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BEST HOTELS IN THE WORLD

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Caribbean

64 MONTPELIER PLANTATION, NEVIS



 St Kitts and Nevis was the 'mother colony' of the British West Indies, and the spirit of Empire thrives at this utterly romantic retreat in the Nevis hills. The Hoffman family have kept all the traditional ingredients – afternoon tea, croquet lawn – but also stirred in sexy fabrics, slick gadgetry and a scrubbed-up spa, leaving it classier than ever. Make sure you **dine à deux in the candlelit windmill – possibly the most loved-up meal in the Caribbean.**

Doubles from £205, B&B (020 8977 6099, www.montpeliernevis.com).

65 ROUND HILL HOTEL AND VILLAS RESORT, MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA

   Round Hill is Caribbean elegance incarnate. Its rooms and villas have pitched shingle roofs and black-and-white decor – all now updated by Ralph Lauren, who has a house on site. Since the '50s, it has rolled out class on the (lovely) beach, with **the best of traditional Caribbean service – charming, unobtrusive, highly personalised** – along with a spa and delicious dinners. **Doubles from £270, room only (00 1 876 956 7050, www.roundhilljamaica.com).**

66 COTTON HOUSE, MUSTIQUE

   It don't come more exclusive than this. On the private island

of Mustique, this converted cotton warehouse is an exercise in rustic chic. Rooms harbour four-posters, distressed furniture and stunning views: the Beach Café draws affluent residents for the Friday-night barbecue; and the restaurant's guest book reads like a line-up on *Jonathan Ross* (Mick Jagger's a regular). Then there's **the signature rum punch, which slips down a treat and kicks like the proverbial mule.** **Doubles from £370, B&B (00 1 784 456 4777, www.cottonhouse.net).**

67 MOUNT CINNAMON, GRENADA

  Proof that a castaway escape can be done with kids, here's a resort that has **all the checklist family facilities yet retains that getting-away-from-it-all atmosphere.** It helps that nature puts on its best show-stunning stretches of white sand, riotous tropical gardens and darting rivers that spill into pools perfect for a dip. *Haciendas* are a highlight too – bright, contemporary spaces that put afterthought family villas to shame. **A one-bedroom villa (sleeps four) costs from £250, B&B (0808 234 2497, www.mountcinnamongrenadahotel.com).**

68 HOTEL AUBERGE LES PETITS SAINTS, GUADELOUPE

   If your tribe doesn't consider this paradise, you've grown blasé. Fifteen minutes from the main island, the outcrops of Les Saintes concentrate the best of the French Caribbean: **beautiful bays and hills**

covered in galloping vegetation. Rooms and studios in this candy-coloured *auberge*, some sleeping five or six, are a lively mix of antique, créole, oriental and whatever else took the fancy of the French owners. Views are uplifting, and the restaurant is among the best in Guadeloupe. **Doubles from £75, B&B (00 590 590 995099, www.petitssaints.com).**

69 LITTLE GOOD HARBOUR, BARBADOS

  Little Good Harbour is a lovely low-key retreat. Set on its own strip of sand, it is **insulated from the glitz (and high prices) of Barbados's famous west coast, but within easy reach of its restaurants and bars.** With rooms, suites and cottages, it's ideal for families, and its popular restaurant, the Fish Pot, is a reassuringly quiet evening escape for parents. **Doubles from £188, room only (00 1 246 439 3000, www.littlegoodharbourbarbados.com).**

70 HOTEL SARATOGA, HAVANA

 As you'd expect in a Commie country, you won't find extravagances such as butler service and techno-gadgetry here. No matter, with rustic wooden armoires in the bedrooms, Spanish-style tiling and abstract art by Cuban artists, Saratoga is **a stylish success that harks back to the pre-Castro glory days,** while the rooftop pool with Capitolio views is a breather, whatever the era. **Doubles from £168, room only (00 53 7 868 1000, www.hotel-saratoga.com).**