

# Jade Mountain Resort

*A hotel where every room has its own vanishing edge pool*

Located high on a mountainside overlooking the beaches and turquoise water of the Caribbean and St. Lucia's twin Piton mountain peaks in the distance, is the spectacular 242 hectare (600 acre) Jade Mountain Resort designed by Canadian architect/owner Nick Troubetzkoy.

To encourage guests to relax and unwind and leave their fast-paced lifestyle at home, the hotel restricts the use of cell phones and there are no telephones, televisions or radios in the rooms, with Internet access limited to the reception area.

In the public areas of the hotel, there are a range of amenities – including the Jade Mountain Club with a communal vanishing edge pool, the Elysium Health Spa, and the Celestial Terrace with a 360° panoramic view of the Caribbean.

But what really makes this secluded hotel stand out from the crowd is that every wall facing the Caribbean in each of the 24 rooms has been replaced by a vanishing edge pool. These pools take up a considerable amount of space in each hotel room – creating an aquatic platform that connects the living space to the spectacular scenery outside. In reality, the water flows off the pool's edge and down into a trough below, which is large enough to act as a surge tank when bathers enter the water and to hold the return lines.

Each vanishing edge pool was designed with a different layout, shape and colour scheme with the help of design consultant Skip Phillips of Questar Pools & Spas in Escondido, California, a member of the Genesis 3 Design Group.

The size of each vanishing edge pool varies according to room category, with the smallest pool measuring 42 sq. m (450 sq. ft.) in size and largest measuring 83 sq. m (900 sq. ft.) in size. Each pool also has its own shallow water lounging area, a large swimming area 1.3 m (4 ft. 6 in.) deep, and underwater fiber optic illumination that can be controlled by each guest.

Every vanishing edge pool is finished in its own individual glass tile colour scheme which is carried over into the bathroom. Designed by David Knox of Lightstreams Glass Tile

in Mountain View, California, the glass tiles feature textured iridescent surfaces that change colour depending on the time of day and the angle they are viewed at. Each pool also has a bond beam raised 0.45 m (18 in.) above the floor level, which raises the water level of the pool so that guests do not have to look down at the water at foot level.

For Troubetzkoy, the feeling of space in each room of the hotel and 'being at one with nature' were paramount. To achieve this, he eliminated all windows, sliding doors, screens and formal barriers between the living, bathing and sleeping areas and used 4.5m (15 ft.) high ceilings to create an even greater sense of space. Each bathroom is also equipped with a large hot tub on a raised dais overlooking the rest of the room, providing sweeping views of the pool, Caribbean Sea and lush tropical surroundings.

The multi-level, terraced hotel, which opened its doors in 2006, offers rooms with interior walls finished in a crushed coral plaster and exterior concrete walls finished in stone, which helps it blend in with its natural surroundings. **PSM**



Each vanishing edge pool was designed with a different layout, shape and colour scheme, and finished in its own individual glass tile pattern. Photos: Questar Pools & Spas.

