

STBARTH'S

Mariah and Beyoncé can't get enough of the tiny Caribbean island of St-Barths. **Jesse Nash** runs barefoot in the sands of paradise (in a *Survivor* stylee)

a The wondrous Shangri-la. Idyllic. Utopic. A place of supreme happiness, where your fondest dreams are reality. It tantalizes the imagination. It titillates the soul. Its shores are pristine and sun-kissed, its heartland lush and beautiful, and it is very much within reach. It is St-Barth's, an isle of romance and splendor reposing peacefully in the carefree Caribbean.

You will dance, you will sing and you will laugh on St-Barth's (its full name is Saint-Barthelemy, named for the brother of Christopher Columbus). You will relax and appreciate hard-earned leisure and luxury in the company of Beyoncé [Knowles], Giorgio [Armani], Harrison [Ford], Puffy [as in P. Diddy or whatever he calls himself these days], Mariah [Carey], Naomi [Campbell], David [Letterman], Sarah [Jessica Parker], Uma [Thurman], Lauren [Hutton], Kim [Cattrall], and Rod [Stewart]. But where to stay? Here are some of the most fabulous retreats to hide and chic.

LES ILETS

THE place to start your magical Caribbean adventure, Les Ilets, represents all that St-Barths can be - peace, simplicity, calm and beauty. A tranquil haven in a tropical paradise, far from the maddening crowd, this tiny enclave tucked away in the far corner of beautiful St. Jean Bay has eleven secluded villas. All the villas are comfortably furnished in traditional style, and have the convenience and luxury of

their own fully equipped kitchens. Four one-bedroom cottages are located right on the beach, with covered terraces opening onto the garden and then on to the glittering white Caribbean sand of St. Jean Beach. Lie in your hammock and watch the windsurfers, the fishermen hauling in their lobster pots and infinite turquoise waters stretching into the far horizon.

Seven villas are set back from the beach on the gentle hillside and are surrounded by lush tropical gardens. They give spectacular ocean views and are cooled by a soft sea breeze. Relax in the calm of your terrace shaded by palm trees gently swaying in time with the ocean waves. You are truly transported to a magical place where all is calmness and serenity. Stress drains from your being, and you are at once at peace and in love with living.

Evenings are preceded by a delicious cocktail on your terrace as you savour the calm and serenity, bathed in the soothing scents of a garden resplendent with the colorful bougainvillea and hibiscus.

Call Les Ilets de la Plage direct for the best rates. From the USA 011-590-590-27-88-57 or fax at 011-590-590-27-88-58. Email is ilets-plage@wanadoo.fr and the website address is www.lesilets.com.

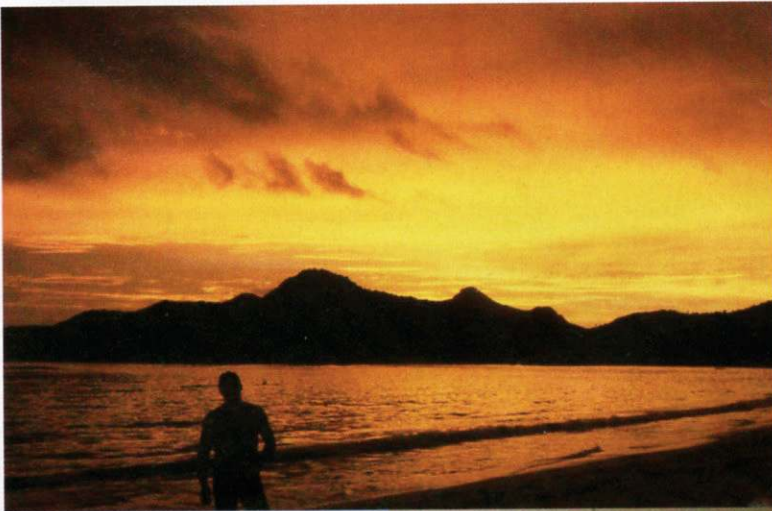
SIBARTHS VILLA

After you have indulged yourself, eased your tensions and unleashed your imagination, you may crave more. Although you have been hopelessly spoiled at Les Ilets, you may wish now to soar above the status of mere privileged guest and assume the role of master or mistress of the house. You have enjoyed to the fullest what others can do for you, now you want to savour what you can provide for yourself. A luxury villa may be more appropriate, and one is available from Sibarth Real Estate, located in the centre of the capital of Gustavia.

From Sibarth you can rent your home away from home, from which picture perfect panoramas of this Carib-Eden will greet you each morning. Sibarths, which is affiliated with Sotheby's Realty and partnered in the United States with WIMCO, is an extraordinary source for luxury villas on the island.

Poised high on a lush volcanic hillside in Le Gouverneur, high above the sexiest beach on all the island bearing the same name, an open air palatial property





awaits you, a luxurious hideaway you'll still dream about for years to come. Enjoy spectacular ocean views beyond lovely tropical gardens that overlook Gouverneur Bay.

Secluded at the end of an expansive terrace that sports a long, sleek swimming pool, this magical property is perfect for quiet relaxation and lively entertaining. The open-air terrace and deck offer many lounging opportunities, accommodating any desire regardless if you want to nap, read or socialise.

Prices for Sibarths' villas vary depending upon season, size and location. Winter high season rates take effect Dec 15-April 15, with summer low season running from April 16-Dec 14.

For more information on rental prices, or to investigate a real estate purchase, you can contact Sibarth at 011-590-590-29-88-91 or fax them at 011-590-590-27-85-22. You can also e-mail them at estates@Sibarth.com, and you can visit their website at www.sibarth.com and see photographs of their many properties.

WIMCO can be contacted at www.wimco.com, or called at 1-800-468-3561. Their fax number is 401-847-6290 and their e-mail is caribhot@wimco.com.



LE TOINY

Following your stay at a Sibarths property, you might want to visit one of the island's most luxurious hotels. Suggestion: choose the remarkable Le Toiny, a place where life and pleasure merge into one delightful experience. Le Toiny is a wonderland of splendid colors; the sensual blues of the sea easily segue into the serene greenery of tropical vegetation, which plays off the earthy ochre of clay tiles, the rich brown of the fertile loam, and the luminous amber of old rum.

Many hotels claim to offer unrivalled amenities and services, but Le Toiny, a Relais & Chateau property, surely does. In your deluxe one, two or three bedroom suite, you will immediately feel at home. Each is understated elegance blended with sublime tranquility, soothed by sea breezes, caressed by the sun, and refreshed by a private pool. Every suite has a full kitchen, comfortable living quarters, and western necessities like television. In a Le Toiny room I found the first bathtub (as opposed to stall shower) that I'd seen on the island, where water is a precious commodity.

For more information, call Le Toiny direct at 011-590-590-27-88-88/FAX 27-89-30, or visit their website at www.letoiny.com or www.relaischateaux.fr/noirieux.

GETTING THERE

American Airlines has flights to St. Marteen from all the major U.S. cities as does Air France from all major cities within Europe. Upon arrival, you must take a small plane.

Suggestion: WinAir 590-590-27-61-01

Best deals for rental cars: Europcar 590-590-27-74-34 Fax 590-590-27-80-77

Email: europsbh@wanadoo.fr

