

EXPERT ADVICE
ON THIS MONTH'S
DESTINATIONS

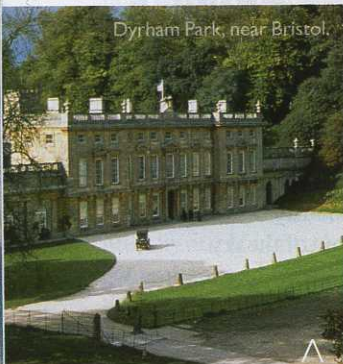
P&P

PLACES & PRICES >   

CALIFORNIA

202

From Bodega Bay to the redwoods farther down the peninsula, see the sights that inspired Alfred Hitchcock.

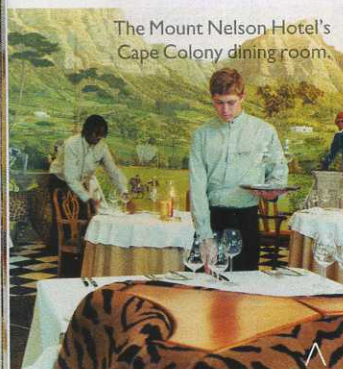


Dyrham Park, near Bristol.

ENGLISH MANORS

207

These ten historic country palaces frequently star in period films and make for ideal one-day jaunts from nearby towns.



The Mount Nelson Hotel's Cape Colony dining room.

CAPE TOWN

208

Two decades after apartheid's end, Cape Town is a city reborn, with new restaurants and hotels—and a new sense of pride.



Bay watch: Basking in the view from Cap Juluca, favored by Hollywood royalty.

Tranquil Anguilla

This island's *modus operandi*, discovers *Susan Hack*, is unassuming luxury: Exclusive resorts and villas share the public coastline with rental cottages and seafood shacks

The buzz surrounding Anguilla is about celebrities and sumptuous digs, but a laid-back atmosphere and uncrowded beaches create its enduring appeal. Go to Captains Bay for wild waves, Rendezvous Bay for millpond-calm swimming, and Shoal Bay East for a little of everything: body surfing, sheltered snorkeling, and beach bars dotting stretches of empty sand. The entire coast is public, so you can stroll from beach to beach, even those dominated by luxury hotels or mansions. Wear reef walkers to protect your feet, and use mosquito repellent, especially at sunset.

You'll need a car to get around (local rates start at \$30 a day, including insurance) and a boat to reach the best snorkeling reefs. **Garfield Richardson** has small fishing vessels in addition to the sexy *Sunseeker* (497-2956; boats from \$100 per hour for four people). Contact **Sir Emile Gumbs** for Tuesday-morning bird-watching and historical tours (497-2711). Follow your walk with breakfast at the **Roadwell Café**, the colonial-style clubhouse of the Anguilla Golf Association, in Sandy Ground (497-3210; breakfast, \$7-\$10). In East End, the impressively curated **Heritage Collection Museum** has artifacts ranging from the golden age of the Arawak Indians to the British invasion of the island in 1969 (497-4092).

The area code for Anguilla is 264. Prices quoted are for the high season (typically Jan.–March). The nearest U.S. consulate is on Calle César Nicolás Penson, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (809-221-2171; usemb.gov.do).

Lodging

 Eight large beach villas and 20 small rooms constitute the **Rendezvous Bay Hotel and Villas**. An upgrade is in the works, but for now, it has a friendly, faded B&B feel. With a parrot, golden retrievers, and the best snorkeling spot on a calm, two-mile beach, it's an ideal base for young families who want to join the old regulars (497-6549; rendezvousbay.com; doubles, \$130-\$295). Its **Cedar Grove Restaurant** serves Caribbean-inspired seafood and makes a lovely outdoor lunch spot (lunch entrées, \$16-\$45).

The 93-room **CuisinArt Resort & Spa**, also on Rendezvous Bay, exists because the government insisted that its owner—inventor of the pistol hair dryer and other appliances—invest in a hotel instead of a house. Its Mykonos-inspired architecture is a bit bland, but foodies appreciate the hydroponic farm, organic garden, and cooking classes with Daniel Orr, formerly of New York's La Grenouille. Aquatic kickboxing is one of 50 activities to help you burn off

Right: Photograph by Melanie Acevedo. Bottom left: Photograph by Lisa Linnar