

# Reader's Digest



## Pictures *Do Lie* ● FROM [oyster.com](http://oyster.com)

**W**ell, the hotel certainly looks great in the brochure. Wide, deserted beaches; plenty of unoccupied lounge chairs; and a view you'd pay a premium for. But when you arrive, everything looks smaller, busier, less relaxing. Oyster.com has done a little international reconnaissance and compared promotional photos with the grittier reality.



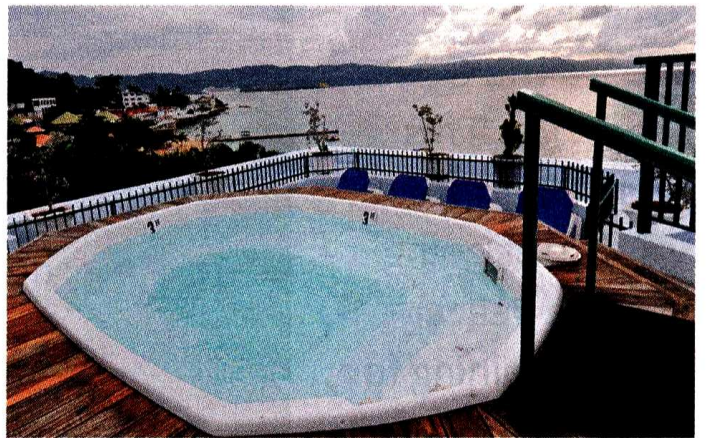
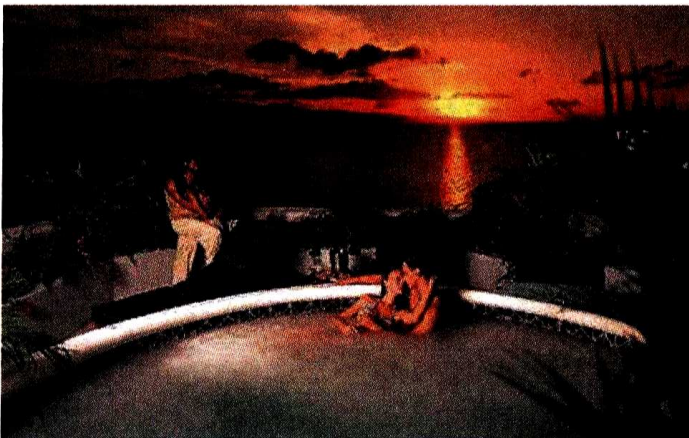
**GRAN BAHÍA PRÍNCIPE Punta Cana, Dominican Republic**

All too often, megaresorts market their beaches as pristine, serene, and romantic; in reality, most are anything but. At the Gran Bahía Príncipe Punta Cana, for example: lots of chairs, lots of people—and *not* deserted.



**THE LONDON West Hollywood, California**

Brochures often depend on sly cropping, elaborate camerawork, and conspicuously missing hotel decor. As we've discovered, hotels don't always deliver on the flora. Consider the case of the mysteriously disappearing plants at the London West Hollywood.



**BREEZES RUNAWAY BAY RESORT Montego Bay, Jamaica**

There's no denying the hot tub (left) is bright and colorful, but there's something too pristine about this photo from orbitz.com. Our photo (right) tells a different story. Luckily there are two larger pools—and one of the best hotel beaches in Jamaica.