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Ann Abel, Contributor

I travel luxe but smart: I know what's worth shelling out for.

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Ten Super-Romantic Getaways: Top Seductive, Small Hotels All Over The World

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Ten Super-Romantic Small Hotels

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Strawberry Hill, Jamaica

Island Outpost

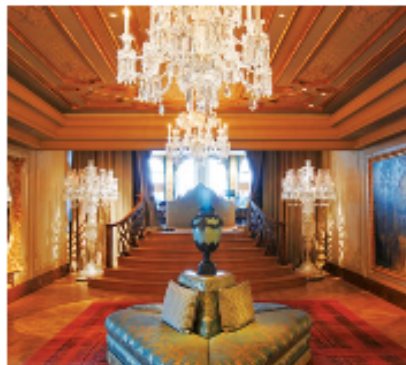
The mountain retreat in music impresario Chris Blackwell's Island Outpost group of idyllic Jamaican hotels is less obviously sultry than the beach resorts. But subtlety can be even more enticing: The 12 Georgian-style cottages evoke 19th-century colonial languor, and have rich mahogany furniture, including four-poster beds with muslin canopy netting. islandoutpost.com

Luxury hotels can invest millions in design, training, building, and branding. They can cultivate beautiful architecture, flawless service, comfortable rooms, and a distinctive point of view. And hats off to that. But all the focus groups and industry consultants in the world can't endow the bricks and mortar with romance.



Dreamy Suites: My Ten Best Hotel Room Discoveries Of 2012

 **Ann Abel**
Contributor



Sure, a hotel can have rustic wood-burning fireplaces in bedrooms, flickering lanterns in courtyards, and night-blooming jasmine in gardens. But so much of what makes a hotel romantic is impossible to quantify. Either it's there—in a hotel's DNA—or it's not.

And really, you want it to be there. In spades. Whether it's Valentine's Day or any day, so many vacations are motivated by romance: honeymoons, anniversaries, proposals, rekindlings—celebrating what you have or working for what you hope to get. The pulse should quicken, the imagination flower. Even for guests visiting alone, as I was at most of the hotels in the slideshow (in some cases as a guest of the hotel), they exude seductiveness in a way that's impossible not to find intoxicating.

Here are ten that made me swoon.