

Caribbean Escapes

Four new island hotels offer nature, tranquility, and just the right amount of creature comforts | *By* **MARGARET LOFTUS**



St. Regis is nestled near the rain forest.

ST. REGIS BAHIA BEACH RESORT, PUERTO RICO Set on a former coconut plantation at the foot of the El Yunque rain forest, this hotel was designed and constructed with the rich biodiversity of its surroundings in mind, earning it top honors from sustainable building nonprofit Audubon International. The plantation-style property features modern rooms with classic Caribbean accents like recessed beamed ceilings, rattan ceiling fans, and private terraces. Hydroponic and raised-bed gardens grow vegetables and herbs used at Fern, the French-Asian restaurant run by Jean-Georges Vongerichten. From \$439. ■