

LUXURY SPA FINDER

THE SPA LIFESTYLE AT ITS FINEST



**IRELAND'S
VIBRANT
G HOTEL
AND SPA**

Pulse Points

WHAT'S NEW AND NOTEWORTHY AT LUXURY SPAS >> EDITED BY ANN ABEL

OUR TAKE ON

St. Lucia's New Luxe Duo



AFTER YEARS OF BEING KNOWN FOR all-inclusives, St. Lucia is heading in a high-end direction, led by Jade Mountain at Anse Chastanet, opened in 2007, and Discovery at Marigot Bay, opened in 2006. They vie for first place in decor and setting, but the spa at Marigot Bay gives it the edge.

Jade Mountain sits like a textured stone-and-concrete tiara atop a hill on the grounds of the Anse Chastanet resort. Most of its 29 open-plan suites have infinity-edge pools (mine was long enough to do laps), and all have stellar views of the pyramidal Pitons courtesy of one wall left open. They're some of the most spectacular suites I've seen anywhere, and the setting for most spa treatments. I booked a variety—hot stone massage, chakra balancing, and a couple's massage with a Tantric Vibrational oil—yet they all felt similar: nice variations on Swedish massage, with differing oils as their most distinguishing aspect. The only drawback to the en suite arrangement is that facials can't be done because of the specialized equipment needed. For those, Jade has a two-room skin-care spa. If Jade Mountain could make treatment quality match room quality, this could be one of the top spa experiences in the Caribbean.

Discovery at Marigot Bay puts you at sea level, amid the yachting set. The resort is more worldly Miami than barefoot Caribbean: The dining room is a very chic white-on-white, the lobby becomes a champagne bar at sundown, and the vibe is see and be seen. The 92 rooms have flat-screen TVs, Italian coffeemakers, and Kiehl's amenities. (Bravo for including sunscreen.) Some have decks and outdoor hot tubs. Treatments at the indoor-outdoor Lapli Spa, whose name is Creole for



THE DETAILS

Jade Mountain
US\$1,450-\$1,900,
800-223-1108,
www.jademountainstlucia.com

Discovery at Marigot Bay
US\$413-\$1,735,
866-440-6600,
www.discoverystlucia.com

St. Lucia Living
One of Jade Mountain's infinity-pool suites (above). Left: Marigot Bay's chic Pink Snail champagne bar.