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Coral Reef Club – The Daily Telegraph 16th July 2011

BARBADOS

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Sleep A luxury family-run hotel since the Fifties, Coral Reef Club sits on a beautiful crescent of white sand on the island's west coast. Pretty coral stone cottages, filled with mahogany furniture, are dotted around the frangipani-fragrant grounds of the plantation-style resort, which also has two swimming pools, an excellent restaurant and a recently revamped spa.

Eat Caribbean-inspired delicacies, such as snapper with spinach and sweet potato, are on the menu at the open-sided Palm Terrace restaurant at the west-coast resort of Fairmont Royal Pavilion. Pale-pink Moorish arches, fairy lights, marble floors and sweeping sea views create a romantic atmosphere, while the service is among the best in the Caribbean.

Don't miss St Nicholas Abbey. Built in 1657, this former plantation mansion is one of only a few remaining 17th-century houses in the Caribbean and offers a fascinating insight into life on a sugar plantation. Entrance tickets also include access to the formal gardens and nearby rum distillery.