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EDITOR'S LETTER

This is the time of year when I find myself dreaming of blue skies and warm sunshine, clear seas and soft sands; of secret islands and private beaches... in other words, a complete fantasy of escape from the darkness of a British winter. All of which is why it has been such a pleasure to compile the *Harper's Bazaar* travel guide for 2014, with its insider information on the loveliest hotels and most desirable destinations. We hope you'll find exactly what you're looking to discover: whether honeymoon hideaways or family resorts, fashionable hotspots or tranquil retreats, grande-dame classics or the latest in modernist suites. In an era when a myriad of different options can feel confusing rather than liberating, *Bazaar*'s longstanding expertise offers a curated selection of the very best choices in tailormade travel. So, without further delay, relax, read on and enjoy: your journey starts here...

Justine Picardie

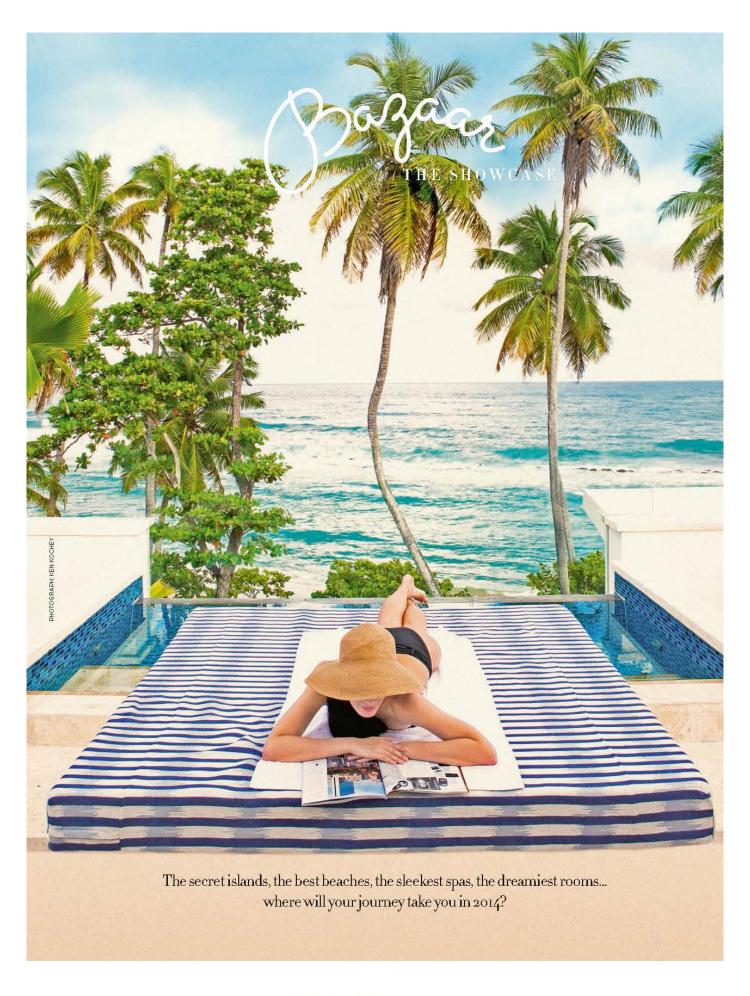
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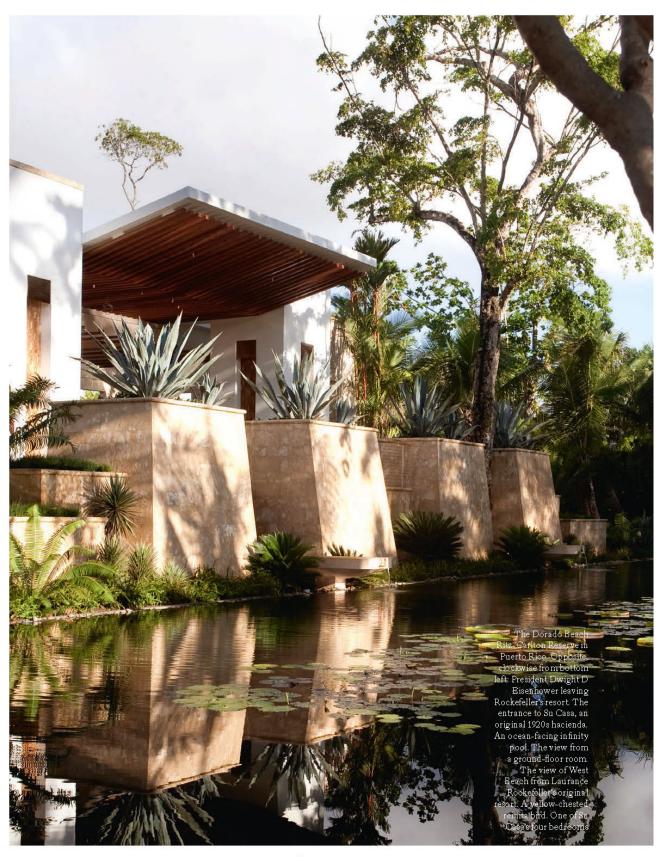
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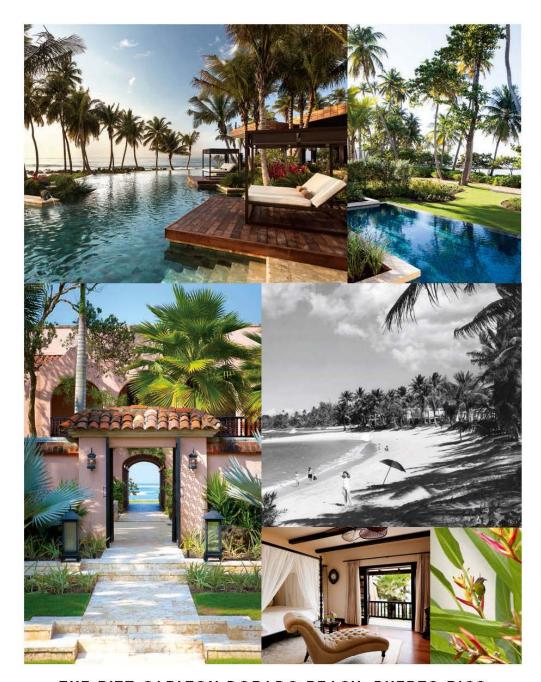
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THE RITZ-CARLTON DORADO BEACH, PUERTO RICO

The Ritz-Carlton's latest resort, Dorado Beach in Puerto Rico, has all the gleaming new features that you'd expect from a luxury hotel (infinity pools, gourmet restaurants, an immaculate golf course and a treehouse spa). But it also has a history that money can't buy: for this was originally the estate of Clara Livingston, an American plantation owner and pilot, whose aviator friend Amelia Earhart came to visit just before her final flight in 1937. In 1955, Livingston sold the property to Laurance Rockefeller, who spent three years turning it

into a stylish destination for the rich and famous, including John F Kennedy, Dwight Eisenhower and Ava Gardner. This legacy survives: Livingston's villa, Su Casa, has been beautifully restored, and the beach remains as gorgeous as it ever was when Hollywood legends frolicked on the golden sands. The Ritz-Cariton Dorado Beach (+1 787 626 1100; www.ritzcariton.com/en/properties/doradobeach), from about £870 a room a night plus tax.

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