

DESIGN NOTES: The Caves' exterior blends gracefully into the surrounding limestone cliffs, while its interior has a kind of folksy, low-key charm. The overall effect is that of a lightly polished rendition of local life—something reinforced by the authentic Jamaican food served here. Clearly, owner Chris Blackwell (of Island Records fame) knows when not to mess with a good thing.

IDEAL GUEST: While no slouch in the luxury department, this resort tends to suit those who enjoy the occasional surge of adrenaline. Whether you go for the 30-foot option or something a bit lower, the cliff-jumping platforms are bound to get your fight-or-flight impulse in gear. For the more sedate, there's snorkeling, as well as sunbathing and a dozen other varieties of lazing around.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND JUST OUTSIDE: The main road through Negril is close by, allowing for quick trips to the local craft market. There are plenty of vantage points from which to take in the island's absurdly lovely sunsets, and equally good people-watching opportunities at nearby Rick's Café.

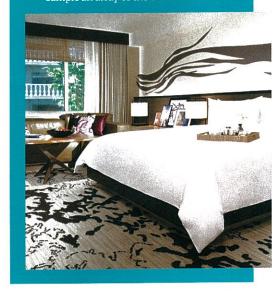
AMAZING AMENITY: The Caves puts its surrounding natural splendor to good use, most notably in offering guests the option of a romantic dinner for two in an actual cave. Rounding out the atmosphere are scattered petals, soft candlelight and the sound of lapping waves as you alternate your affectionate gaze between your companion and the sea.

## Nobu Hotel Caesars BACKSTORY: Palace Roman statues and

LAS VEGAS mosaic tiles adorn the extravagant lobby of Caesars Palace, which opened in 1966 and has since expanded to six towers and nearly 4.000 rooms. In February, superstar chef Nobu Matsuhisa debuted his first Nobu Hotel, a 181-room boutique property located in the old Centurion Tower, by cutting the ribbon with a samurai sword.

**DESIGN NOTES:** Shibui, a Japanese term meaning "simple beauty," is not something typically associated with the Vegas Strip. Yet Nobu chief architect David Rockwell transports guests from the bells, beeps and bustle of the casino into a setting that mixes tradition and mod flourishes to create a sense of peace and privilege. In fact, the neutral tones, natural materials and contemporary Japanese artworks are almost enough to make you forget where you are.

HOT DISHES: Nobu's 24-hour room service allows you to start the day or end the night with eggs Matsuhisa, a spin on eggs Benedict that replaces hollandaise with bonito egg sauce sprinkled with salmon roe and served on a toasted bao. Matsuhisa's newest Nobu restaurant is on the hotel's ground floor and, at 12,775 square feet, it's his largest to date. In addition to his signature dishes—black cod with miso, yellowtail sashimi with jalapeño-his teppanyaki tables make their U.S. debut here, while his multicourse omakase menus allow diners to sample an array of the chef's creations.



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