



## ANGUILLA MALLIOUHANA RESORT AND SPA

**W**HEN MALLIOUHANA (THE Arawak Indian name for Anguilla) opened in 1982, it made an enormous splash—for its dramatic headland setting, vaguely Moorish architecture, and enormous marble

bathrooms, which set a new resort standard. When the 15,000-square-foot spa opened in 2002, it caused barely a ripple—I don't know why—despite being one of the best and most beautiful in the Caribbean. A two-story \$5 million glass-and-white-stucco building (top) done in the same style as the rest of the resort, it commands an ocean view. However, the interiors are warmer, with an earth-tone palette and floors of bamboo and tile. Three of the eight treatment rooms are spa suites, with bathrooms and private terraces.

The spa's menu is rooted in director Tanya Clark's long experience in Japan and Thailand, and her partially Asian staff executes it with aplomb. Ticky, one of two Thai massage therapists, perfectly delivered the Suite Dreams treatment (150 minutes, \$325), a hydrotherapy bath followed by a scalp massage,

citrus salt glow, and Swedish-inspired massage. Her colleague Tang gave me a stellar Balinese massage (60 minutes, \$95).

The things that made Malliouhana a milestone in the Caribbean are still there: the enormous rooms (the smallest is 720 square feet); the fan-shaped cliff-top restaurant with a drop-dead ocean view; chef Alain Laurent, from the three-Michelin-star restaurant of La Bonne Auberge in Antibes, France; the wine cellar of 25,000 bottles, second to none in the region; the gorgeous beach. Some things have changed for the better: Laurent's French-Caribbean cuisine is much lighter than it used to be. And some haven't: The 55 rooms (inset), which seemed so beautifully spare in the '80s, now look underfurnished and the rattan pieces a bit pedestrian. As for connectivity—there's no TV, radio, clock, or Internet portal in the rooms—that's your call. On balance, though, Malliouhana, 23 years on, is solidly in the top tier of Caribbean resorts. —E.P.

**Rates** \$640-\$3,030 **Reservations** 800-835-0796

**Website** [www.malliouhana.com](http://www.malliouhana.com)



MAP ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEVE STANKIEWICZ