



ROUND HILL HOTEL AND VILLAS LOOKS TO FUTURE WITH ECO-FRIENDLY CORAL GARDEN PROJECT
Classic Jamaican Resort Working with Marine Biologist to Restore Local Sea Life



MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA (July 9, 2018) – [Round Hill Hotel and Villas](#) has been ramping up its environmental and community responsibility efforts by working with local marine scientists to restore the corals, fish, and shellfish to the property’s house-reef through a small no-fishing sanctuary, augmented through coral culture and active reef enhancement techniques known as *Coral Gardening*. In restoring this ecosystem, the Round Hill Reef Gardens will become healthier and better able to sustain local sea life, including contributing to the local fishery downstream.

“We are incredibly proud to be part of such a worthwhile cause, as well as raising much-needed awareness of how to protect our reefs,” said Round Hill’s Managing Director, Josef Forstmayr.



Round Hill has partnered with coral restoration specialist Dr. Andrew Ross of Seascope Caribbean, to propagate nursery culture and replant **5,000 corals to the Round Hill Reef Gardens** over three years. To-date, the project has planted 1,100 golden ecosystem-keystone branching corals and is currently re-setting the nurseries with coral lineages that have shown resilience to elevated sea temperatures.

“The Round Hill bay’s reefscape was in relatively reasonable condition at the beginning of this project. Our progress in this first year has been promising, even as a year of exceptional sea temperatures and storms. Survivorship and continued vigor of the planted corals is strong and we are seeing notable improvements in fish abundances and diversities already, even before formally implementing the “No-Fishing, Please” element. We are very

grateful to partner with Round Hill in this vital initiative,” said Dr. Ross.

Part of this restoration process is [the “gardening” of corals](#), which is the process of growing tiny coral “nubbin” cuttings in a nursery, and then planting those grown and energized corals back in the reef. These corals, in turn, provide vital nursery habitats for baby fish, lobsters and crabs, increasing total numbers for all sea life. The overflow of these

abundances move beyond the no-fishing area to contribute to local livelihoods, and then back to Round Hill's fresh and local menu.

Local spear-fishermen have been trained and employed to tend to the Reef Garden including the existing and new corals in order to accelerate the renewal of balance to Round Hill's reefscape. These fisher-technicians are the program's "Reef Gardeners" – the work being analogous to what one might do to maintain the front-yard roses: weeding algae, picking snails and worms and similar hands-on facilitations to the growing coral colonies and ecosystem. The Reef Gardeners also link and communicate this program, its ethos and intentions to the local fishers and community, as well as Round Hill's staff, as it is ultimately for the betterment of Hopewell and its downstream communities.

To bring further awareness to this effort, Round Hill looks to provide educational tours to guests as well as to area schoolchildren by snorkeling and glass-bottom boat, the Reef Gardeners to provide the interpretive guiding.

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About Round Hill Hotel and Villas:

Round Hill Hotel and Villas is situated on a lush 110-acre peninsula just west of Montego Bay, Jamaica. Boasting a guest list of world leaders, cultural icons and Hollywood A-listers, this classic resort continues to attract a jet-set from around the world who enjoy timeless glamour and understated luxury along with pristine natural beaches and the inimitable Caribbean waters. Accommodations include 36 Ralph Lauren-designed oceanfront guest rooms, 90 luxurious villa rooms and suites or a selection of 27 private 2 - 6 bedroom Villas – most with private pools. Other highlights include open-air terrace dining and The Grill at Round Hill, award-winning family programs, an infinity pool, tennis courts, and an Elemis spa located in a beautifully-restored 18th century plantation house. For more information, please visit www.roundhill.com or call (876) 956-7050.

Media Contact:

Alison Peters // Christina O'Donnell

The Brandman Agency

212.683.2442

alison@brandmanagency.com // christina@brandmanagency.com