

TRAVELER'S NOTEBOOK

HEAVEN IN DEVON

Few English hotels have as fine a pedigree as Devon's **HOTEL ENDSLEIGH**. Designed in the early 19th century by Sir Jeffrey Wyattville as a Regency cottage for Georgina, Duchess of Bedford, it is a symphony of gray stonework, tall chimneys and leaded windows set in more than a hundred acres of magnificent woods and gardens, which were landscaped by Humphrey Repton. Last year it was beautifully restored and decorated by Olga Polizzi, the acclaimed interior designer known for her work with Tresanton in Cornwall and Rocco Forte Hotels (Forte is her brother). Endsleigh is intimate, with just sixteen bedrooms, and caters to a grown-up clientele—retired British gentlemen and young professionals who come for the weekend. The

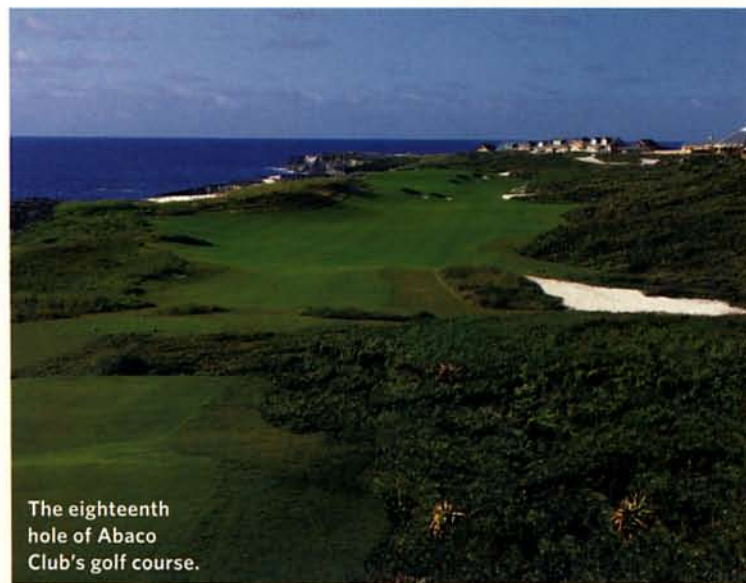


A guest room at Hotel Endsleigh.

decor seamlessly mixes oak paneling, marble fireplaces and antique furniture with contemporary textiles and flat-screen televisions. Even the smallest guest rooms have character, but the best, including two generous suites, look across the lawn to the Tamar River. The restaurant's largely English menu features such treats as

fillet of Devon Red Ruby beef with poached leeks and wood-mushroom ravioli. The wild expanse of Dartmoor and the historic port of Plymouth are close by, but many guests just walk in the garden, fish for salmon in the river or browse in the excellent library. *Doubles from \$344 per night. 011-44-182-287-0000; hotelendsleigh.com.*

ANTHONY GARDNER



The eighteenth hole of Abaco Club's golf course.

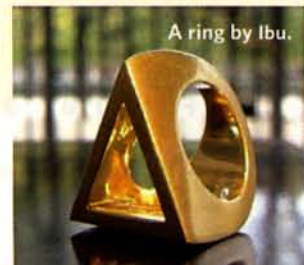
BAHAMIAN LINKS

Conjured out of jungle and rock by the British entrepreneur Peter de Savary, the **ABACO CLUB ON WINDING BAY** is an idyllic 520-acre estate in the Bahamas, with more than two miles of white, sandy beach. The club opened in late 2004 on Abaco Island, and like Skibo Castle, in Scotland, which de Savary also founded, it welcomes anyone for an initial visit; thereafter, annual dues and a refundable \$75,000 deposit must be paid. Its members, who include Sir Sean Connery, are mainly from the U.S. and sometimes bring three generations of their families with them. A private jet is available to fly visitors from selected Florida airports to the island. A principal attraction is the Scottish-style tropical links golf course skirting the ocean. Other activities include fishing, snorkeling and horseback riding, as well as the use of a gym and an Elemis spa. Guests can stay in one of twenty brightly decorated two-person "cabanas" (studios) or in a two- to four-bedroom cottage (there are sixteen so far; more are being built). The cottages, which have kitchens, are airy and elegant, with pale wood, tiled floors, giant ceiling fans and rattan furniture. Numbers four through eight, which directly overlook the beach, are the most desirable. The relaxed clubhouse restaurant serves cosmopolitan food, and the beachside bar offers a simpler menu. *Cabanas from \$1,000 per night, including breakfast; cottages from \$1,800. 888-303-2765; www.theabacoclub.com.*

A.G.

CARRYING ON Within the arcade of Paris's Palais Royal, the *Ibu Gallery* showcases the pure lines and sensual forms created by its founder, the late Irena Borzena Ustjanowski. A Polish-born American sculptor and designer of jewelry and artistic furnishings, she was known as Ibu, based on her initials. She opened her gallery in 2000, just two years before she died in a helicopter accident with her husband, France's legendary bread maker, Lionel Poilâne. Their daughters, Apollonia and Athena, now twenty-one and eighteen, assumed operation of the establishment, along with Ibu's long-time business collaborator, Cyril Ermel, and they continue to produce Ibu's limited-edition designs. Her jewelry captivated Karl Lagerfeld, and decorator Jacques Grange is a fan of her furniture. *166 Galerie de Valois; 011-33-1-42-60-06-41.*

JEAN BOND RAFFERTY



A ring by Ibu.