style and inhabits a series of whitewashed, shingle-roofed houses with traditional verandas arranged around a sheltered bay with a great beach. What sets Nonsuch Bay resort apart from the rest is that it doesn't have hotel rooms, but instead self-catering apartments, cottages and villas, which work well for couples and families alike. It also offers hotel-style facilities, such as a clubhouse restaurant and bar up on the bluff, a spa and three infinity pools. The resort's other selling point is its sailing centre, which caters for all ages and levels of experience. The bay's two square miles of sheltered waters are protected by a barrier reef and are perfect for small-boat sailing. **The details** From £122 per night for a one-bedroom apartment (07793-424300; nonsuchbayresort.com).



**JAKES JAMAICA** For a hotel that has remained consistently popular over many years, Jakes in Jamaica has rather impressively remained consistently affordable, too. One of the music mogul Chris Blackwell's Island Outpost collection of hotels, run by the Henzell family (the late Perry Henzell directed the cult classic *The Harder They Come*), Jakes has 'cool' stamped all over it – and its laidback rusticity, that so many hotels attempt to re-create, is genuine. Situated in the sleepy fishing village of Treasure Beach on Jamaica's south coast, Jakes has 31 thatched cottages and 29 rooms, all individually decorated in bright Caribbean colours, overlooking the Caribbean Sea. Each has a private outdoor space, and there are lots of hidden terraces and paths weaving down to the beach. Famous for its rum punch, Dougie's Bar attracts a good mix of guests and locals, as does Jack Sprat's, which is right on the beach and celebrated for homemade pizza and exquisitely fresh local fish. A recent addition is the four-treatment room Driftwood Spa. Jake's also holds yoga retreats; the next is February 27-March 6. **The details** One-bedroom-garden villas from £60 (00 1 876 965 3000; islandoutpost.com).

**TI KAYE VILLAGE ST LUCIA** There's a rustic charm about Ti Kaye, a secluded resort a mile from the main road on the west coast of St Lucia. As visitor numbers to the island soar, getting 'off the beaten track' is increasingly hard to do, so this resort is a gem worth remembering. Ti Kaye means 'little house' in Creole and there's a village-like feel about its 33 ocean-facing cottages, liberally scattered across a hillside overlooking Anse Cochon Bay and its sandy beach. All rooms are pretty and contemporary-feeling with huge beds, iPod docks, spacious balconies, outdoor showers and hammocks, and 10 have private plunge pools. But even the most expensive at high season is only \$490 (about £300) per night. The resort's restaurant, Kai Manje ('house of food'), serves delicious local food, and a complimentary cocktail party every Wednesday on the deck is followed by a Creole buffet. The most recent addition is the Kaikoko Spa, which offers excellent massages. While you can easily do absolutely nothing, the resort offers some great excursions, from sea kayaking and scuba diving to visits to the harbour villages of Soufrière and Castries. **The details** Ocean-view rooms from £117 (00 1 758 456 8101; tikaye.com).



**BEAU RIVE DOMINICA** They call Dominica the Nature Island because it is like one giant, mountainous tropical garden, heaving with exotic fruit, flowers and wildlife. While it has a few good beaches, people come here more to dive, hike and swim in waterfalls, so the big international hotel groups have left it gloriously alone. Softly spoken Brit Mark Steele opened the elegant, homely, plantation-style Beau Rive in 2007, on a thickly forested hillside on the east coast. It feels utterly secluded but makes an ideal base from which to explore this beautiful island. Its 10 bedrooms (including two garden cottages) are airy and simple with big comfortable beds, verandas and ocean views. Life revolves around a loungy roof terrace bar and dining-room with a grand piano where you can sip icy mojitos and enjoy home-cooked food, and the lovely swimming-pool. While you will need to hire a car to explore the island properly (or a driver – Steele can organise that), there are several hikes straight from the hotel, including one to a rugged beach below. **The details** Doubles from £109. No under 16s (00 1 767 445 8992; beaurive.com). **Next week: privately owned London hotels**