

OFF DUTY TRAVEL

## Farm-to-Table Comes to the Caribbean

Luxury island resorts in Jamaica, St. Kitts and Cayman Brac are shunning FedEx fare in favor of homegrown, giving guests more to dig into both at the table and in the fields

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Belle Mont Farm resort on St. Kitts PHOTO: BELLE MONT FARM ON KITTITIAN HILL

**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.



At Belle Mont Farm, avocado and mango trees are labeled with 'Pick Me' signs for guests.

PHOTO: BELLE MONT FARM ON KITTITIAN HILL

## 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 vegetables 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)*).