

# DREAM ESCAPES

With silken shores, dew-drenched rainforest and an abundance of wildlife, this diminutive island is a slice of paradise

## Dominica

Occupying a treecarpeted promontory in Dominica's north-west corner, Secret Bay (3) couldn't be more idvllic. Raised wooden verandas and private dipping pools give the villas a treehouselike feel and mellow mood, while the Caribbean Sea is a skip away. Guests are encouraged to do as much or as little as they wish it's a terrific jumping-off point for island escapades of all kinds.

#### TASTE

Suppers are a profoundly romantic affair at Secret Bay's canopied restaurant, Zing Zing (1), where island-to-table dishes are served against the most ravishing backdrop. If you fancy an evening in, a cook can come to your villa to whip up course after course of palatepleasing brilliance. For a truly immersive culinary experience, try the chefled workshops, from

foraging for garnishes in the dense foliage to mastering the de-spining of a venomous lionfish.

### INDULGE

High up in the forest canopy, soundtracked by chirruping birds and open to the salt-tinged sea air, the Gommier Spa is every bit as serene as you might hope. Reassuringly firm massages loosen stiff joints and melt away tensions. leaving you feeling as light as air.

#### EXPLORE

Lying halfway between Martinique and Guadeloupe, this under-the-radar isle remains gloriously unspoilt. Adventureseeking types can trek through the vast Morne Trois Pitons National Park and cool off in the cascades that fill the Emerald Pools (2), or head to the southern end of the island to glimpse breaching sperm whales. The less intrepid can stretch out on the powder-soft shores or drift along the mangroveentangled Indian River, past age-old bwa mang trees, in a traditional caribe boat.

WHAT TO PACK Solid & Striped The Olympia swimsuit, £170.

From matchesfashion.com

Golden Tan Maximizer After Sun Oil, £24 From cultbeauty.co.uk

> By Alona Forment anklet, £60. Visit byalona.com

Keira Knightley has spent time filming on Dominica

> Inspiring Travel Company offers three nights at Secret Bay Dominica from £2,055pp based on two adults sharing a Ylang Ylang Villa, including breakfast, flights and private transfer. Visit inspiringtravelcompany.co.uk. For up-to-date travel advice, visit gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice.