

## ADVENTURE &amp; TRAVEL

# The Caribbean Goes Green

Three new tropical luxury resorts are bringing agritourism to the islands

BY ELAINE GLUSAC

**THE FARM-TO-TABLE MOVEMENT** has finally arrived in the Caribbean, where a vanguard of hoteliers and green-leaning developers are shunning FedEx'd-in fare and cultivating their own fruits and veggies to sate the growing appetites of traveling locavores—and maybe even boost island economies.

“There’s consumer demand for healthy, local food and for keeping money in local hands,” said Martha Honey, executive director of the Center for Responsible Travel. “One way to do that is to cut down on imports and buy locally.”

High-end resorts, which have the deep pockets to invest in land and research, are leading the way. These destinations combine plenty of pampering with energetic gardening and farming programs that guests can enjoy both at table and in the fields.



## Luxe Locavorism on St. Kitts

Most of the 400 acres surrounding the **Belle Mont Farm** resort on St. Kitts are actually farmland. Avocado and mango trees are labeled with “Pick Me” signs for guests, who can take an orchard tour or forage with a farmer. The setting is rustic, but the accommodations—13 shingle-sided cottages with plunge pools and outdoor tubs—are anything but. The restaurant serves fruits and veg-

etables grown on the farm, which also acts as a research center staffed by horticulturists. Among other pursuits, they are studying 100 mango varieties, searching for a way to make the fruit available year-round (from \$2,250 per night, including all meals, drinks, unlimited golf, \$200 daily spa credit, airport transfers, and a 10% service charge, [bellemontfarm.com](http://bellemontfarm.com)).



## A Farm Hideaway in Jamaica

Since he purchased **Pantrepant**, a 2,500-acre estate 30 miles from Montego Bay, in 1990, Island Records founder Chris Blackwell has used it as a private home and cattle ranch, with an organic farm to supply his hotels. But last winter, he opened it to the guests of his three Island Outpost resorts—GoldenEye, The Caves and Strawberry Hill, all within a three-hour drive. Visitors, who generally have the place to themselves, can swim in the river that cuts through the property, ride horses, dine on meals prepared with produce grown on-site and spend the night in a two-bedroom farmhouse. “It’s very secluded and surrounded by hills—like a hidden valley,” Mr. Blackwell said of the spot, located in Jamaica’s interior (day visits from \$375 per person, farm overnights an additional \$800 per double per night, all inclusive, [islandoutpost.com](http://islandoutpost.com)).



## Jam Sessions on Cayman Brac

Outlined by a 140-foot limestone bluff, the tiny island of Cayman Brac does not suggest fertility. But pocket resort **Le Soleil d’Or**, which currently offers just one beachfront studio cottage and a three-bedroom villa, has created a geology-defying 20-acre organic garden. Management added a layer of rich dirt to the shallow topsoil, filled in craters and found plants that tolerate the salt air so that guests can arrive to find the kitchens in their rooms stocked with baskets of just-picked fruits and vegetables, as well as jams and jellies made on site (as part of a farm tour, guests can jar their own preserves). A 2015 expansion will add four more suites, a beach club, a cooking school and two restaurants that will be supplied by the farm (from \$800 per night, [goldensuncayman.com](http://goldensuncayman.com)).