

INCIRCLE

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GOLDENEYE RESORT & SPA, JAMAICA



Above: The three-bedroom Ian Fleming Villa. Below: The open-air lobby with James Bond memorabilia and vintage photos taken at the resort.

Anyone who comes to GoldenEye falls in love not just with the resort, but also with the country. From Jamaica's spirited ease to the natives' rhythmic patois, the soul of the place envelops you, and GoldenEye is a distillation of the island's best parts. The tropical hideaway, set on 52 acres in Oracabessa, has drawn musicians, the literary elite, and the jet set since the mid-20th century, when it was the retreat of Ian Fleming, who wrote all 14 James Bond novels at his seaside ranch.

After a two-year renovation, GoldenEye reopened last November thanks to owner Chris Blackwell. The Jamaica-raised Island Records founder, known for forging the careers of Bob Marley and U2, expanded the resort from Fleming's private home and the three original villas to a 21-room hotel including nine new Beach Cottages, two Lagoon Cottages, and six Lagoon Suites.

The resort's two restaurants, both run by chef Conroy Arnold, are the treehouse-style Gazebo and the shoes-optional waterfront Bizot Bar. Arnold's steamed callaloo with poached eggs and country pepper drizzle—a favorite of Blackwell's—will become a morning habit.

Activities director and Jamaican triathlete Iona Wynter makes yoga, paddleboarding, bike-riding, and jet skiing seem utterly laid-back. Jet off to Laughing Waters, the private beach where a bikini-clad Ursula Andress famously emerged in *Dr. No*. In fact, swim or paddle up to the resort's FieldSpa, situated on the lagoon.

Insider tip: The best view of the sunset is found high above St. Mary harbor at Firefly, the former vacation home of Noel Coward. Once a lookout point for pirate Sir Henry Morgan, the estate is now a retreat for resort guests. 800/688-7678, www.islandoutpost.com. To arrange a trip, contact InCircle Access at 888/570-6756. —AM



JAMAICAN OUTPOSTS

Check out Chris Blackwell's other luxury hotels and villas throughout Jamaica.

The Caves, Negril

The cliffside-clinging cottages are as romantic as the private cave dining experience. Sip Blackwell's private label rum at The Blackwell Rum Bar.

Geejam, Port Antonio

Located in a town even sleepier than Oracabessa, this outpost for recording artists and industry insiders is close to one of the world's best beaches, Frenchman's Cove.

Strawberry Hill, Blue Mountains

A collection of Georgian-style cottages set on a former coffee estate high in the dramatic mountains above Kingston. Experience locally grown coffee, an Aveda spa, and New Jamaican cuisine.

For more information, call 800/688-7678, or visit www.islandoutpost.com.