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Mann About Town

| LIVING WELL IN NEW YORK |

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TRUE LOVE

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PUTS YOU
IN THE
SPOTLIGHT



MOLLY CRABAPPLE
DRAWS YOU IN



La Samanna

"It all starts with a dream, when an urgency pushes your imagination to envision that which cannot be seen yet. This is what you need most, hours to dream, just dream, and rest, and read, and be restored in a place where food for the spirit is top on the menu."

These words welcome each guest arriving at La Samanna, encouraging a vacation that offers not only rest but inspiration, defining a mission that carries through to every detail of this famous Orient-Express resort on the Caribbean island of French St. Martin.

Ranked by *Travel + Leisure* magazine and Andrew Harper's *Holiday Report* as one of the best hotels in the Caribbean, La Samanna guests arrive from continents all over the globe in search of peace and pleasure, in a state of luxury and complete privacy.

From the beginning, the hotel's traditional code of silence has protected visitors from outside solicitation, earning La Samanna the privilege of hosting some of the most renowned royalty, celebrities and business leaders in recent history.

Its very geography secures its seclusion, being the only commercial entity on 55 acres in the premiere residential community of Terres Basses. In addition to its exclusive neighborhood setting, the hotel is on the waterfront of Baie Longue, one of the longest white sand beachfronts on the island of St. Martin.

Reminiscent of the whitewashed, sunny villas on the shores of the Mediterranean, La Samanna's arched doorways and sun-dappled breezeways open to the sea are complimented by elegant interiors designed for comfort. Featuring warm wicker, bamboo and hardwood furniture, each is accented with light translucent colors reminiscent of the Caribbean sky and sea, reflecting the island's rich Creole culture.

All rooms feature ocean views with a special treat offered to those that book a Terrace Suite. In addition to a separate living room, bedroom and petite kitchen, the terrace suites feature private roof top terraces each with a plunge pool, bistro table and chairs for dining, chaise lounges, shaded gazebo lounge, and an outdoor shower – perfect for those that want the added luxury of a private alfresco oasis with breath-taking views.

While the quality of the accommodation gets top marks, La Sa-

manna is equally renowned for its restaurant and extensive wine cellar. The restaurant's chef Daniel Elchasseriau perfectly blends Caribbean flavors with the best of French provisions to create a menu that is undeniably crave worthy. And for the Oenophile, the hotel's wine cellar is considered to be the most extensive in the Caribbean. The cellar which houses over 10,000 bottles of wine, is reached via a back-of-the-house alfresco entry that is illuminated with torches. Inside, heirloom cobblestone floors from France (dating back over 200 years), arched portals, and wrought iron accents create a warm vintage feel that makes one feel transported to a castle in France. In addition to regular wine tastings for guests, the cellar can be booked for private tastings and dinners for 2 to 8 people.

When one is not wining or dining, the hotel's Elysee spa with its indoor/outdoor tropical garden treatment rooms give new meaning to rejuvenation and pampering with an extensive offering of massage and body treatments as well as facials, manicures and pedicures. A large fitness center, along with a regular offering of classes including yoga, pilates and tennis ensure that wellness is part of the La Samanna experience.


Of course, a full range of water sports is available. Scuba, snorkeling, sailing, water-skiing, kayaking or yacht charter – choose the way you want to play and the staff will take care of the details. For an extra touch of beach front luxury don't miss the opportunity to rent one of the hotel's beach cabanas. These spacious cabanas with wood floors and privacy drapes are equipped with two iPod minis with a selection of music, champagne, L'Occitane Provence toiletries, and the services of a cabana attendant to ensure cold water, fresh towels and lunch served at exactly the right moment. In addition to providing butler style service, the attendant can also arrange for spa treatments in the privacy of the cabana.

The staff of the hotel often comment that once ensconced in the luxury of La Samanna, many guests rarely venture off property. The island of St. Martin, however, is one that should be explored for its unique blend of cultures. The French side is renowned for secluded beaches, fantastic duty free shopping (featuring the latest in French fashions), restaurants and cafes that entice with the smell of fresh croissants mixed with the spicy aromas of West Indian cooking. On the Dutch side, the Casinos and night clubs provide lively evening options.



Average temperatures are between 80 to 85 degrees year-round making it an ideal location to warm the body and soul with days spent on the water or at the beach, while evenings are perfect for viewing a sunset in quiet solitude or pulsating to the beat of local steel bands.

And while the hotel's rates are in keeping with the luxury category and typically start at \$950 per night we found their special "Stay Another Day at La Samanna" package to be a great value. Starting at just \$1,425 for an ocean view room or \$6,125 for the dreamy terrace suites, you receive four nights (one night is free) and daily breakfast, plus non-motorized water sports and use of the fitness center and tennis.

Whatever your whim, guests of La Samanna are perfectly positioned to hide-away in the hotel's luxe surroundings or explore the many island offerings. The concierge can arrange for a private driver, tour guide or luxury car rental. 

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