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CULTURE + LIFESTYLE

8 Historic Caribbean Hotels for a Classic Tropical Escape

These West Indian hotels are a time traveler's dream



Mustique's Cotton House.



If you're hoping to tap into the classic spirit of the Caribbean for an upcoming vacation, a good bet may be one of these very special West Indian hotels that hang onto the past, stylishly celebrating simpler times. Whether it's preserved colonial architecture or a historic location, each offers a time warp to a different era. Be warned that a 17th- or 18th-century vibe can also mean no telephones, TVs, or air-conditioning. If those amenities are important to you, check with the hotel before booking.



Since Lord Glenconner bought the Grenadine island of Mustique in 1958, real monarchy and rock monarchy have come to bask in its equatorial sun. To stay in the Champagne-and-canapés thick of it (relatively speaking, given that the population is 500), head to the iconic **Cotton House**, a former cotton warehouse converted into a romantic playground of fretwork and curiosities by theatrical designer Oliver Messel. A new Ila spa was added last season; this season, the great house will be renovated. cottonhouse.net