

BOOK IT

Rooms With Sea Views

Finding an affordable Caribbean hotel is like digging up buried treasure. Consider this your map. By Kathleen Squires



\$100



\$154



\$115



\$125

COCO BOUTIQUE HOTEL

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic A four-room inn is about as cozy as you can get, but thanks to well-proportioned public space, including the lobby bar and roof deck, guests at this 2-year-old property in Santo Domingo's historic Zona Colonial district need never feel cramped. Each room has a distinct theme (in Eastern Spice, for example, perforated-metal lanterns sit atop gold-painted side tables), and all were designed by co-owner Elizabeth Mavrikis. *Arzobispo Porte, 7, coco.boutiquehotel.com, \$100.*

THE BEACH HOUSE

San Juan, Puerto Rico As the only boutique hotel on the beach in the Isla Verde neighborhood of San Juan, this 17-room hideaway (which opened in 2007) stands apart. The vibe is playful, with faux-fur throw pillows on the sofas and rainbow-colored swirls on curtains and rugs. There's also an active social scene centered around the ornate red-and-gold La Folie bar and the outdoor lounge, where Tuesday-night screenings of foreign films like *Y Tu Mamá También* draw regular crowds. *Isla Verde Ave. 4851, beachousepr.com, from \$115, \$10 cover for the bar Thurs. and Sat.*

THE ALEXANDER HOTEL

Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands There's not a floral-print bedspread to be found at this 4-month-old property in Cayman Brac's West End. The 31 rooms are the picture of contemporary polish, with clean-lined mahogany furniture, flat-screen TVs, and kitchenettes with new appliances—a valuable family-friendly extra. The hotel's bar overlooks a saltwater-pond bird sanctuary—home to West Indian whistling ducks—and the nearest beach is only a five-minute walk away. *393 Gerard Smith Ave., alexanderbrac.com, from \$154.*

COCO PALM

Gros Islet, St. Lucia Minister of tourism Allen Chastanet wasn't content to simply advocate for travel. With his 18 renovated Kreole Rooms at the Coco Palm, Chastanet is giving people a new reason to get on a plane and come. As part of the larger Coco Palm resort, the Kreole Rooms deliver perks like access to a 5,400-square-foot swimming pool and a spa. But the small-hotel feeling never gets lost, thanks to touches like custom-stocked mini fridges and rooms identified by island symbols (like bananas and hummingbirds) rather than those obvious numbers. *Rodney Bay Village, coco-resorts.com, from \$125.*

Courtesy the hotels