

Jumby Bay

There are those who collect Caribbean islands—and by extension their beaches—like charms on a bracelet or vintage pocket watches. Jumby Bay is one for the collection.

• by Suzanne Wright

Just an eight-minute boat ride from Antigua (complete with Welcome Rum Punch served by the white-uniformed captain), Jumby Bay is a private island hideaway, part of the country of Antigua and Barbuda in the West Indies. The whole of the island—all 300 acres of it—has long been an enclave for the elite and the famous, thanks to its temperate climate, stately palms, white sand beaches, and tropical foliage. Originally a sugar mill, the island was held by a series of owners. Now it is wholly owned and controlled by its residents, who range from a famous U.S. novelist to a British inventor, and they wisely want to ensure its intelligent and limited development. Its only resort is managed by Rosewood Resorts and has just 40 rooms and suites and a collection of 11 breathtaking villas and estate homes.

There's not much to do here, and that is exactly the point: the art of idleness is encouraged. During my June visit, the ocean was blissfully cool, and lots of plump, spiky starfish were visible in the shallow, clear water. The pool with its white canvas cabanas was quiet. Honeymooners love Jumby Bay, as do empty-nesters, anniversary celebrants, and parents of infants (the resort offers a British nanny service for an additional charge). Sure, there are tennis, croquet and water sports to distract you, along

with browsing through the gift shop for \$38 baseball caps and \$500 bathing suits (import taxes are steep). And you don't need to pack a book: the hotel has teamed with some of America's top publishing houses for the "Hot Type" program which offers not-yet-released

titles to read on the beach. There's also afternoon tea, and a therapist can be dispatched to provide an in-suite massage. Finally, the ferry can whisk you to mainland Antigua for shopping, touring, or a casino outing.

“There's not much to do here, and that is exactly the point: the art of idleness is encouraged.”

titles to read on the beach. There's also afternoon tea, and a therapist can be dispatched to provide an in-suite massage. Finally, the ferry can whisk you to mainland Antigua for shopping, touring, or a casino outing.

But really, why would you leave one of the two sandy white beaches and miss the late morning “sorbet butler” who strolls the sands, offering pastel scoops of icy refreshment? The staffers' lilting accents soften the starch of British formality (the island achieved independence in 1981); after a day or two, most greet you by name. All meals and drinks are included during your stay—save the occasional top-shelf Scotch—and it's much better and boasts greater variety than most all-inclusive destinations (you can order a la carte or graze the buffet). During the day, most patrons choose the informality of the open-air Verandah; at

sands by the time you read this.

Many of the rooms have been recently renovated; all include use of a bicycle to peddle the isle. My favorite lodging was a “rondavel,” a tastefully outfitted (think Tommy Bahama interiors), octagonal, free-standing cottage with a wraparound terrace and seating area, ocean views, a hammock for relaxation, a four-poster bed, a living room with flat screen TV and DVD players, and a large bath with double sinks and a garden shower. There are no keys; seems that no one locks their doors on Jumby Bay, though there are in-room safes if you feel uneasy about leaving your laptop or wallet unsupervised.

The most exclusive accommodations are the estate homes, which are fully staffed with a housekeeper, chef, and gardener. Of those I saw, the five-bedroom Carisbrooke, which rents



Jumby Bay Resort

“The most exclusive accommodations are the estate homes, which are fully staffed with a housekeeper, chef, and gardener.”

pong ball-sized eggs and then disguises the area. The eggs will incubate for 50-60 days. Turtles nest every two to four years and their movements are tracked via an attached tag that transmits data to a satellite. This is the 21st season that Jumby Bay turtles have been studied; turtles, like salmon, return to the same area again and again.

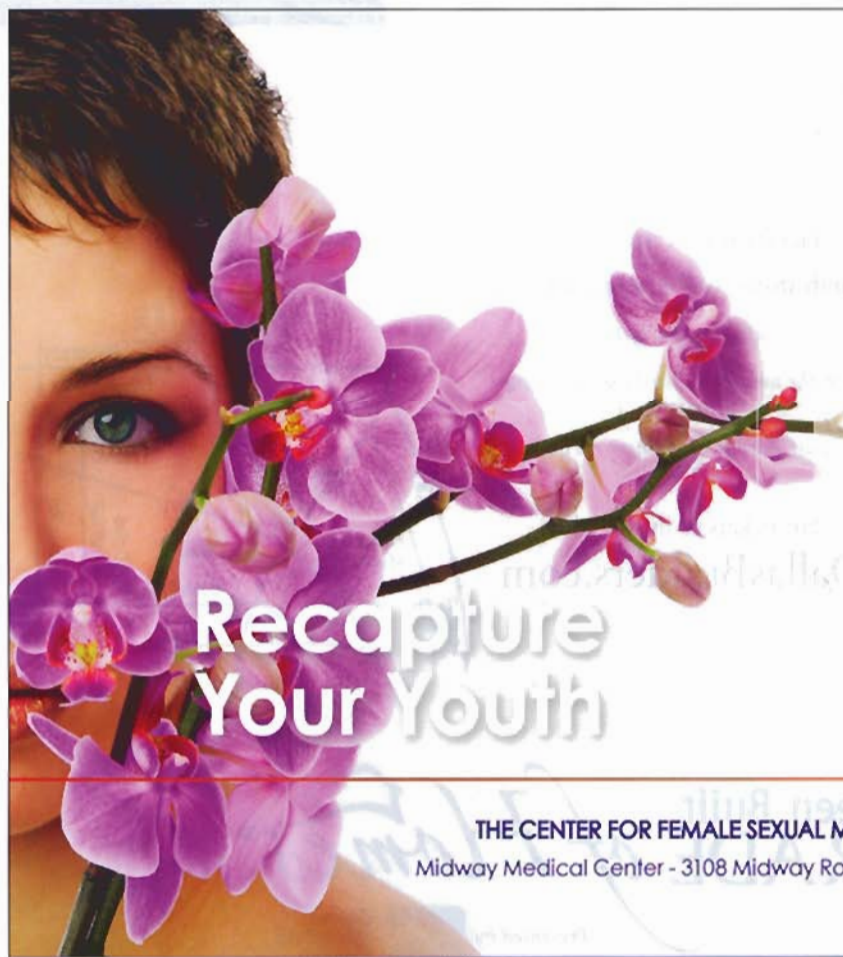
Just after midnight, I get the call, throw on a robe over my PJs, and stand in the moonlight, waiting to be whisked to the beach in a golf cart. The twosome has been patrolling the beach since 8

p.m.; they'll stay until 5 a.m. When I, along with three other guests, arrive, the 175-pound, 36-inch long mama turtle has laid her eggs in the vegetation up from the beach. She is now using her powerful flippers to pack sand over the nest.

My heart is racing, we use whispered tones. Stars spatter the sky, Sara points out Orion's Belt, the Southern Cross, and Scorpio and then, using a low-powered flashlight pointed away from the turtle, Sara leads us closer to the "neophyte," a term given to first-year mother turtles. Spent, the turtle turns and makes her way sur-

prisingly quickly back to the water, leaving only crescent moon-shaped tracks in the soft, wet sand. But the turtle leaves an indelible memory on each of us privileged enough to watch this timeless ritual. •

Delta flies to Antigua; log onto www.delta.com for schedules. To learn more about Antigua, visit the official website, www.antigua-barbuda.org. To make reservations at Jumby Bay, visit www.rosewoodhotels.com. To learn more about the Jumby Bay Hawksbill Turtle Project, check out the website, www.jbhawksbillproject.org.



Recapture Your Youth

Dream of the days when your vitality and zest for life were thriving and nothing could slow you down?

Tired of being told "everything is fine" when you know that hormonal changes are taking place inside of you?

Wake up to the solutions that The Center has to offer.

You deserve nothing less than premier care and the most advanced hormonal diagnostic tests available.

You will be introduced to the world of hormonal repletion through natural, bioidentical hormones.

Our commitment is to help you recapture your youth and improve your quality of life...today!

Christopher J. Riegel, M.D.,
Medical Director

Pamela Riegel, R.N.,
Clinical Director

THE CENTER FOR FEMALE SEXUAL MEDICINE AND MENOPAUSE
Midway Medical Center - 3108 Midway Road, Ste. 100 - Plano, TX 75093
Call today 972.378.3766



for \$10,000 in season, is certainly worth splashing out for. Situated on seven acres with its own secluded beach, it features a master suite with an indoor/outdoor bath, spacious living and dining rooms, and an



infinity pool with pagoda. It would be ideal for an extended family or two couples traveling together.

Every year, from June to November, guests can register their room numbers for the nightly "turtle watch." The Jumbly Bay Hawksbill Turtle Project, the longest-running project of its kind, has its research origins at the University of Georgia. Pasture Beach is a protected nesting area for these endangered species that have existed since the age of dinosaurs; residents have sponsored the program since 1987. Returning for their second year at the resort, the "Turtle Team," Sara and Jen, two exuberant, fresh-faced scientists, give frequent turtle talks.

Jen explains that the turtle falls into a trance, signaling the beginning of the nesting process, lays about 150 ping



Skanadario

Beautiful Water - Gallery Showroom

by Goodman Supply



The One Widespread Faucet from American Standard. Available from Skanadario.

American Standard

NEW STANDARDS FOR LIVING.

9750 JOHN W. ELLIOTT DR.
(MAIN ST. & DALLAS N. PKWY)
FRISCO, TX 75034
972-668-4663
M-F 8-6, SAT. 8-1



Dawn Carmichael | Marvin Deen

*A boutique agency offering
marketing, advertising and public relations services.*

*Graphic Design, Media Planning and Placement, Website Design,
Copywriting, Events, Photography, and Merchandising*



MARKETING • PUBLIC RELATIONS • ADVERTISING

(214) 417-5527 • WWW.CARMICHAELCONSULTING.COM