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REGGAE, ROOTS & LUXURY: Caribbean Music Festivals Paired With Plush Accommodations

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Bankie Bank Performing at Moonsplash, Anguilla (PHOTO: Courtesy of Anguilla Tourist Board, William Boyd)

WHERE: Montego Bay, Jamaica

WHEN: July

ATTEND: Reggae Sumfest

I must have lauded this event in over a dozen publications by now; how many more ways can I say that Reggae Sumfest is, quite simply, the be-all-and-end-all of reggae festivals? Since 1992 it's attracted tens of thousands for stellar performances by the big names in Jamaican music, from Shabba Ranks to Beres Hammond and all the Marley sons. Three nights of shows, staged on an enormous field encircled by food and drink vendors, conclude well after the sun has come up. I mean *well* after—bring sunscreen for the closing set. By the end of the weekend, you'll be amazed at your own stamina. And you'll have earned an unofficial doctorate in reggae music. Reggaesumfest.com

STAY: Round Hill Hotel and Villas

Abovementioned stamina demands a plush place to rest your reggae-fied soul. Round Hill is that place. It's a 110-acre boutique property featuring 27 luxury villas, 36 oceanfront rooms designed by Ralph Lauren, an infinity pool and pristine beach, exquisite organic dining—dishes like jerk chicken summer rolls, curry goat and butter curry lobster are locally sourced, with ingredients from the hotel's divine organic garden—and a newly renovated spa whose “smoothie shots” of wheatgrass, spirulina, acai, goji and protein are the perfect antidote to the night before. Given its storied legacy—the onetime sugarcane plantation became a resort in the 1950s, hosting the likes of Sir Noel Coward and Oscar Hammerstein—Round Hill could easily sit back and rest on its laurels. Instead it keeps upgrading; the latest addition is a gleaming 2,300-square-foot fitness center with open courtyards and yoga pavilions. Roundhill.com



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