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Private dining on
North Island

Fantasy Islands

No nonstop flights and no easy access? Bring it on! When you want to truly escape and carve out time for the two of you, these private islands are just the ticket.

by ANDREA POE

Carefree Caribbean

Satisfy your dream of becoming castaways at Petit St. Vincent, a 115-acre private-island resort in the Grenadines. (Fun fact: The island is owned by an Alexandria resident.) Two miles of palm-fringed white-sand beach, exquisite turquoise waters, and lush hills are the backdrop for 24 romantic villas. Devoid of TV and internet (mostly), this is a place for focusing on each other. Take a voyage on a wooden

sloop to swim with sea turtles and explore an island populated by iguanas; book a couple's massage at the treetop spa; picnic on a spit of sand just offshore; scuba-dive the reefs alongside sharks and rays. When you're ready to mingle, head to Goatie's, the beach bar loved by locals who travel here by boat, or sway to steel drums at the island's weekly beachfront barbecue. petitstvincent.com.

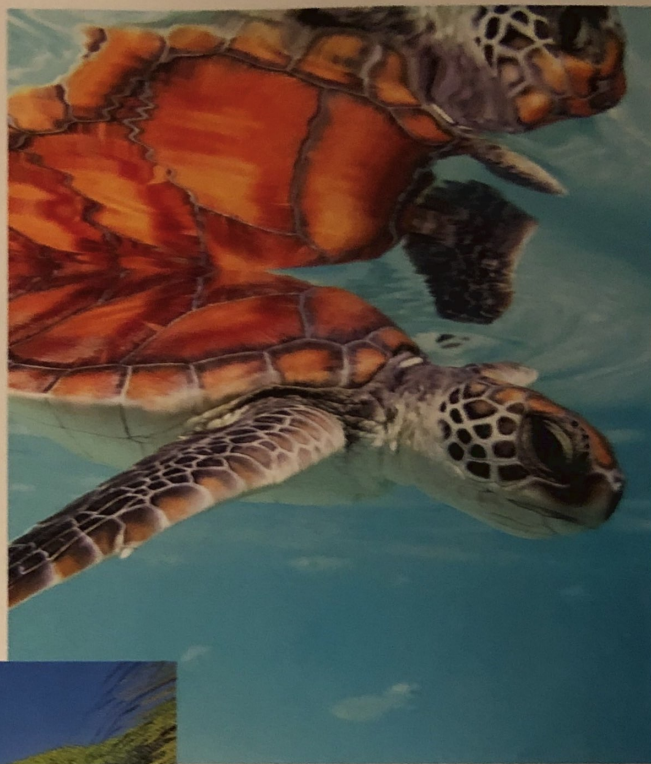
DESTINATION AIRPORT ▶ Grantley

Adams International (BGI) in Barbados. One-stop flights from DCA and BWI take about eight hours.

FROM THERE ▶ The resort charts Mustique Airways flights to Union Island, then arranges a 20-minute boat ride to PSV.

Indian Ocean Idyll

Honeymoon where Will and Kate did on private North Island, part of the gorgeous string of 115 islands that comprise the Seychelles. Built by African craftsmen, each of the eleven nearly 5,000-square-foot beachfront villas comes with a golf cart for island exploration. The resort is prized for its bespoke itineraries, which might include sunrise yoga on the sand, a kayak adventure to a secluded beach,



C CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Sushi on North Island; a sea turtle in French Polynesia; a two-bedroom villa on Petit St. Vincent.

deep-sea fishing, or a sunset cruise. North Island's chef can customize a meal fit for royals to be delivered to a rugged bluff overlooking the ocean, a spot known for its magical sunsets. north-island.com.

DESTINATION AIRPORT ▶ Seychelles International (SEZ) on Mahé. One-stop flights take about 20 hours from IAD.

FROM THERE ▶ It's a short car ride to the Zil Air Lounge, then a 20-minute helicopter ride to North Island.

South Sea Seclusion

The Brando, a luxury resort on a private island in French Polynesia that once belonged to actor Marlon Brando, is 30 miles from Tahiti. The world's first resort with LEED Platinum certification, the vibe here is eco-chic. Built with sustainable materials, lodgings are powered by coconut biofuel and air-conditioned, believe it or not, using seawater. All 35 villas are on the beach and have a private plunge

pool. Tap into the serene beauty of the island at the lily pond, the focal point of the sumptuous spa, or along paths that weave through a forest teeming with exotic birds. The resort is all about privacy in a pristine setting—no wonder Barack Obama spent a month here writing his memoirs and frolicking in the Pacific. thebrando.com.

DESTINATION AIRPORT ▶ Faa'a International Airport (PPT) in Papeete, Tahiti. One-stop flights from IAD and DCA take about 17½ hours.

FROM THERE ▶ It's a 20-minute Air Tetiaroa flight to the Brando.

PERFECT TIMING

For optimum weather, plan your trip to PSV during Washington's winter, North Island during spring or fall, and the Brando during summer.