



CARIBBEAN CRIB

With the aquamarine waters of the Caribbean at its doorstep and a music studio onsite, the six-bedroom Villa Rockstar in St Barths is the perfect holiday playpen. *HU* dons flip-flops and heads for the beach

打開大門就看到寶藍色的加勒比海，還有一間錄音室及6間舒適睡房，
St Barths的Villa Rockstar就是最理想的度假地點。美好家居換上一身沙灘裝，前往感受其迷人之處

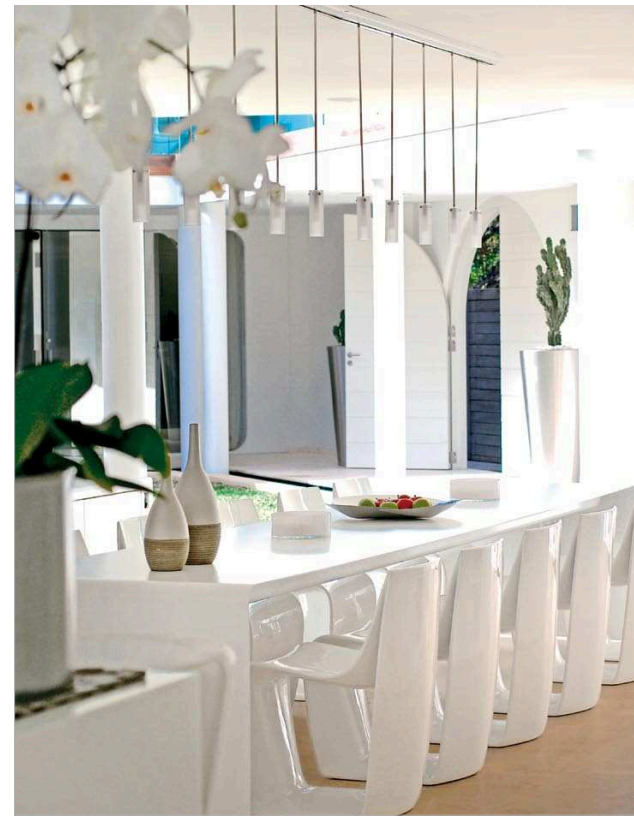
BY TAMSIN BRADSHAW



previous page, clockwise from top left: the exterior of Villa Rockstar calls to mind colonial plantation architecture; the pool overlooks the turquoise Caribbean Sea; the fountain in the central courtyard; the huge living area is perfect for entertaining

clockwise from top left: Jane Matthews was responsible for the cool, sexy interiors; the long, white dining table seats up to 12; the living area houses a bar and pool table

前頁圖，順時針方向，左上圖題：Villa Rockstar的外觀令人想起具殖民地色彩的私人庭園；在泳池邊能鳥瞰深藍的加勒比海；中央庭院中設有一個噴泉；寬敞的生活空間是舉行餐宴的理想地點
順時針方向：Jane Matthews負責設計這個漂亮的室內裝潢；長長的白色餐桌能容納多達12人；客廳設有酒吧和撞球桌



When the *HJ* team first spoke to David Matthews, he was running along the pristine, white sand beaches of St Barthélemy. The local time was 7pm, and he was enjoying a leisurely jog while watching the sun setting over the azure blues of Caribbean Sea. It was another average day on the far-away island of St Barths, an overseas French collectivity located in the French West Indies.

David and his wife Jane, who both hail from the UK, own plush party pad Villa Rockstar, along with their first property on the island, luxury hotel Eden Rock – St Barths. The pair first came to the island years ago on a sailing trip. They have not looked back since. “We dropped anchor off St Barths,” reminisces David. “In the evening light, we saw this amazing property ... we enquired about it; it was owned by a famous local adventurer.” The intrepid explorer had spent his life diving to treasure sites, aviating and landing on islands no one had set foot on before. The Matthews snapped it up. Initially, they planned on keeping it as a private home but “one thing led to another. There was a little bar going ... we kept it running mainly because we liked ... the people who wandered up the driveway,” says David. And so Eden Rock – St Barths was born and the Matthews settled into island life.

With the first hotel cruising along nicely, the pair looked

在美好家居首次跟David Matthews見面的時候，他正在St Barthélemy的白色沙灘上跑步。那時正好是當地時間下午7時，他一邊悠閒地在美麗的沙灘上緩步，一邊欣賞金黃色的太陽徐徐下移至加勒比海的水平線之下，就像看著深藍大海正逐漸吞噬夕陽餘暉，那個畫面的確十分迷人。當天只是法屬西印度群島上其中一個隱秘島嶼St Barths的一個平凡日子，換句話說，這個對我們來說一點也不容易見到的優美畫面，卻是St Barths幾乎每天都上映的一幕。

David和他的妻子Jane來自英國，是St Barths上一幢奢華度假別墅Villa Rockstar的老闆，而島上的豪華酒店Eden Rock – St Barths則是他們在當地的首個物業。夫婦二人第一次來這個美麗小島已經是多年前的事，那時候他們乘船來到這裡，從此便不能忘懷。「那時候我們就在St Barths拋錨，把船停泊在此。」David回憶說：「到了黃昏時，我們在柔和的光線中看到這座非凡的物業……我們經過一番打探，得知這物業是屬於當地一位著名的探險家所有。」那位出色的探險家窮一生的精力尋尋覓覓，飛到世界不同的角落找尋無人踏足過的珍貴土地；後來他把房子放售，Matthews夫婦便把握了這個好時機，購下物業。原本他們計劃把物業用作私人住宅，但後來他們改變了主意，David表示說：「原因有一個，就是物業內有一間還在營運的小酒吧……我們決定繼續營業，因為……我們很喜歡人們也共聚於此。」Eden Rock – St Barths因此而成立，夫婦二人也在這個小島生活下來。



to the next project. As it turned out, they didn't need to look further than their backyard. Just next-door was a "large plot of land by St Barths' standards," says David. After considering it from over the fence for a while, the pair purchased the lot and set about transforming it into Villa Rockstar, the landlubber's equivalent of a "hundred million dollar yacht".

Given that David and his wife had arrived on St Barths by yacht, the villa's breezy sailing style is fitting. Four, airy and contemporary suites feature opulent beds under wooden-beamed ceilings, with breathtaking views over St Jean, one of the island's finest beaches. There are two extra cabins for staff (the villa comes with a personal butler if you would like one) or children.

Each bathroom in the villa is different, decked out in glittering tiles in various shades – the masterpiece being a perfectly circular ensuite adorned with tiles in pure white gold, which sparkle across floor, wall and ceiling. A golden-hued bathtub completes the look – like the room, it forms a perfect circle.

The bedrooms and bathrooms are spread across a northern and southern wing, connected by cloisters and opening onto a central courtyard. Facing this expanse of green is a spacious living area decked out in crisp whites, with a fresh, relaxed seaside feel. Here, a long white table seats up to 12; there's a pool table, a bar and a chilled misting system – to cool and moisten the air – to boot.

Jane was the brains behind the villa's modern and

酒店的運作十分順暢，所以二人便開始計劃下一個項目，首先就是要找尋合適的地方；但原來最好的早在眼前，說的就是他們這種物業的後院位置。這一大塊土地好像注定會跟他們遇上，David說：「這片土地跟St Barths一樣吸引人。」他們站在圍欄之前凝視著這塊地，考慮和商量了一會兒，最後決定買下它，並在該處興建了 Villa Rockstar，而對於David來說，這座宏偉的別墅就等同一般價值幾百萬元的遊艇一樣珍貴。

由於David和他的妻子是乘遊艇來到St Barths，所以別墅會採用航海為設計主題，可說是理所當然，適合非常。別墅設有4間大型的套房，睡床更是大得足以讓你「輾轉反側」，而房內的天花板均有外露的木樑，集純樸與豪華於一身；從窗子往外看，能飽覽島上其中一個優美沙灘 St Jean的景致，令身心也沉醉在這種世外桃源的氛圍中。別墅更設有兩間額外的職員室（客人可選擇貼心的總管服務），也可用作小孩房。

別墅內每個浴室的裝潢也不同，各採用色調不一的亮麗瓷磚——主人套房的圓形浴室選用純白金色的瓷磚，閃閃的光芒自地板、牆壁及天花板反射著，散發出豪華而簡約的氣派。一個金色的浴缸是這個浴室的最佳選擇——加上其圓形的外形，跟浴室的設計真是配襯非常。

各間睡房和套房浴室設於別墅的北翼及南翼，中間由迴廊所連接，並可通往一個中央庭院，環境十分清幽。而面對著這片綠悠悠景色的就是寬敞的客廳，這兒的裝潢同樣以白色為主，締造出清新和舒適悠閒的海邊感覺，即使在這裡待上一整天也不會覺得沉悶，反而令人更嚮往這種輕輕鬆鬆的生活格調。廳中設有一張可容納多達12人的

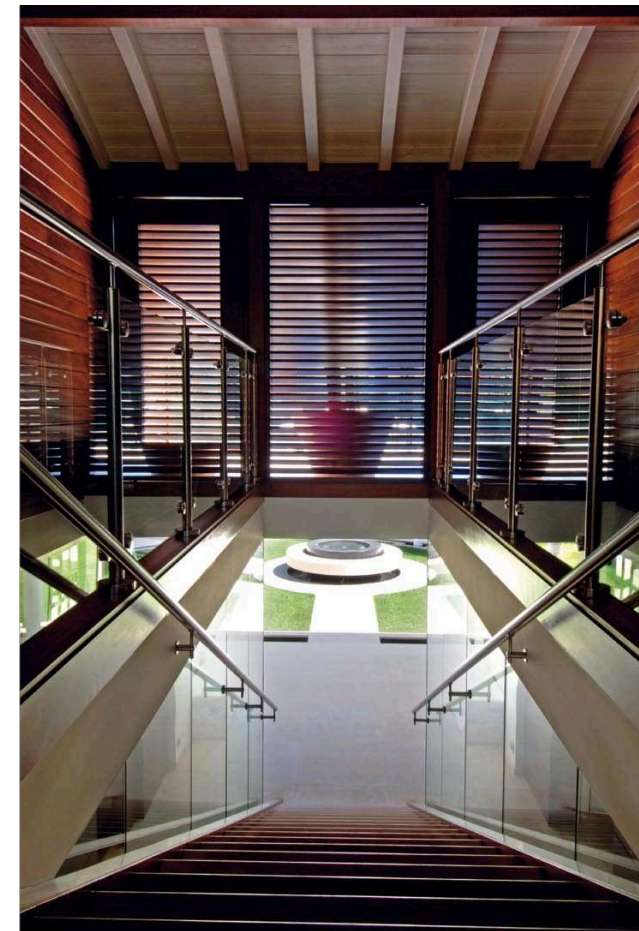
opposite: this glamorous bathroom is tiled from floor to ceiling in pure white gold

above: the bathtub and the bathroom are both perfectly circular

對頁圖：華美的浴室由地板到天花板也鋪上純白金色的瓷磚
上圖：浴缸和浴室也是圓形設計

clockwise from top left: each of the four airy bedroom suites has a yacht-like feel; stairs lead down to the cloisters and grass paved courtyard; this bedroom features stunning views over the Caribbean

順時針方向：4間套房也帶有遊艇的格調；樓梯通往樓下的迴廊和草地；這間睡房坐擁優美的加勒比海景



mellow interior design. Meanwhile, her husband worked with a local team to create the exterior. "Three hundred years ago, St Barths was populated by a few hundred people chased out of France. It has evolved a very distinct style as a result – small, low-lying buildings that are safe against wind and storm," explains David. The construction team chose to stay true to this style, creating a sprawling 16,500-sq-ft estate that calls to mind the wide, spreading rooflines, galleries and colonnettes of colonial plantation houses.

Aside from its calm interior design and architecture that echoes the island's French Creole roots, Villa Rockstar's major draw card is its music studio and movie theatre. The recording studio is one of David's favourite parts of the house. He and his wife partnered with sound engineer Allen Sides, owner of Ocean Way Hollywood, a famous recording studio, to bring this room to life. Sides has worked on albums for Michael Jackson, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Frank Sinatra, Duke Ellington and Alanis Morissette, to name but a few. Sides "collected recording

長形白色餐桌，還有一張撞球桌、小酒吧及造霧冷凍系統——使空氣保持清涼及濕潤——無論屋內屋外也同樣有令人流連忘返的吸引之處。

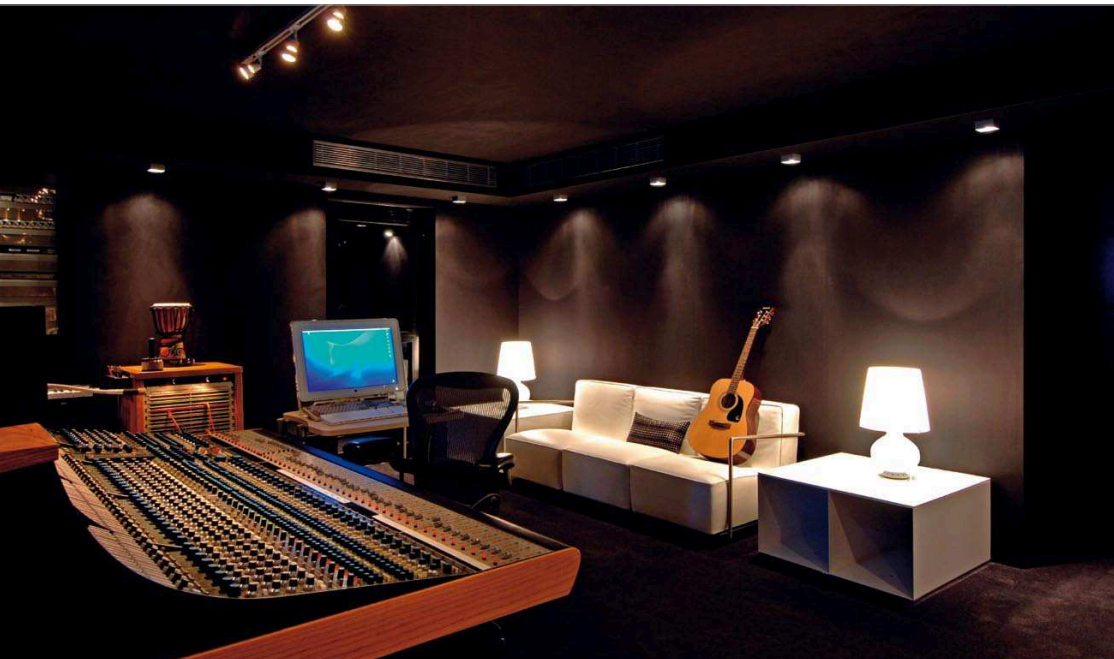
別墅的室內設計極富現代感及愉快的氣氛，而成功打造出如此優美裝潢的幕後功臣，就是Jane。另一邊廂，她的丈夫則跟當地一支團隊合作建造別墅的外貌。「300年前，St Barths住著數百名來自法國的人，逐步發展出一種很獨特的風格——多為小型和層數少的建築物，不受強風或風暴的威脅。」David解釋說。建造團隊選擇沿用這種風格，打造出佔地16,500平方呎的結構，看見其外形時就會想到遼闊且連綿的屋頂輪廓線、藝廊及具殖民地色彩的私人庭園的柱子。

別墅的室內裝潢和外牆建築能帶出此島的法國克里奧爾風格，不過，要數Villa Rockstar最大的特色，則莫過於別墅內的錄音室和影院。錄音室是David其中一個最喜歡的部份，他和妻子跟音樂工程師兼著名錄音室Ocean Way Hollywood的老闆Allen Sides一同合作，為別墅打造出這間特別的音樂製作室。Joni Mitchell是國際知名的錄音師，曾參與多位巨星的唱片製作，包括米高積遜、Red Hot Chili Peppers、Frank Sinatra、Duke Ellington和Alanis





ASIDE FROM ITS CALM INTERIOR DESIGN AND FRENCH CREOLE INSPIRED ARCHITECTURE, VILLA ROCKSTAR'S MAJOR DRAW CARD IS ITS MUSIC STUDIO AND MOVIE THEATRE. "WE HOPE MUSICIANS WILL COME AND LIVE HERE," SAYS DAVID



equipment," including a mixing console that John Lennon owned towards the end of his life in New York. *Imagine* was recorded on this very console. Some of this treasured equipment graces the studio at Villa Rockstar.

The Matthews, it appears, are huge supporters of the music industry. "We hope musicians will come and live here," says David. Musicians are not the only creative types encouraged to come and enjoy the cool hedonism of Villa Rockstar. The couple exhibits artworks by local artists, as well as "giving a sponsorship to an artist to come and work here, to exhibit here," he explains. "We hope that we may continue to promote the creative process," says David. It's clear the Matthews love their charming isle and that they like nothing more than sharing its pure beauty with visitors.

A seaplane or boat ride from St Martins, Antigua and Anguilla, St Barths' distance from the rest of the world has allowed it to stay relatively untouched. "It's a free and liberated place. It still possesses a quality of peacefulness," enthuses David. "I love the colours of the sunshine in the afternoon, the colours of the ocean, the colours of the vegetation. All of this has made a profound impression."

Villa Rockstar is available for rent year round, with a minimum stay of 10 nights at Christmas and New Year.

Morrisette等，經驗和才華同樣備受肯定。Sides收集了很多錄音器材，包括約翰連儂生前留在紐約的混音台；這位巨星的名曲「Imagine」便是利用這座混音台來錄製。這些器材就像無價寶，部份更擺放在Villa Rockstar的錄音室內，使之更具特色。

Matthews夫婦二人可說是音樂業的兩位重要推動者，為業界打造出如此獨特的音樂製作空間。「我們很希望音樂人和藝人會來這裡居住。」David說。二人不單歡迎創意人士來Villa Rockstar享受寧靜和舒適的格調，以激發他們的創意，夫婦倆亦會展出當地藝術家的一些作品，幫助推廣St Barths的藝術；David補充說：「我們會贊助藝術家來這裡工作和展出自己的作品。我們希望能繼續推動這個創意工業。」明顯地，他們非常喜歡這個迷人的島嶼，而且也十分樂意和別人分享這兒的特色和簡單美。

St Barths的人口不多，而且需從St Martins、Antigua或Anguilla乘船或水上飛機前往，這偏遠的地點使小島能跟人煙稠密的世界保持「安全」距離，確保島嶼上的自然生態和優美環境得以長久維持。「這是很個自由的地方，而且仍然擁有寧靜和諧的優質環境。」David高興地說：「我非常喜歡午後陽光的顏色、海洋的顏色、植物的顏色，種種自然景象和色調構成的畫面能製造出令人難以忘懷的美妙印象。」

Villa Rockstar提供租住服務，於聖誕節或新年期間最少需入住10晚。❖

opposite top and bottom:

Villa Rockstar has its own mini-cinema; the villa's music studio features a music console once owned by John Lennon

above: each bedroom possesses its own ensuite bathroom complete with Italian stone tub

對頁圖，上至下： Villa Rockstar設有私人小影院；別墅的音樂室放有一個曾為約翰連儂所有的混音台

上圖：各套房的浴室也設有意大利石浴缸