

# The Hotel Wizard

*Fiona Duncan goes jammin' in Jamaica this month*



## TEN THINGS I LOVE ABOUT Round Hill, Jamaica



- 1 The timelessness: well worn black and white tiles in the unchanged lobby where room keys still hang on a board.
- 2 The photographs: memories of the glamorous, high octane days of the '50s and '60s – ball gowns, champagne and the promise of a new affair.
- 3 Ralph Lauren's elegant interiors (he has long had a house here). The 'Ladies' is so lovely I could live there.
- 4 The 29 'cottages' (some are huge, all have gardens and pools), privately owned but available to rent. There are also 24 hotel bedrooms.
- 5 The waterfront paradise: infinity pool, palm fringed beach, watersports corner and...
- 6 ... circular beach bar, previously propped up by JFK and Errol Flynn.
- 7 The cool spa set in an old great house surrounded by lawns and reached by a shady beachside path.
- 8 The smiling local staff, some very long serving. 'This is first and foremost a Jamaican resort,' says Josef Forstmayr, manager for 25 years, who kisses your hand the Austrian way.
- 9 Blue Mountain coffee and Busha Browne's twice boiled guava jelly at breakfast...
- 10 ... and piña colodas on the beach for elevenses.

Doubles from £196 to £1,000 per night; +1 800 972 2159; roundhill.com



### ON THE TRAVEL RADAR

» Check out Villa del Mar, a stylish 1920s villa in Sitges, sleeping 12, with mature garden and sea views. Highly recommended ([villadelmarsitges.com](http://villadelmarsitges.com)).

» Closer to home, here's a winter bargain: Hotel Metropole in mid-Wales offers a six-course tasting menu plus accommodation in a Classic room for £49.50 per person ([metropole.co.uk](http://metropole.co.uk)).

» Book now for Bali's newest five-star hotel, Katamama, designed by artists, craftsmen and artisans for that real Bali feel ([the-katamama.com](http://the-katamama.com)).



### THREE JAMAICAN GOLDEN AGE RESORTS

#### 1 GOLDENEYE

Now owned by Island Records' legend Chris Blackwell, GoldenEye comprises Ian Fleming's unchanged house where he wrote all the James Bond books, available to rent by the night; and beach and lagoon-side villas, plus luxury huts on stilts. [goldeneye.com](http://goldeneye.com)

#### 2 STRAWBERRY HILL

Also owned by Chris Blackwell, an old tea house and collection of cottages set high in the Blue Mountains. [islandoutpost.com](http://islandoutpost.com)

#### 3 JAMAICA INN

Delightful, timeless beachside hotel where Marilyn Monroe and Arthur Miller honeymooned. [jamaicainn.com](http://jamaicainn.com)



### ALMOND HILL

If you like the sound of Round Hill and would like to make use of the facilities but prefer not to be a part of the estate complex, then consider renting nearby Almond Hill House, sleeping up to

eight and enjoying complimentary club membership. Built in 1993 and captivantly renovated in 2012, the impeccably stylish house is owned by the by aristocratic English family who first bought the Round Hill coconut plantation in 1949. Relive those glamorous post-war days in the elegant indoor/outdoor sitting room, dip into the pool surrounded by tropical plants, dine outdoors in a glade of palm fronds. Almond Hill is fully staffed, and you will be beautifully cared and cooked for during your stay. There are waterfalls to visit; you can go rafting on a peaceful river; feed hummingbirds on a bungalow porch or drive to historic Falmouth. From £2,850 to £6,300 per week; [jamaicavillas.com](http://jamaicavillas.com)