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### 9 HIDDEN EXPERIENCES

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**10** ALPINE GETAWAYS,  
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AND **1** PERFECT  
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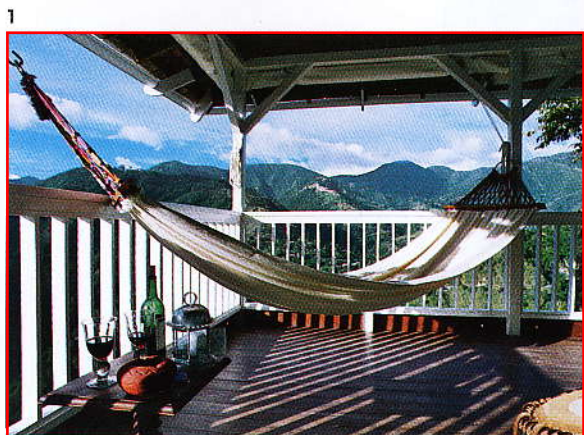
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## JACOB EDGAR'S FAVORITE PLACES TO EAT, STAY, AND VISIT AROUND THE GLOBE

### 1. STRAWBERRY HILL HOTEL & SPA

#### Kingston, Jamaica

"Founded by Chris Blackwell, the music entrepreneur who introduced Bob Marley, U2, and others to the world, Strawberry Hill is located 3,100 feet above sea level in the Blue Mountains. Bob Marley convalesced here in the original Great House after he was shot in 1976. A stay in one of these hillside cottages would probably heal all wounds." *Irish Town, St. Andrew, (876) 944-8400, islandoutpost.com/strawberry\_hill*

### 2. TROPENMUSEUM

#### Amsterdam, The Netherlands

"I'm not a big museum person. I usually prefer to hang out in the streets with the local people, but the Tropical [Tropen] Museum is great fun. The collections and exhibits explore

the diversity of humankind, turning a building that was once a symbol of Dutch colonial power into a celebration of common roots and values. The attached theater also hosts a wonderful series of world music concerts." *Linnaeusstraat 2, 31/(O) 2-568-8200, tropenmuseum.nl*

### 3. NATYACHARYA'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC & DANCE

#### Chennai, India

"Here is an off-the-beaten-path destination for music fans. Make sure to stop in the head office for permission to wander through the walled estate of founder Natyacharya Sri S. Balachandra Raju. In the cottages around the grounds, you can glimpse young students learning the finer points of Karnatic dance and such instruments as the vina (a relative of the sitar) and the tabla." *12a Sakthi Nagar Second St., Choolaimedu, 91/(O) 44-2374-1154*

### 4. ABU GOSH RESTAURANT

#### Abu Gosh, Israel

"My parents were hippies, so I grew up eating hummus and pita bread. But the U.S. version tastes like Spackle and cardboard compared with the ambrosia found throughout the Middle East. The argument of where to find the best hummus is never-ending. Abu Gosh Restaurant has an amazing story, in which a poor Palestinian-Israeli tow truck driver won more than \$20 million in the U.S. lottery and returned to his homeland to start the hummus restaurant of his dreams." *65 Hashalom, 972/2-533-2019, abugosh-restaurant.co.il*

local contact, I just start talking to people on the street. Typically, I have the name of a local musician that I use as an icebreaker. When you mention a familiar artist, people's defenses usually drop. We'll often start by talking about politics. Sometimes, they'll invite me to their homes. Eventually, I'll get to a place—a record store or a local label's office—where I can find the music I'm looking for. If you dig far and hard enough, you'll find that old calypso singer who lives in a shack.

### Is there an artist you are particularly enthusiastic about right now?

I'm working with a really interesting 32-year-old musician, Bombino, from Niger. He is Tuareg, a seminomadic Saharan people, and plays electric guitar. Bombino's music may remind Western listeners of John Lee Hooker's blues and Jimi Hendrix's or Led Zeppelin's psychedelic rock. But it's actually more rooted in the folk rhythms and melodies of the Tuareg people. Pop groups like the Dave Matthews Band and Arcade Fire have asked him to open for them. He's the sort of artist I'm always looking for, someone with multigenerational appeal who is also cool.

### What can music tell you about a place and its people?

Music is an audio representation of history. It reflects the different influences in a country. Some of them can be recent, like hip-hop or rock, and some can stretch back thousands of years. If you know how to recognize those influences, you can actually learn a lot about what happened in a culture's history. Hindustani classical music from North India, for instance, was heavily influenced by the 12th-century Moghul conquerors who arrived in the region from Central Asia. And like any art, some of the greatest music in the world comes from suffering. I just spent a lot of time in countries such as Cape Verde that were very involved in the slave trade. But from the crucible of that horrible history have come musical forms like salsa and jazz. ▲

