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Essence of Eden

JEZ falls prey to the seduction of St. Barths and its acclaimed resort, Eden Rock.

The sexy island of St. Barths—a lush tropical paradise famous for the sounds of its lulling ocean, soft sand and light-capturing white coral—is a favorite destination among the who’s who of the world’s elite. With happening nightlife, including posh parties and an energetic bar scene, along with decadent dining and accommodations, St. Barths is an isle without rival. Such repose

might be a perpetual treat for some (maybe even you), but until you set foot on the select shores of Eden Rock, you have yet to truly experience the ethereal beauty and magic of the Caribbean. With an esteemed reputation as a premier hot spot for celebrities, prominent figures and in-the-know travelers, the über-luxe yet totally relaxed atmosphere of Eden Rock, a Relais & Châteaux property, offers its



The centerpiece of Eden Rock sits atop the hillside along the beach, where panoramic views of the coral reef and surrounding areas are inspiring.

guests attention to every detail, a host of impressive features and premium service standards of an exotic realm unlike any other.

GETTING THERE

Traveling to St. Barths means taking a short, 10-minute hopper flight from St. Maarten to the island's famous landing strip—one that ends on the beach, offering a unique and exciting arrival. For those fearful of small planes or exciting landings, a 40-minute sea ferry ride is also an option.

Eden Rock, which can be seen from the edge of the landing strip, sits atop a rocky peninsula in St. Jean Bay amid a vibrant coral reef. Originally designed as an elite residence, Eden Rock was built nearly 60 years ago by the island's first mayor, Rémy de Haenen. Since then, it has been fashioned into a modern, amenity-filled tropical dream.

STAY

Guests of Eden Rock have a plethora of accommodation options. The selection includes 34 distinguished lodgings all boasting an array of BVLGARI amenities, flat-screen satellite TVs, DVD players, and, of course, complimentary high-speed Internet. Eden Rock boasts nine types of space varieties—the Big Beach House, the Diamond Suites, the Heavenly Beach Houses, the Premium Suites, the Classic Rock Suites, the Contemporary Beach Rooms, the Garden Cottages, Eden Rock Estates and the Eden Rock Owners Society—all uniquely designed. Some of the spreads are so posh, they are absolutely worth a splurge. Big Beach House, for example, is a three-bedroom beachfront property with private swimming and spa pools, a home cinema, and breathtaking terraces. Among the property's Diamond Suites is the Howard Hughes Loft Suite, which is the signature dwelling at Eden Rock. Located atop the main

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Many of Eden Rock's accommodations sit adjacent to the beach.



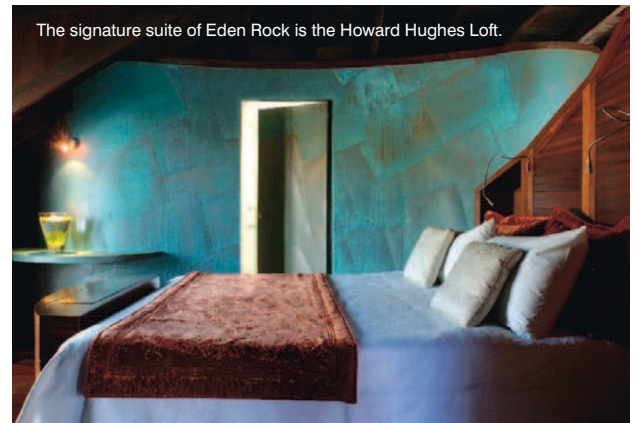
The spectacular view from the Howard Hughes Loft Suite



The Waterlily suite one-bedroom bungalow



The Waterlily suite features an infinity pool overlooking St. Jean Bay.



The signature suite of Eden Rock is the Howard Hughes Loft.

house, it captures 360-degree views of the bay and its breathtaking white coral. This singular accommodation spans 1,500 square feet and has three spectacular sun terraces and a home theater.

For ultra VIP treatment, don't hold back—splurge on one of the two Eden Rock Estates, both of which are touted as six-star, ultra-extravagant facilities (every star is truly earned, trust me!). For the ultimate beachfront experience, Villa Nina is the place to stay. This gem—encompassing 6,000 square feet of total developed space—redefines opulence with two majestic bedrooms with spacious walk-in closets, a Valcucine kitchen with sleek L-shaped dining area, a huge living room with vaulted ceilings, a large swimming pool, a Jacuzzi and an outdoor dining room, along with plenty of space to lounge.

Not to be outdone, the highly attentive butler service fulfills every need of guests lucky enough to enjoy this gorgeous estate, which also comes with its own mini-cooper.

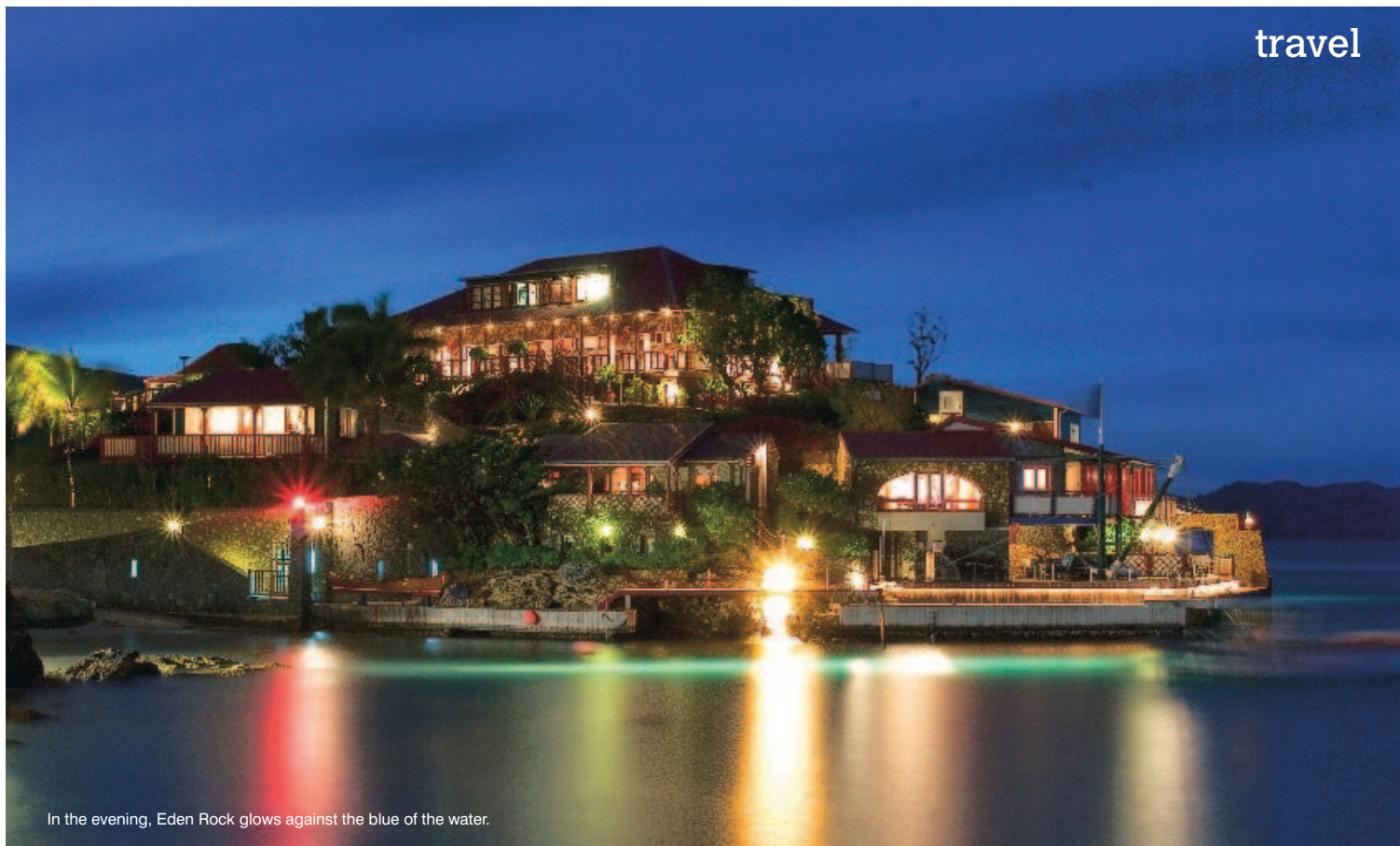
A treasure trove of spectacular artwork infuses the hallways of Villa Nina with unique points of personality. Additional touches to this incredible respite include a custom surround sound system that spans from the home cinema to external terraces, a covered outdoor dining room that overlooks the pool (perfect for fresh lunches with friends or an intimate dinner for two) and massive, bed-like sunbathing settees by the crystal-clear pool. A walkway on the property leads to the luminous beach, securing the privacy of the

villa and its inhabitants from the remainder of the hotel. Soft sand and palm trees blowing in the breeze are just a few feet away. In a word, it's paradise.

Adjacent to Villa Nina is the newest in opulent accommodations, Villa Rockstar. This three-level space spans 17,000 square feet and is equipped with four master suites and two cabins, a private office and gym, garages, cars, a dining space that accommodates 12 people, a putting green, two pools, and a pool table and sports area. The villa's "rock star" vibe is undeniable, thanks to a fully rigged recording studio featuring the vintage console used by John Lennon to record his trademark song "Imagine." Imagine that!

DINE

A big part of an indulgent Caribbean vacation is, without a doubt, the cuisine. Eden Rock is privileged to provide guests with the culinary vision of Executive Chef Jean-Claude Dufour, who creates mouthwatering dishes daily from the freshest ingredients. Sample a selection of Dufour's savories by strolling up to The Sand Bar for a beachside breakfast or lunch in a relaxed atmosphere. The modern white chairs and sleek dark woods of this dining enclave create a clean contrast that is chic but not stuffy. Here, you'll find light and enticing fare, with items such as local yellowfin tuna with sweet-and-sour orange sauce and glazed carrots with honey and ginger or roast duckling breast with creamy polenta and olives.



In the evening, Eden Rock glows against the blue of the water.



The rear of Villa Nina with outdoor dining, second-floor balcony, pool and lounge area is just a few feet away from the beach.



Villa Nina's covered dining area adjacent to the pool makes a perfect spot to enjoy any meal.



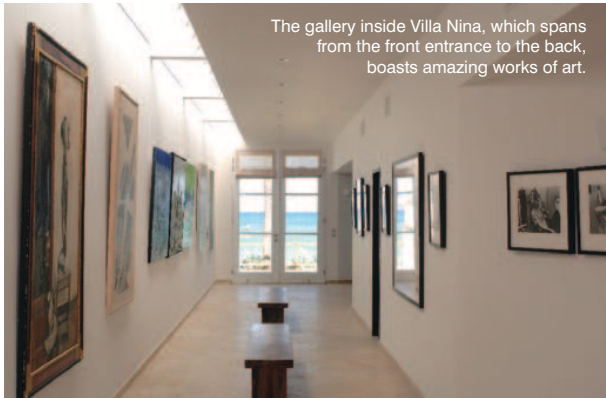
Modern bar chairs line the kitchen's L-shaped dining area in Villa Nina.



From the art on the walls to the built-in light fixtures, every detail of Villa Nina's master bedroom is ultra-luxurious.

Photo courtesy of Eden Rock except for the bedroom and kitchen, which are by Beth Weitzman.

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The gallery inside Villa Nina, which spans from the front entrance to the back, boasts amazing works of art.



On the Rocks serves up French fusion cuisine with a view.



St. Barths' shops sit adjacent to the water.



Rockshop boutique at Eden Rock offers fashionable, unique finds.

For a refined evening experience, On the Rocks features a French fusion menu full of fresh fish, flavorful meats and a perfectly seasoned pairing of vegetables. Selections such as beef carpaccio with shaved black truffles, spinach salad and risotto friter or toasted fillet of squab served with red wine risotto and glazed carrots with honey supply welcome levels of flavor. Diners are sure to notice the restaurant's exemplary dining standards, which are simply world class. All three levels of the elegant eatery offer magnificent water views. The views are equally good inside, where a hip bar caters to the thirst of pre- and post-meal diners and revelers. Outside the resort, a plethora of dining options also await the most discerning travelers.

RELAX

Abandon all your preconceived notions about what spa service should be and indulge in what it is here: heaven. Eden Rock's well-trained staff brings services and treatments straight to guests, pampering them in the privacy of their rooms or villas. The spa's treatment menu includes a relaxing array of massages, facials, manicures, pedicures and reflexology. Personal training sessions in Pilates, yoga and strength training are also available, and so is a health club, which features a full range of Technogym equipment.

DISCOVER

Endless adventures abound at Eden Rock, from shopping to boat rentals to the aforementioned spa treatments. Adrenaline junkies will relish the limitless opportunities that come from the lush landscape and multitude of marine life of St. Barths. A word to the wise: Take advantage of the coral reef that encircles the property. The hotel provides snorkeling gear, rafts and glass-bottom kayaks free of charge. Or hop on a Hobie Cat sailboat or grab windsurfing equipment at St. Jean beach. Boating trips are easy to plan. Simply ask the concierge to use one of the property's two vessels—the picnic boat *Eden Rock* and the 65-foot princess yacht *Eden Rock-St Barths*.

If you'd rather spend your days soaking up the sun, St. Barths is the spot to do just that. Beach loungers, umbrellas and towels are always ready. Within minutes of your feet touching the sand, the hotel's personnel are there to offer bar service and enticing fresh fruit. Yes, please.

When shopping is on the agenda, visit the luxe designer boutiques along the harbor closeby to the hotel. The area is home to such designer favorites as Louis Vuitton, Hermès and Roberto Cavalli. The Eden Rock Gallery is also a must-see for art lovers, who will get lost in the colorful pieces on display during exclusive exhibitions that rotate throughout the year.

The beauty and rapture of St. Barths—an exotic island paradise known only to the lucky elite who have graced its shores—is ideal and prized for its exclusivity, luxury and tranquility. After being captivated by the sun at the most completely extravagant Caribbean hot spot, you, too, might find yourself thinking, “If this is Eden, there's no doubt it is also heaven.” —BETH WEITZMAN



Clockwise from the top: Villa Rockstar features ample space for socializing and playing pool. Villa Rockstar's soothing inner courtyard. Every luxurious detail, down to the large soaking tub, are evident in this Villa Rockstar bathroom. The textured walls and floor and sleek design of this Villa Rockstar bathroom are ultra-luxe.

Eden Rock, St. Barths

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Currency: The euro

Average temperature: 72–90 degrees
Fahrenheit year-round

St. Barths language: French, but English
is spoken most places.

Accommodations: 34 different types,
from well-appointed rooms to expansive
luxe villas

Restaurants: The Sand Bar and On the
Rocks

Boats: The 35-foot *Eden Rock* and a 65-
foot yacht, *Eden Rock-St Barths*

Well-being services: Door-to-door ser-
vices include a full spa menu and personal
fitness training sessions.

Room service: 24 hours a day

