



NASSAU, BAHAMAS

One&Only Ocean Club

RESORT
SPOTLIGHT

Like any grand hotel worth its salt, One&Only Ocean Club has a glittering history. It began as the site of Shangri-La, a palatial private estate built by a wealthy Swedish industrialist in 1939, with gardens modeled after those at Versailles. Twenty years later, it was sold to A&P heir Huntington Hartford II, who constructed a swanky 52-room hotel, carved out a harbor for yachts and added a 12th-century cloister (once owned by William Randolph Hearst) to the gardens. He christened it the Ocean Club and tossed a lavish opening party with a guest list of Hollywood swells, New York high society and plenty of royalty.

In the decades since, the hotel has undergone expansions and modernizations, but it still retains much of that original glamour. A redesign of the historic Hartford Wing by Jeffrey Beers International was recently unveiled; its 52 rooms were enlarged and given a sleek makeover, while the 50-room beachfront Crescent Wing saw a refresh of its island-tinged

decor. The most welcome change is the addition of a 125-foot-long infinity-edge oceanfront pool; next to it is the new Ocean Pool Grill, a casual outdoor lunch and dinner spot with a menu that focuses on seafood.

As you might expect, the chairs around this pool fill up quickly. Fortunately, there are two more pools — a family-friendly pool and the Versailles pool, named for its location at the foot of the gardens. And what gardens they are: seven tiered levels of green hedges and flowers separated by low stone walls and dotted with marble and bronze statues. Crowning it all are Gothic arches — the ancient cloister — overlooking Nassau Harbor.

For the athletic-minded, there are six outdoor tennis courts, a fitness area with an indoor/outdoor weight room and yoga classes on the Beach Deck. Or your most strenuous activity can be deciding which cocktail to order at the Dune Bar (try the Casino Royale martini) and whether to splurge on a four-hand massage at the spa (definitely). — *Jennifer Ceaser*



PLAN YOUR STAY

GOOD NEIGHBORS

All Atlantis resort facilities (casino, water park, beaches) are complimentary to Ocean Club guests; free round-trip SUV shuttle service (a five-minute drive) is provided.

FRENCH CONNECTION

The signature restaurant Dune, from noted chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten, brings a touch of France to the Bahamas. Our pick: the mushroom pizza with organic egg.

THE FACTS Rooms from \$715, villas from \$11,700; oneandonlyresorts.com

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VILLAGE VIBES

The all-inclusive Meliá brand cuts the ribbon on a family-friendly beachfront resort in Jamaica's Rio Bueno, 45 minutes from Montego Bay. **Meliá Braco Village** is all its name suggests: 226 rooms, six restaurants, three bars, two pools, a spa and basketball and tennis courts. Craving couple time? Take advantage of the onsite baby-sitting service and relax at the Chill Out Bar. Rooms from \$200 per person, per night; melia.com

FREE YOUR MIND

St. Regis Bahia Beach Resort's Be Here, Be Now program, in partnership with Michael Miller, invites meditation in specially marked outdoor sites around the Puerto Rico property, including a quiet stretch of beach. Rooms from \$525; stregisbahia.com



SICILIAN HIDEAWAY

Yet another reason to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Noto, Sicily: the just-opened 22-room hotel **Masseria della Volpe**. Strategically placed gardens, terraces and balconies attached to guest rooms allow for sweeping views of the island's ancient Noto Valley and the deep-blue Mediterranean. Wander the grounds, full of olive and carob trees; try your hand at a game of bocce; or indulge in a treatment at the spa, whose walls were built from lava quarried from nearby Mount Etna. Rooms from \$143; masseriadellavolpe.it



TEMPTATION ISLAND

Kamalame Cay's new monthly Progressive Dinner Series goes beyond the typical tasting-table experience. Shuttle via "sand chariot" (aka golf cart) to a different villa for each of the three courses, which feature provisions sourced within 25 miles of the private Bahamian island resort. End up at the beach, where a bonfire and sweet treats await. \$195 per person; kamalame.com