

THE CARIBBEAN LUXURY

Your Own No-Fly Zone? If Price Is No Object

By MICHELLE HIGGINS

When it comes to luxury in the Caribbean, there is no shortage of offerings.

Want a butler for your beachfront room? Done. Need a place to park your megayacht? No problem. How about a fully staffed estate on your very own private island? Take your pick.

Yes, the sluggish economy took a toll on the lower end of the up-

scale market, with mere \$500-a-night resorts like Rosewood's Caneel Bay on St. John and Little Dix Bay on Virgin Gorda effectively cutting rates last year with five-nights-for-four promotions. But travel agents who cater to the wealthy say there was little impact on those coveted haunts with uniquely decadent offerings like gold-tiled bathrooms (see below) that send prices into the stratosphere.

"The clients are around for that kind of property," said Bill Fischer, a New York travel agent who charges a \$100,000 member-

ship fee for his services and a \$25,000 annual retainer. "This client wants the best accommodations and is willing to spend to obtain those accommodations."

Whether you have the means or just the aspirations, here is a sampling of the most over-the-top Caribbean escapes. Rates are per night for the high season, which begins in mid-November for most resorts, not including the holidays, when prices are often higher.

\$20,300

Villa Rockstar ►

WHERE: Eden Rock, St. Bart's

WHAT YOU GET: A circular bathroom tiled in pure white gold; four suites with deep-soaking tubs; a butler; a Land Rover and Mini Cooper in the garage; two extra cabins for your entourage or staff; 10-foot walls around the estate for privacy, a pool table, gym, swimming pool and bar.

OUTRAGEOUS AMENITY: Your very own recording studio. edenrockhotel.com

(Price has been converted from euros.)

