

The Tryall Club in Montego Bay, Jamaica isn't just a resort; it is a sprawling, 2,200-acre slice of heaven; a true masterclass in Caribbean soul and understated luxury.

What truly sets it apart is the genuine warmth of its people. From the moment you arrive, the "Tryall Family" makes you feel less like a guest and more like a long-lost resident returning to their ancestral estate. Yes Mon!

This isn't the rehearsed hospitality of a standard hotel, but a deep-seated culture of care found in the fully-staffed villas, where private chefs, live-in heads of house and housekeepers anticipate your needs before you even voice them.

It is an environment where the vibrant Jamaican spirit—one of joy, and resilience—"One Love" as the legendary Bob Marley sang—is woven into every interaction, creating a sense of belonging that is rare in the world of high-end travel.

For those drawn to the fairway, the golf experience at Tryall is legendary, if not the finest in Jamaica and throughout the entire Caribbean. The Ralph Plummer-designed championship course is a stunning journey through diverse terrain, transitioning seamlessly from dramatic oceanfront holes to lush, rolling hills.

Former host to the PGA Tour's Johnny Walker Cup, Tryall's secret sauce is the club's world-class caddies, many of whom have walked

Where Reggae Meets Royalty: The Timeless Elegance of Montego Bay's Tryall Club

By Dave Silbar

these greens for decades and offer witty commentary alongside expert reads.

Whether you are navigating the historic aqueduct on the 7th hole, being mesmerized by the constant ocean views throughout your 18-hole journey, or enjoying a beachfront dinner under the stars, Tryall manages to feel both grand and intimately personal.

Personally, my visit this past April 25 through 28 was a return to one of my favorite places on planet earth.

A big statement, I know, but I traveled to Tryall with a group of close friends in 2001 for one of the most memorable golf vacations of my life.

The most amazing part: two of the caddies—Larry and Linton— who made sure our journey back then was unlike any other were back on the bag with me and my group—a full 25 years later.

Larry, aka "Gas," and Linton probably didn't remember me but I was greeted with a hearty "Yes Mon" and immediate hugs as if I was a long-lost family member.

Making Tryall a one-of-kind resort are the 70+ villas that are available at any given time of the year. Whether housing two or 10 bedrooms, all offer magical views of the unimaginably blue Caribbean Sea—some sitting right on the oceanfront.

And all include the above-mentioned house staff.

Our home on this trip was the Sea Glass House, with Sheldon and Jason as our house hosts, meeting every single one of our needs ... and those we didn't even know we had.

Sea Glass is a six-bedroom villa featuring a pool and infinity style hot tub. Located on a private hillside along Mahogany Drive, it offers sweeping views of the Caribbean Sea and the 14th fairway of the Tryall Golf Course.

Sea Glass features an open-concept design that blends modern European style with Jamaican art and vibrant Caribbean colors. The open air design extends to the six bedrooms

which are open air during the day and comfortably air conditioned during the night.

The main Great Room opens on three sides to shaded sitting areas and a sunny pool terrace. There is a formal air-conditioned dining room that seats 18, as well as options for alfresco dining on the veranda.

Like all the villas at Tryall, Sea Glass guests have access to the full Tryall Club amenities via a three to four minute ride in the villa's two private golf carts. This includes the championship golf course, private beach club, tennis and pickleball, and more.

The Golf

The championship course at the Tryall Club, originally designed by Ralph Plummer and beautifully updated by Robert Trent Jones II, is a masterclass in Caribbean golf, seamlessly transitioning from dramatic hillside vistas to seaside challenges.

The iconic seaside par 3 that plays right over the inlet of the Flint River with the Caribbean surf on your left is the 4th hole (which was famously added to the routing in 1992 for the Johnnie Walker World Championship).

The undisputed signature of the coastal opening stretch is the breathtaking par-3 4th hole. Added to the routing in 1992, this thrilling hole forces golfers to contend with shifting ocean breezes while carrying their tee shot directly over an inlet of the Flint River. The green sits perched right against the crashing surf of the Caribbean Sea, creating a high-stakes, visual



spectacle where a miss to the left finds the beach, demanding absolute nerve right out of the gate.

As players head inland to tackle the rolling terrain, they encounter the course’s most famous historical landmark at the par-5 6th hole. After navigating a demanding drive, the true focal point of the hole reveals itself on the approach: the beautifully preserved, 200-year-old working waterwheel and aqueduct. The waterwheel is the ultimate piece of living history on the property, and it has a fascinating backstory that spans nearly three centuries.

Constructed out of cast iron around 1700 by the estate’s original owner, Henry Fairchild, the waterwheel was the power source of Tryall when it was an 18th-century sugar plantation. Water from the nearby Flint River was channeled through the massive stone aqueduct that stretched two miles down from the hills just to feed it. The sheer force of that water spun the huge wheel, which provided the mechanical muscle needed to grind sugarcane and extract the juice for boiling down into sugar and molasses.

On the 6th, golfers must execute a precise shot over a rocky stream bed to an elevated green framed by lush tropical foliage. Balancing the sheer awe of the historical backdrop with the tactical precision required to secure a par makes this hoel an unforgettable highlight of the round.

The 14th is a tremendous, sweeping par-4 that tumbles back down the foothills toward the sea, but it doesn’t sit right on the crashing surf like the 4th does.

A Time for Healing and Self Reflection

Tryall’s Livity Spa elevates the wellness experience by rooting its philosophy in the Rastafari concept of livity—the conscious promotion of an interconnected, harmonious, and energy-filled lifestyle. Tucked into the estate’s lush, rolling hillsides where the rainforest meets panoramic views of the Caribbean Sea, this eco-conscious sanctuary blends modern therapeutic tech-

niques with organic Jamaican botanicals. Guests are invited to “idle a while” on the peaceful pool terrace, sipping locally infused ginger-lemongrass teas or ceremonial Blue Mountain cacao before their treatments.

The spa’s signature offerings, created in partnership with premier organic brands and local artisans, place a heavy emphasis on mental and physical realignment. From full-body massages using locally grown, CBD-infused oils to soothing facial rituals, every experience is designed by expert Jamaican therapists to melt away deep-seated tension and restore raw vitality.

Among the spa’s most transformative offerings is its immersive sound meditation, which stands out as a master-class in holistic stress relief. Held in a dedicated, open-air yoga and wellness space, the sound bath utilizes the healing frequencies of singing bowls, traditional instruments, and the natural, rhythmic ambient sounds of the surrounding Jamaican landscape to guide the mind into a profound state of calmness. This sound therapy is seamlessly woven into signature treatments, like the multi-sensory botanical wellness rituals, where grounding breathwork and subtle chakra energy clearings are paired with therapeutic massage. As the resonant vibrations wash over you, they help to slow brain-wave activity and lower cortisol levels, effectively unblocking the body’s meridians and preparing the nervous system for deep, restorative sleep.

The sound bath experience intentionally bridges modern vibroacoustic therapy with traditional Afro-Jamai-can roots, utilizing specialized drums that deliver deep, grounding frequencies:

The Kumina Drum (The Heartbeat): Central to the session’s grounding energy is the traditional Jamaican Kumina drum. In Jamaican heritage, Kumina drumming represents a direct connection to ancestral energy and a spiritual “heartbeat.” Played with

continued on page 34



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The Tryall Club

continued from page 30

a slow, deliberate, and hypnotic pulse rather than a fast, danceable rhythm, its deep bass vibrations resonate through the floorboards to physically mirror a relaxed resting heart rate, helping to lower cortisol and induce a meditative trance.

The Ocean Drum: To complement the rich bass of the Kumina, therapists utilize an ocean drum—a dual-sided frame drum filled with tiny metal pellets. When tilted slowly, the beads roll across the internal drum head to perfectly mimic the gentle, continuous washing of Caribbean waves against the shores of Montego Bay. This creates a soothing auditory blanket that helps mask external noise, activates the parasympathetic nervous system, and deepens mindfulness.

Steel Tongue and Handpan Drums: To transition the mind into a lighter, dreamy state, melodic steel tongue drums or handpans are introduced. These instruments produce rich, ethereal, and overtone-heavy notes that harmonize beautifully with the spa's crystal singing bowls, washing over the space to release mental tension and clear the body's energy channels.

Accommodations Fit for A King (and Queen)

The Tryall Club's portfolio of accommodations is defined by its stunning collection of 74 privately owned, fully staffed luxury villas, each offering a distinct architectural personality and absolute privacy. Ranging from intimate one-bedroom romantic hideaways to sprawling ten-bedroom compound estates, these residences are meticulously designed to maximize indoor-outdoor Caribbean living.

They feature expansive private pools, sun-drenched terraces, and breathtaking views that sweep across either the championship golf course or the sparkling Caribbean Sea. For guests seeking premium amenities with a slightly lower profile, Tryall also offers beautifully appointed Great House Two-Bedroom Villas and Condos. Situated on a scenic ridge just a short stroll from the historic 19th-century Great House, these options combine the privacy of an independent residence with the effortless convenience of resort living.

The Great House Villas feature elegant, classic Caribbean design, complete with private plunge pools, fully

equipped kitchens, and wrap-around verandas that overlook the estate's manicured lawns and the sea beyond. Residents of these accommodations enjoy easy, direct access to the resort's central hub—including the Great House Restaurant, the infinity-edge swimming pool, the tennis and pickleball center, and the kids' club—making them an exceptional choice for smaller families, couples, or golf groups who want a luxurious, turnkey island base.

Ultimately, the true magic of the Tryall Club lies in its rare ability to feel less like a resort and more like a timeless luxury estate where you are warmly welcomed home. Long after you pack away your clubs and leave the shores of Montego Bay, it is the lingering rhythm of the island that stays with you—the gentle, rhythmic turn of the historic waterwheel, the restorative resonance of the afternoon sound bath, and the effortless warmth of a dedicated staff who anticipate every need before it's even spoken. Tryall doesn't just offer an escape; it offers a profound sense of livity, capturing the very soul of Jamaica and leaving an indelible mark that calls you back to its fairways long after the final putt has dropped.

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