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JANUARY 2013 £3.99

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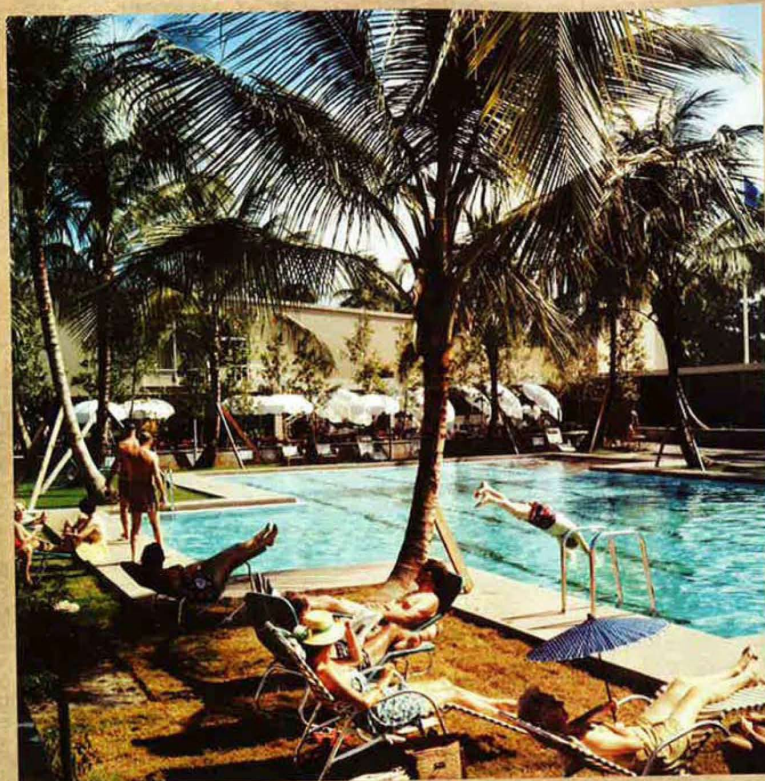
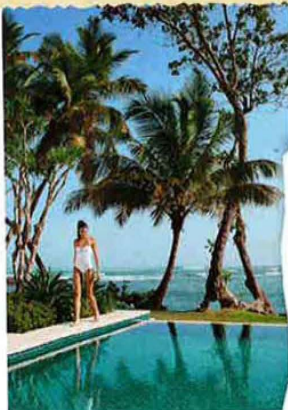


PRISAGROUP®

Word of mouth



Right, the pool at Dorado Beach in 1959. From top: former guests Dwight D Eisenhower (and family) and Amelia Earhart; a guest room today; the beach; the pool as it is now; Ava Gardner



GOLDEN OLDIE



Long before Joaquin Phoenix and Jennifer Lopez were ready for their close-ups, another Puerto Rican name was making it big in Hollywood. Dorado Beach, on the Caribbean island's east coast, was where A-listers such as Ava Gardner, Joe DiMaggio, Liz Taylor and JFK topped up tans and swung golf clubs, hosted by eco-pioneer Laurance Rockefeller. Like many a Fifties star, the resort's career began in the 1920s, when the free-spirited Clara Livingstone – a whip-cracking, pistol-toting sort of girl – built a hacienda called Su Casa on a coconut plantation. Now, the hacienda has been restored (along with Clara's writing desk) as the centrepiece villa of a new Ritz-Carlton Reserve. Despite the international name, the resort is surprisingly small (just 120 rooms) and is intent on providing a genuinely Puerto Rican experience, from oysters Piña Colada and *lechón asado* (roast pig) to spa treatments using island plant life, which can also be explored on the Rockefeller Nature Trail through forests and along the sands that gave the resort its name. www.ritzcarlton.com. Doubles from US\$800



Above, Laurance Rockefeller with a spit roast at Dorado Beach. Left, the balcony at Su Casa