



# Caribbean

The Dominican Republic's serene north coast is home to Playa Grande and the Playa Grande Beach Club (opposite)

COURTESY PLAYA GRANDE BEACH CLUB; OPPOSITE PAGE: TRACEY MINKIN

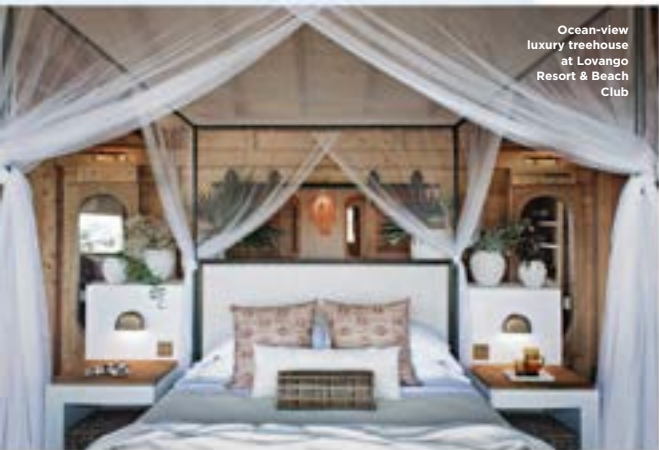


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BY TRACEY MINKIN  
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*Meet the six islands—and their showstopping stays—that should be at the top of your winter escape vacation list*





Ocean-view luxury treehouse at Lovango Resort & Beach Club

## THE HIGH-STYLE EDIT

### Mustique

#### STAY: THE MUSTIQUE COMPANY VILLAS AND THE COTTON HOUSE

There is style, and there is Mustique Style. Credit British theater designer Oliver Messel, who applied that stage-set sensibility to a tiny island in St. Vincent and the Grenadines purchased in 1958 by his countryman Colin Tennant. Initially imagining Mustique as a place to farm, Tennant revised the script a decade later and developed the island into an exclusive hideaway. It worked. With Messel guiding the transformation of the island's former plantation house into a hotel, The Cotton House, and 18 villas (including Les Jolies

Eaux for early Mustique adopter Princess Margaret) tucked among the jungle and palms, the allure and design sensibility of Mustique was hatched—and remains a Caribbean institution more than a half-century later. Here is where the most celebrated celebrities, from royals to rock stars, still decamp to relax, to hit the weekly cocktail mixer at The Cotton House and jump-up dance at Basil's Bar, to picnic under thatch along the island's superlative beaches, and to enjoy the barefoot insouciance of it all. And it's possible, by renting one of 82 villas available or tucking in at The Cotton House, to draw that Mustique Style around one like the couture it is; [mustique-island.com](http://mustique-island.com).



Two-bedroom suite at The Cotton House



A beach picnic gazebo on Mustique

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: COURTESY LOVANGO RESORT & BEACH CLUB; COURTESY MUSTIQUE COMPANY; (2)

## THE SLEEPAWAY CAMP

### Lovango Cay, U.S. Virgin Islands

#### STAY: LOVANGO RESORT & BEACH CLUB

Everyone knows the drill: easy plane hop to St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands; cab ride to the Red Hook docks; and brief, sleepy ferry ride to the welcoming arms (and expensive hillside villas) of St. John. That's a Caribbean classic escape for a reason, but it's vibe shift time: Instead of ferrying over to St. John, now you can hop aboard a bespoke ferry at Red Hook to whisk you to another destination altogether, just 10 minutes away: a private island resort with high-design glamping tents and treehouses (above), plus a pair of one-bedroom cottages and a three-bedroom villa. It's a mini

version of the ruggedly idyllic USVI postcard—ridgeline hiking trails overlooking turquoise seas and the emerald scatter of the Virgin Islands, narrow paths to empty beaches—plus creature comforts that add up to the ideal grown-up sleepaway camp, tropics-style. At the center, Lovango's breezy beach club along the waterfront: a pair of restaurants, a tiki bar, an infinity pool, a clutch of colorful kiosk boutiques, and an activities desk that will put you in the water for a snorkel or whisk you over to St. John for a Painkiller session on Honeymoon Beach. Robinson Crusoe would approve; [lovangovi.com](http://lovangovi.com).