



Carlisle Bay

Antigua, Caribbean

This place swarms with families – in a good way. It's contained and sophisticated, with enough lickety-split slickness to make parents happy, and enough crab-catching, throwing and chucking to amuse the little fruits. Take one of the two- or three-bedroom suites and step straight out on to a great beach – not always guaranteed in the Caribbean, but deeply crucial. This place is good-looking, lush and smart. There's a Hamptonesque bleached-floorboards-and-shutters look that is fresh and bang-on. And the menus are exactly what you want – seared tuna and lemon couscous – even if the staff do tend to mill about by the swing doors like a coven of teenagers. Carlisle Bay is urbane, savvy without being snobby – the perfect place for people who still have all their teeth. **Website** carlisle-bay.com. **UK reservations** 0161 491 7629. **Rates** Double, from £390, including breakfast.



Kinondo Kwetu

Diani Beach, Kenya

Something new on the Kenyan coast – hallelujah! An amazing hideaway, with a style that reflects the sophisticated Swedish owners. It's like a stage set, but without being phoney. There are lots of nooks for quiet moments, two pools – including one for the tadpoles – and a lovely slice of beach that isn't vast, but is pristine. The place is big into yoga and has its own horses, tennis court and dive centre. The Shimba Hills Reserve (not huge but it will do) has elephants and giraffes – never underestimate how much children love giraffes (nor grown-ups juicy cocktails out on the dhow at sunset). The food is properly good and the staff will conjure up what the children want at a moment's notice. An instant hit. **Website** kinondo-kwetu.com. **UK reservations** African & Indian Explorations (tel: 01993 822443). **Rates** Double, from £425, full board. ▷