

A FAR



The Galápagos You've Never Seen
p.120

WHERE TRAVEL CAN TAKE YOU AFAR.COM #TRAVELDEEPER

Italy!

There's still a secret spot where the pace is slow, the food is delicious, and life is simple. The best part? You can have it all to yourself.

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126 5TH AVE STE 801
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also ➔ THE UNEXPECTED CARIBBEAN *12 Myths Debunked* p.91

Go for Good

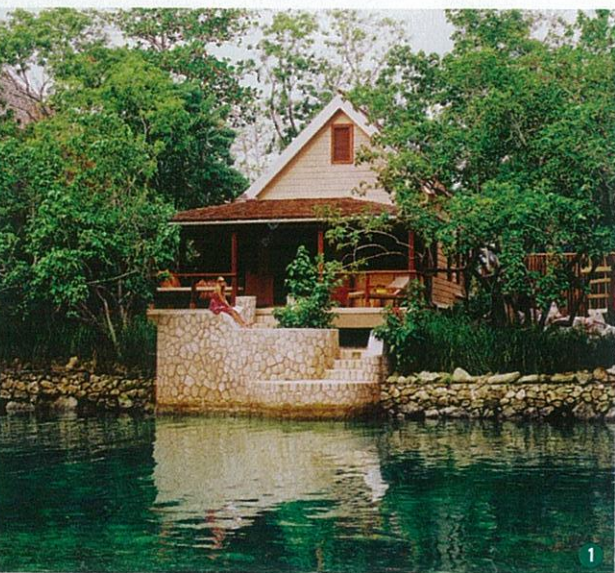
Giving back has never been so easy. Book a stay at any of these hotels and you can support great causes, including local health clinics and coral reef conservation.

by JEN MURPHY

SIX SENSES
Douro Valley,
Portugal



2



1



1

GOLDENEYE HOTEL

Oracabessa Bay, Jamaica

GoldenEye has cachet simply for being the place where author Ian Fleming dreamed up his character James Bond, agent 007. The cool factor increased when Island Records founder Chris Blackwell bought the estate in 1976 and expanded it into a 52-acre resort with villas that spill onto Low Cay Beach. Guests can

kayak off a private dock, bike to Firefly (playwright Noël Coward's former home), or take a jet-ski safari. But the best part about GoldenEye is that it gives back to the community: In 1995 Blackwell started the Oracabessa Foundation, which supports programs like youth sports leagues and vocational training. *From \$400. goldeneye.com*

2

RITZ-CARLTON

San Francisco

In renovating the interior of this landmark hotel, designers drew inspiration from both the San Francisco Bay and couture fashion. The rooms' color schemes take cues from the steely blue and grays of the city's fog, and the furnishings, including tweed fabric chairs, are a nod to men's tailoring. While the hotel's look has changed, its com-

mitment to charities hasn't wavered. The staff donates unclaimed clothing from the lost and found to the Salvation Army, and every year sends 2,000 pounds of leftover soap to Clean the World, which recycles and distributes it to disadvantaged people around the world to prevent hygiene-related illnesses. *From \$399. ritzcarlton.com*

3

SIX SENSES

Douro Valley, Portugal

The ecofriendly Six Senses brand debuted its first European property in July on 20 acres of vine-covered land overlooking the Douro River. Guests can geek out on port at the in-house Wine Library or indulge in a grape-based scrub at the 24,000-square-foot spa. A bottle of Portuguese wine is an essential souvenir, but

guests should also consider purchasing a miniature donkey figurine made with wool and Portuguese clay. The indigenous Miranda donkey has been adopted as the hotel's mascot, and 50 percent of profits from the sale of each replica is donated to a local rescue association that works to protect the endangered animal. *From \$270. sixsenses.com*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF THE RITZ-CARLTON, SAN FRANCISCO (2); JESSICA SAMPLE

THE REAL CARIBBEAN 12 ISLAND MYTHS, DEBUNKED

INDIE FILMS. TASTEFUL RESORTS. GAY-FRIENDLY ISLANDS. A FOOD CULTURE THAT WOULD MAKE ALICE WATERS PROUD. PLUS, HOW TO EXPLORE WAY, WAY BEYOND THE BEACH. (YES, EVEN DURING HURRICANE SEASON.)

MYTH #7

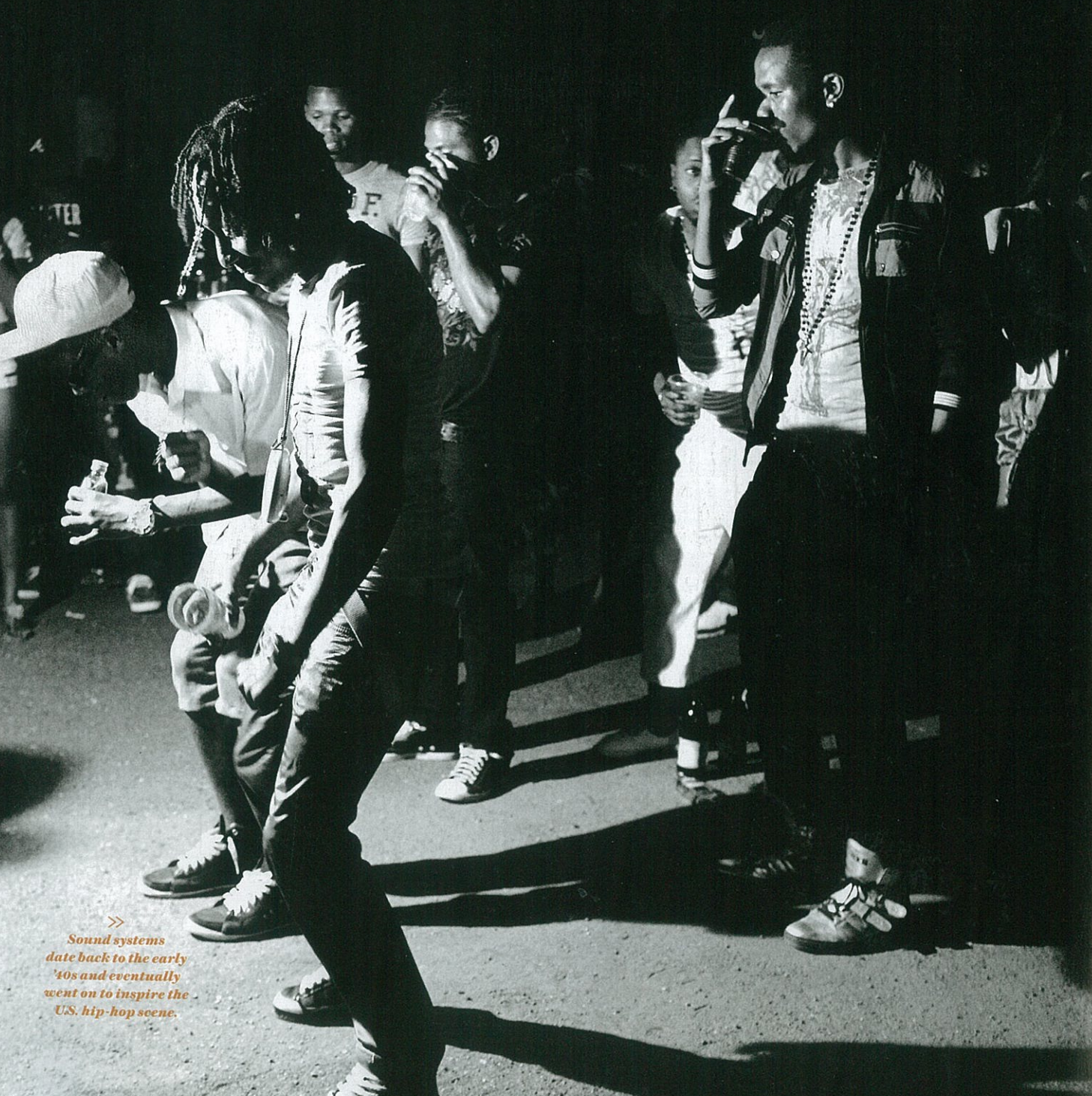
THERE'S A REGGAE BAND IN EVERY BAR

Chris Blackwell, the music legend who introduced Bob Marley to the world, reveals the real Jamaican scene.

FOR TRAVELERS whose reggae experience begins and ends with Bob Marley's *Legend*, Jamaica's music landscape may be the island's biggest surprise. "It's never really been a place to hear live bands," says Chris Blackwell, founder of Island Records, the label that launched Marley and others. "Most of the music on albums was

created in studios, with session players. If you want to be around music, you go to the sound systems." Imagine a gathering of multiple DJs spinning everything from reggae and ska to dancehall, music booming from an improvised wall of speakers in a borrowed church hall or parking lot. Young Jamaicans dance, sweaty Red Stripes in hand, and at any moment, a

sound clash—the DJ equivalent of a dance-off—could erupt. To find one in touristy Montego Bay, watch for fliers in Trelawny and St. James or ask your local bartender. Or head to Kingston. "Monday is the big night there," says Jamaican music aficionado Jesse Serwer of Largeup.com. "Mojito Mondays at Susie's Bakery—a café by day—is very popular." —STEVE BENNETT



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Sound systems date back to the early '40s and eventually went on to inspire the U.S. hip-hop scene.