

TOP 5 RESORTS
FOR FAMILIES

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WHAT REALLY HAPPENS

Inside a Megaresort in Jamaica?

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THE BEST VIEW
(WITH A ROOM)

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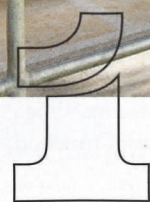
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OUR TOP 5 PICKS FOR SIMPLICITY



CANEEL BAY

St. John (USVI) \$459+

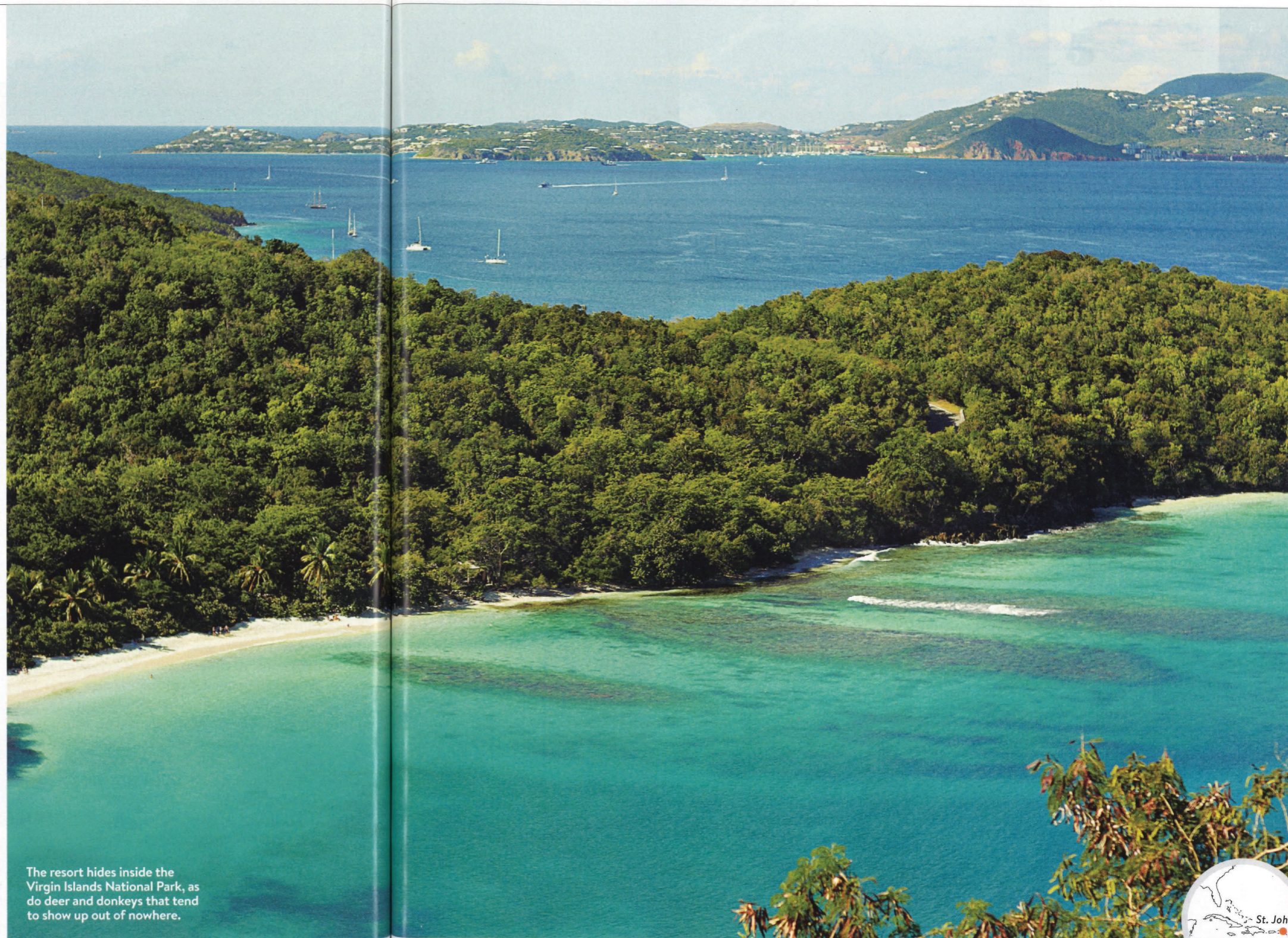
■ WHY IT'S SIMPLE: The concierge at Caneel Bay Resort, like most people on St. John, is speaking plain English. But his offer to help me get up early tomorrow morning doesn't make sense. One of his words throws me.

"Would I like a wake-up *what?*?" I ask as he walks me to a waterfront room.

"Would you like a wake-up *knock,*" he repeats matter-of-factly.

After I take a look around, his words start to register. In a place so very connected to its pristine national-park surroundings, anything but a gentle morning tap on the door would create the unthinkable: noise.

Caneel Bay was founded in 1956 by one of the pioneers of ecotourism, Laurance Rockefeller. In keeping with the resort's unplugged pedigree, I've ditched my mobile device. With it went any chance of waking up on my own to snorkel the reefs near Honeymoon Beach — one of seven slices of sugar-white sand on the sprawling 170-acre property. Rooms at the low-key luxe resort have no television, alarm clock or hard-wired phone. The concierge has a solution, and it sounds like a smart one. caneelbay.com — David LaHuta



The resort hides inside the Virgin Islands National Park, as do deer and donkeys that tend to show up out of nowhere.



THE FLIGHT TO ST. JOHN

There are no airports on St. John, so you take a nonstop flight to St. Thomas from one of seven U.S. cities. When you see cruise ships in the harbor, you'll be glad that your itinerary is about to take you far away.

AT THE AIRPORT

After downing a few Cruzan rum samples, claim your bags at the open-air carousel and take them to the resort's airport lounge. This is where you check in, and it might be the last time you use your phone.

THE ROUTE TO CANEEL BAY

A 10-minute taxi ride takes you to a private ferry on the Charlotte Amalie waterfront. Sit on the sun-splashed deck, grab a rum punch and enjoy views of the "other" Virgin Islands (belonging to the British).

FIRST IMPRESSION

It's almost impossible to look away from the turquoise Caribbean and its white sand. But entering Caneel offers a distraction: the welcome gift of a cool lavender-scented towel for the face.