

SEVEN OF THE BEST WILD STAYS IN THE CARIBBEAN

White sands, swaying palms... and a big dose of adventure. Forget the resorts: these unique hotels reveal the Caribbean's wilder side

WORDS HAZEL PLUSH



1 JAKES HOTEL, JAMAICA

A riot of colour, a mish-mash of architecture. Artist/owner Sally Henzell defines Jakes perfectly: as 'a style that can best be described as Jimi Hendrix meets Antoni Gaudí'. This bolthole on Jamaica's Treasure Beach (yes, it is as idyllic as it sounds) has gradually grown from a lone restaurant into a clutch of ocean-front villas and bungalows, each one more bright and beautiful than the last. But the real wow factor lies in Jakes' surroundings: the calabash-shaded gardens; the silvery flash of tropical fish in the shallows; the vermillion sunsets – and fruity rum punch – at Dougies pool bar. **From US\$90 (£70) per night (room only, excluding taxes), based on two people sharing; jakeshotel.com**

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2 GOLDEN ROCK INN, NEVIS

Sit high on the slopes of Nevis Peak, this old sugar mill occupies one of the best spots on the island: from up here, you can see the swaying palms and turquoise shallows of the wild Atlantic shore. Part guesthouse, part gallery, Golden Rock's modern art collection and swish designer décor looks all the more impressive for its crumbling stone walls and lush jungle gardens – it's no surprise to learn that owners Helen and Brice Marden are accomplished artists. A stuffy hotel this ain't: vervet monkeys swing through the trees and sundowners are served to the chirrup of tree frogs as the Caribbean sun sinks below the horizon. **From US\$280 (£215) per night (B&B, including taxes), based on two people sharing; goldenrocknevis.com**



3 THE ADMIRAL'S INN, ANTIGUA

Set in the UNESCO-listed Nelson's Dockyard, the Admiral's Inn was drawn up in 1785 – the year after Nelson arrived in English Harbour aboard HMS Boreas. The building was used to store the engineers' supplies (the staircase still bears the scars), and from the terrace you can gaze over the harbour, which now bobs with luxury yachts. Throw in a few secluded hammocks, an infinity pool and spa, and you have very swish history lesson indeed. **From US\$190 (£145) per night (room only, excluding taxes), based on two people sharing; admiralsantigua.com**