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& honeymoons

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THE SECRET CELLAR

When you think of Caribbean-style beverages, rum punch, piña colodas and Red Stripe usually come to mind. But world-class wine? That's exactly the draw at La Samanna, a sumptuous 81-room resort on the cuisine-centric island of St. Martin. Not only do they have a gorgeous beach, plush suites and exceptional service, but there's something extra: one of the top wine lists in the region. The resort's cellar houses an impressive collection of labels from 11 different countries, hand-picked by resident expert Thibaut Asso. When guests commented how much they enjoyed getting a peek inside the actual wine cellar, the hotel decided to redesign the room and open it as an intimate dining venue. Now you can join other guests for weekly tastings or reserve the space for a private dinner for two, complete with a customized menu and Asso himself nearby to select accompanying wines and uncork bottles that catch your eye. Dinner from \$400 per person for a private seating, including wine. Rooms from \$950. — SUSAN MOYNIHAN

