

Robb Report
100
EDITORS' CHOICE

Robb Report

LUXURY RESORTS

Summer 2008

100 ULTIMATE
ESCAPES

Aspen Bora Bora Courchevel Dubai Fiji Las Vegas
Malaysia Maldives Maui Napa Valley Patagonia Positano
Saint-Tropez Seychelles & More



Robb Report LUXURY RESORTS



UNITED STATES & CANADA

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|----|---|
| 40 | Post Ranch Inn, Big Sur, Calif. | 53 | Four Seasons Resort Whistler Whistler, British Columbia | 60 | The Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch, Avon, Colo. |
| 42 | The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua Maui, Hawaii | 54 | The Point, Saranac Lake, N.Y. | 60 | Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North, Scottsdale, Ariz. |
| 44 | The Arrabelle at Vail Square Vail, Colo. | 55 | Stein Eriksen Lodge, Park City, Utah | 60 | The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Kiawah Island, S.C. |
| 46 | Auberge du Soleil, Rutherford, Calif. | 56 | Amangani, Jackson, Wyo. | 62 | Casa Palmero Pebble Beach, Calif. |
| 47 | Four Seasons Resort Lana'i at Manele Bay, Lana'i, Hawaii | 57 | The Inn at Palmetto Bluff Bluffton, S.C. | 62 | Hôtel Quintessence Mont-Tremblant, Quebec |
| 48 | The Little Nell, Aspen, Colo. | 58 | Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea, Maui, Hawaii | 62 | Wynn Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nev. |
| 50 | Montage Laguna Beach Laguna Beach, Calif. | 59 | Twin Farms, Barnard, Vt. | 62 | Four Seasons Resort The Biltmore, Santa Barbara, Calif. |
| 52 | The Cloister at Sea Island Sea Island, Ga. | 60 | Calistoga Ranch Calistoga, Calif. | | |

CARIBBEAN & LATIN AMERICA

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| 64 | Jade Mountain St. Lucia, British West Indies | 74 | Rosewood Little Dix Bay Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands | 81 | The Regent Palms Providenciales, Turks and Caicos |
| 66 | Mandarin Oriental Riviera Maya, Mexico, Playa del Carmen, Mexico | 75 | Esperanza, an Auberge Resort Cabo San Lucas, Mexico | 82 | Cap Est Lagoon Resort & Spa Martinique, French West Indies |
| 67 | Malliouhana Hotel & Spa Anguilla, British West Indies | 76 | Cotton House Mustique, the Grenadines | 82 | Four Seasons Resort Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo Papagayo Peninsula, Costa Rica |
| 68 | Awasi, San Pedro de Atacama, Chile | 77 | Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita, Mexico, Punta Mita, Mexico | 82 | Las Alamedas Quemaro, Mexico |
| 69 | Amanyara, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos | 78 | The Abaco Club on Winding Bay Great Abaco, the Bahamas | 82 | Las Ventanas al Paraíso, a Rosewood Resort Los Cabos, Mexico |
| 70 | Indigo Island, the Bahamas | 79 | Eden Rock Hotel St. Bart's, French West Indies | | |
| 71 | Eolo, La Anita Valley, Argentina | 80 | La Casa Que Canta Zihuatanejo, Mexico | | |
| 72 | Necker Island, British Virgin Islands | | | | |
| 73 | Cavas Wine Lodge Luján de Cuyo, Argentina | | | | |

SETTING

Atop a rock that protrudes into St. Jean Bay on the French West Indies island of St. Bart's.

SLEEPING

The 34 guest accommodations include 20 rooms and suites on the rock, as well as eight suites, four houses, and a new villa on the adjoining beach.

DINING

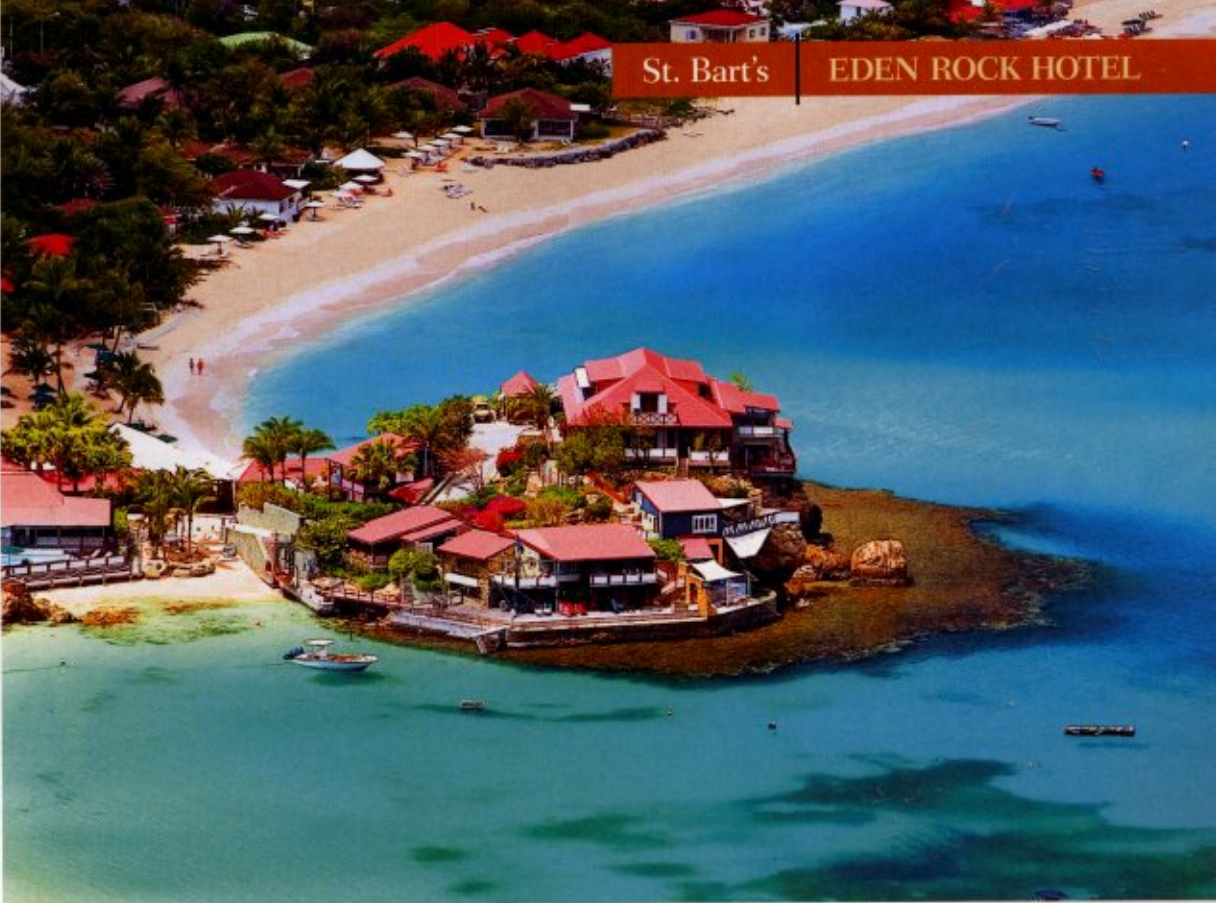
On the Rocks is the island's top destination for fine dining and cocktails. The Sand Bar serves casual fare steps from the beach.

DIVERSIONS

From Eden Rock beach, you can snorkel and windsurf, or kayak or sail to nearby islands. The resort does not have a spa but offers fitness and beauty services through its well-being program.

RATES

\$745-\$3,815



Set in Stone

Some passengers on the 20-seat planes that serve St. Bart's may be too concerned about a splash landing to notice their bird's-eye view of the Eden Rock Hotel. As the pilot cuts the throttle to approach a runway that is shorter than many California driveways, the plane swoops past a

jumble of roofs covering a large, circular rock that curves into the Caribbean from a white-sand beach. Even those who spot the Eden Rock's out-crop setting likely will overlook the hotel's beach-front wing—which is exactly the way owners David and Jane Matthews planned it.

The Eden Rock, a fixture on St. Bart's for nearly six decades, added the sleek wing during an 18-month renovation that more than doubled the number of accommodations, to 34. But the property, which reopened in 2005, remains the quintessential St. Bart's resort: private, discreet, and unmistakably French.

The Matthews acquired the Eden Rock in 1995, planning to make it their private vacation retreat. Instead, the British couple began expanding the hotel, culminating with its recent \$25 million makeover. The updated Howard Hughes suite—where three terraces afford 360-degree views of St. Jean Bay—is one of 20 accommodations on the rock, which complement eight suites, four houses, and a new villa with two private pools on the beach.

Next year, the Eden Rock plans to open another beach villa, dubbed Rockstar, which will include four master suites, a recording studio, a screening room, and a walled garden.

Although St. Bart's has no freshwater source, the Eden Rock produces enough water to fill plunge pools and heated whirlpools at each of the beach-front accommodations. The resort's water also is used for purposes of sustenance, though, in typical French fashion, sustenance—or, specifically, *la gastronomie*—is an obsession on St. Bart's. Morning conversations often begin with, "Where did you eat last night?" A frequent reply is "the Eden Rock," whose chef, Jean-Claude Dufour, has dominated the local dining scene since 1996. With lobster, tuna, and grouper from the hotel's boat augmented by twice-weekly deliveries of cold-ocean fish and shellfish from France, he has a solid foundation from which to work.

DAVID LYON

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