

ULTIMATE GIFT GUIDE • SCOTLAND'S CAMERON HOUSE • LAND THE 'CAJUN SLAM'

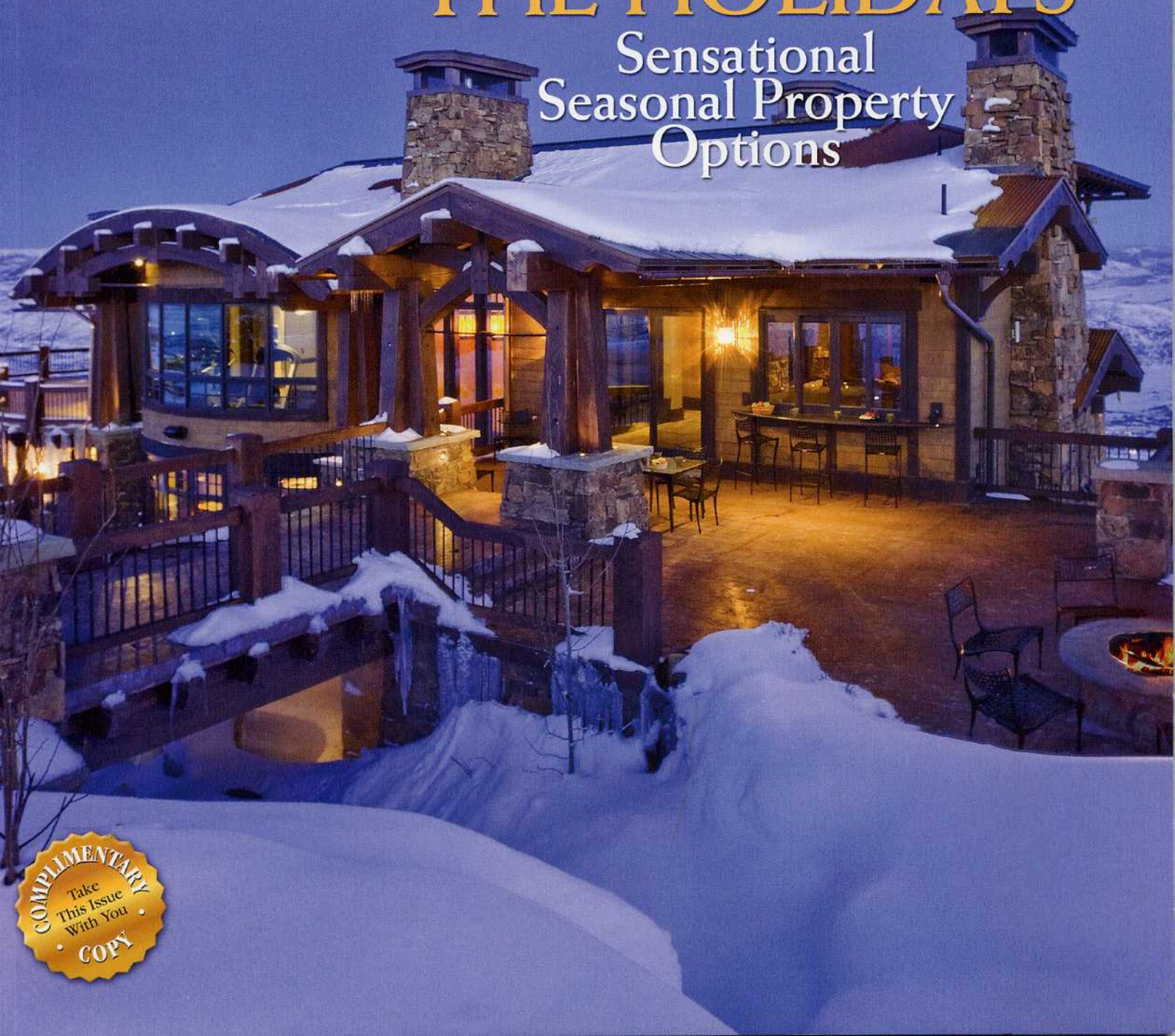
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HOLIDAY ISSUE 2009

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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Sounds So Suite

The new Rockstar Villa at Eden Rock Resort sounds like a great place to spend a week, especially if you're in the business of making music.

By David Tyda

It's ironic, really. He's got the name, a perfect life, and a gorgeous wife — what more could David Matthews need? No, we're not talking about the musical legend your daughter likely idolizes (that's Dave Matthews); we're talking about David Matthews, owner of the storied Eden Rock Resort on St. Barths island in the French West Indies.

He's got one of those spots in life that makes people forget there's actual work involved in running a resort. Even though the property butts up against the best beach on the island, employs one of the most talented chefs in the region, and includes some of the sexiest suites available, David Matthews is never really done tinkering to make things better. His newest endeavor is a 16,000-square-foot villa called Rockstar. Named after the type of clientele he hopes to attract with it, Rockstar is the newest building on the quaint and meandering Eden Rock grounds. The resort is marked most notably by a cluster of multi-height buildings that jut out from the shore on a circular peninsula. The site was chosen by the island's first developer and Eden Rock creator, Remy de



Haenen, a Richard Branson-type of figure who made sure luxury was always balanced out by a bit of quirkiness.

Rockstar will attract not only the top-tier, luxury-seeking elite (thanks to its four master suites, private beach entrance, central courtyard design, and dedicated chef), but also rock stars themselves — thanks to a full-fledged recording studio directly underneath the villa. “The recording studio has the latest equipment,” says David Matthews of the subterranean space, “but to mix with it, we’re also absolutely delighted to have procured the console John Lennon used to record ‘Imagine’ and much of his later music.” All of this studio equipment is literally located about 50 paces from St. Jean beach, but you’d never know it.

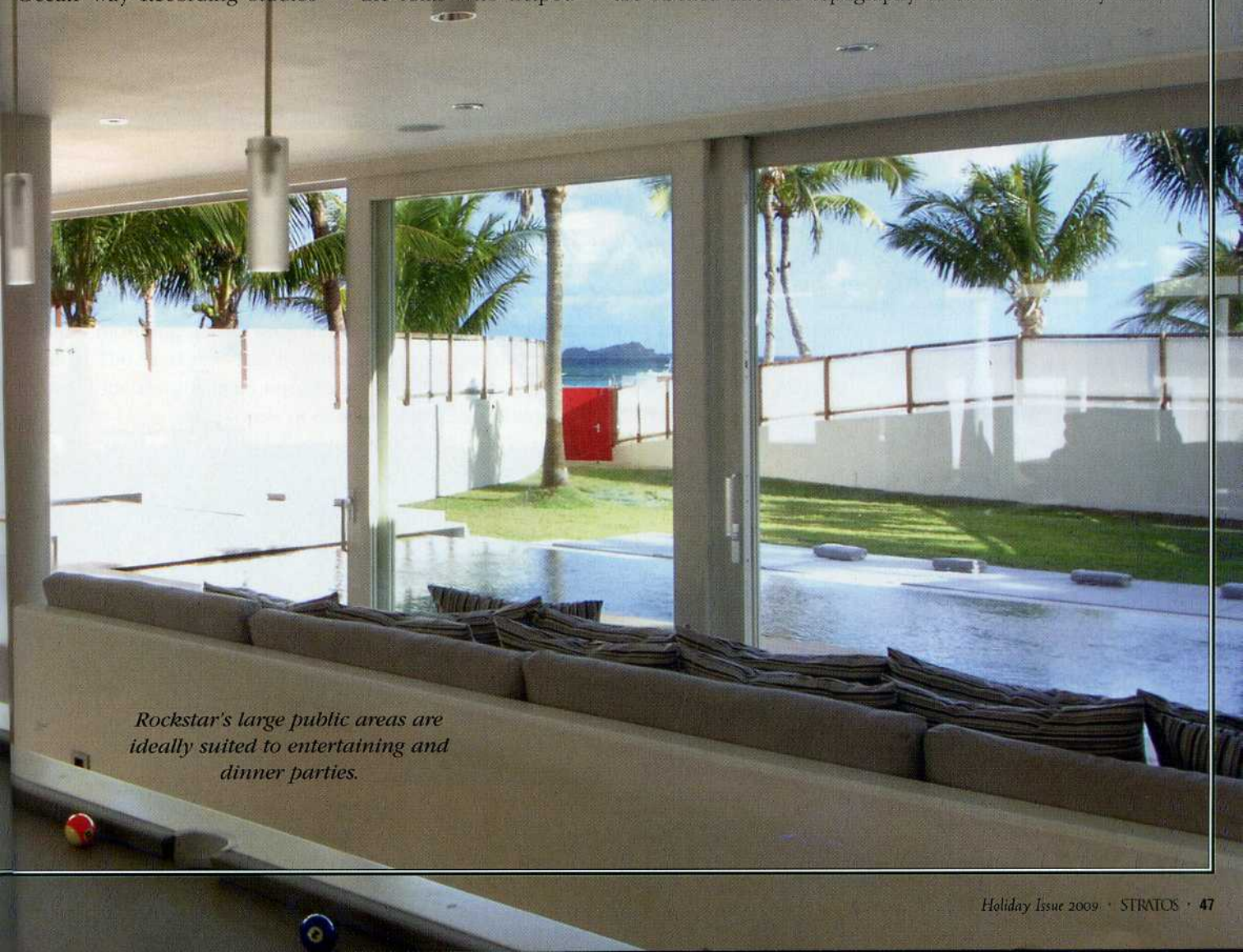
“P. Diddy and Jimmy Buffett and Paul McCartney visit St. Barts,” David says. “We hope that they and the many musicians who visit will consider producing music while they’re on the island. Rockstar offers this facility and also privacy behind its 10-foot high perimeter walls — yet it’s right on the beach, with life all around.” And even if you’re not a musician, the recording studio adds a bit of glitter to the whole place. Musicians take note: This equipment is more than glitter — it was designed in conjunction with Ocean Way Recording Studios — the folks who helped

engineer albums for Bonnie Raitt, Natalie Cole, and Whitney Houston.

Throughout Rockstar’s three-level layout, there are four bedrooms and, “they are all similar in size,” says David’s wife, Jane Matthews. “None are better than the others,” she points out, “each are as good as we can make them.” Each room’s bathroom is designed around the superb, egg-shaped, solid limestone Boffi tubs, and all the suites look down into the main cloisters courtyard. Also available to Rockstar guests: A private gym, pool, spa pool, cars, an office, pool table and games — and enough space for an impromptu performance amongst friends.

Next door, the 6,000-square-foot Villa Nina plays host to movie stars, families, honeymooners, and anyone looking for more space and privacy than a typical suite. There’s a dedicated swimming pool just off the beach, a sizeable art gallery curated by Jane herself, and a sleek and modern Valcucine kitchen David is particularly proud of. “The layout is great for entertaining,” he says. It’s “mainly one big clean and contemporary space.”

Besides these villas, Eden Rock is comprised of a small and charming collection of rooms and suites, all of which are stacked into the topography of St. Barths. Every room

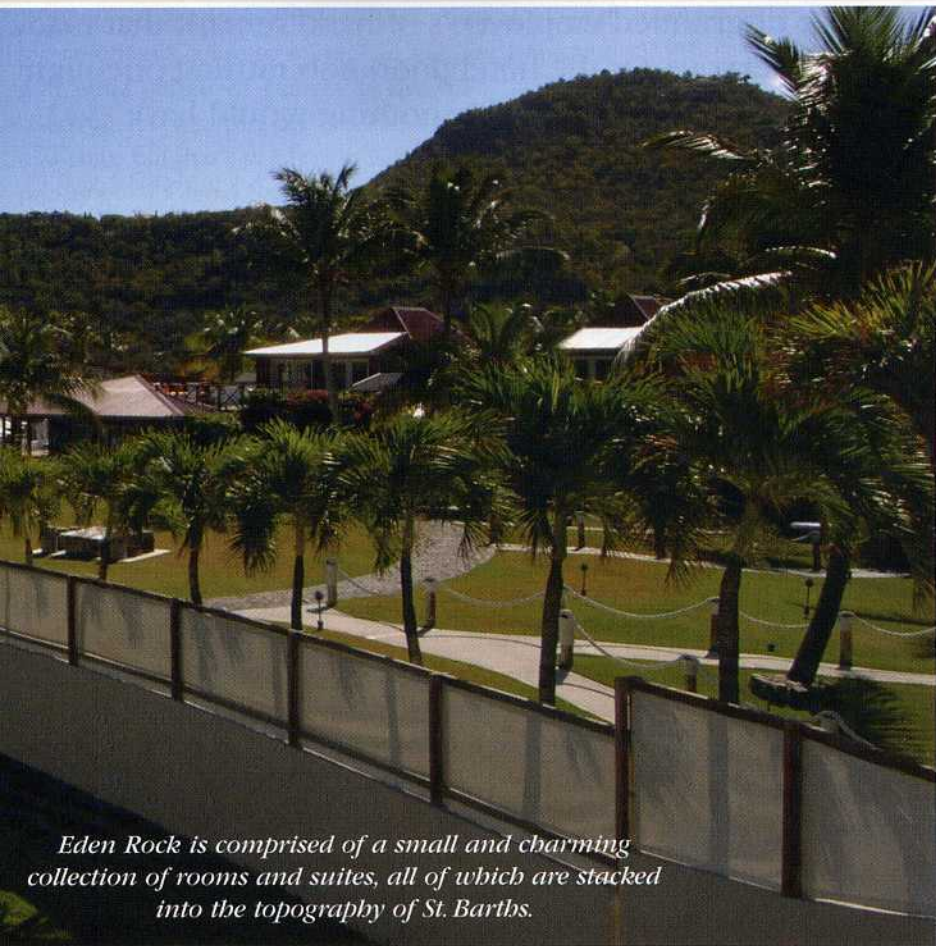


Rockstar's large public areas are ideally suited to entertaining and dinner parties.



Eden Rock Resort on St. Barths island in the French West Indies is home to the 16,000-square-foot Rockstar Suite.





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STRATOS Picks

• SEXIEST/MOST ROMANTIC SUITE –

The James Suite, with a stepped design that progresses (from top) from bedroom to living room to private pool/Jacuzzi/sundeck to rocky steps leading to the bar and beach. The James includes hands-down the most impressive bathroom in the resort, with a 10-person shower, sunken glass-tiled tub for two, outdoor shower, workout corner with weights, and teak floors.

• MOST POPULAR –

The Howard Hughes Suite is the highest on property and offers 360-degree views from 1,500 square feet. Inside the lofty space, a Hughes-era nautical theme prevails, as do hundreds of books, that will have you shunning the beach for one of the suite's three sun terraces.

• FOR FAMILIES –

Big Beach House. Kids will not only love entering this suite via rocky walkway from the waterside, but the playground that awaits behind mom and dad's room. A smallish cabin sunken partially into the ground resembles the forts of your childhood, but this one's outfitted with two twin beds, bathroom, and immediate access to the large private pool and terrace.

was distinctly designed and appointed by Jane — a few of our favorites are listed in the “STRATOS Picks” sidebar. Inside every one, though, are Bulgari amenities, hand-selected books and media, and little touches that make each one unique.

In the morning, guests stroll through the casual breakfast buffet at The Sand Bar. This beachside terrace stays open all day until the resort's main restaurant, On The Rocks, opens for dinner. Here, three levels of tiered dining cascade down from the semi-circular bar up top, where guests enjoy pre-dinner cocktails. In the kitchen, Bordeaux native Jean Claude Dufour applies French cooking techniques to locally caught fish and seasonally fresh produce. After dinner, guests are lulled towards Loveshop, a casual but high-fashion clothing boutique located steps from the bar.

If you're contemplating transferring your Ferretti to the waters around St. Barts, get the lay of the land first by chartering one of Eden Rock's two watercraft — a 35-foot picnic boat and a 65-foot Princess yacht, with room for up to 16 people.

More Details

Suites are categorized at different pricing levels, but top

level (Howard Hughes and James) start at around \$3,600 per night in the winter, less in the summer. Villa Nina, about \$60,000 per week. Rockstar, about \$130,000 per week. Although Rockstar might be the most prized accommodation at Eden Rock, it has much in common with the rest of the resort. “We treat the property like a collection of houses, from \$500 to \$20,000 a night,” says Matthews.

The runway on St. Barts is about as long as your lap pool, so you'll have to leave your Citation on the island of St. Martin. From there, a small hopper will have you on St. Barts in about 10 minutes. Hold on during landing — the approach is legendary. ☪

STRATOS Details

• EDEN ROCK

St. Barts, French West Indies(877) 563-7105
www.edenrockhotel.com

FBO INFO: ST. MARTIN GRAND CASE

Virgin Air590-590-542425
Air Guadeloupe.....590-590-877659
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