

AWARD
WINNER

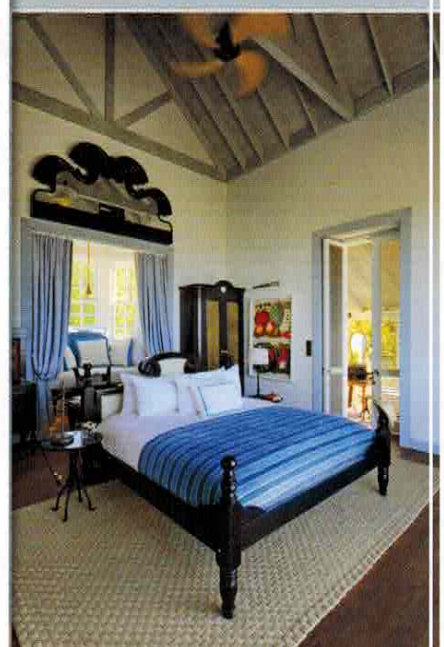
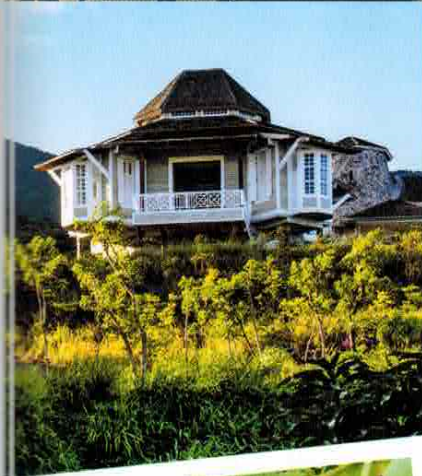
STYLE WITH SOUL



Belle Mont Farm

ST KITTS, WEST INDIES

We are not stupid. We know that comfort can be costly – and not just financially, but also socially and environmentally. Which is what makes Belle Mont Farm such an absolute inspiration. Created by Trinidadian entrepreneur Val Kempadoo, it sits between the rainforest of Mount Liamuiga and the calm turquoise of the sea. It was built by locals, most of the staff are local and the plan, eventually, is to make this the cultural hub of the island, where St Kitts can show the world its best self (and, naturally, be self-sustaining within five years). But pleasure has not been sacrificed for idealism. The gorgeous guesthouses are plantation style, with four-poster beds, terraces, plunge pools, outdoor bathrooms (be careful not to tread on a frog when you go to the loo in the middle of the night) and fragrant products made with lemongrass from the resort's farm – where you can hang out or pick vegetables for your dinner. Very little is imported (just wine and cheese), so no steak or brown bread, but who cares when you have indigenous fish freshly caught by local fishermen, starfruit, papaya, coconut and chocolates made using the farm's cocoa beans? Yomp through the rainforest, pluck mangoes from the trees, laugh at the green ververet monkeys, drink in the views. Feel good and do good. It's the future. **BOOK IT** ITC Luxury Travel (itcluxurytravel.co.uk; 01244 355527) offers seven nights, full board, from £4,715, including flights, transfers and daily spa treatments.



Prime time

December, for Sugar Mas – carnival time. Get ready to shake your tail feather...

