

Condé Nast Traveller

10 OF THE BEST WINTER-SUN FAMILY VILLAS

These exotic dens are big and secluded enough to make a hullabaloo in — yet helping hands and a kit-bag full of diversions are never far away. All back to ours!



MUSTIQUE, CARIBBEAN

Fisher House

The **Mustique** set-up is incredibly civilised for families. At this private retreat, everyone cruises around in Kawasaki Mules, hopping in flip-flops from the soft sands of **Macaroni beach** to the wild waters at **Pasture Bay**, taking care to avoid any tortoises crossing the road and making detours to sign up for pony trekking, kite surfing or one of the weekly tennis camps.

Fisher House in particular is stellar for an ultra-active brood - the 20-metre, pebble-lined pool with its waterfall is one of the best places to splash about on the island (owner Gordon McCallum, one of the head honchos at Virgin and long-time friend of Richard Branson's, has a household of keen swimmers).

For those who just want to paddle there are glorious views from the shallow end, past the tiny runway where Twin Otter planes putt-putt in and out three or four times a day, over the avenue of palms and the rooftops of the Cotton House hotel, straight across the water to **Bequia**. The rest of the outside space is just as fantastic, with a huge terrace and plenty of mauve and grey beanbags for slumping on. The open-sided great room has L-shaped sofas piled high with silk-printed cushions, armchairs that swivel round 180 degrees to watch the sunset, books, board games and the biggest noughts and crosses set you'll ever see. For the odd rainy afternoon, there's a media room full of DVDs and daybeds.

Joy, the chef, has been cooking at the house for 28 years. Breakfast, served in the gazebo, can include bowls of the sweetest mango, papaya and kiwi, warm pancakes, fresh juices - her beetroot-and-celery

concoction has a particular kick - and strawberry and banana smoothies that taste like milkshake.

There are three interconnecting bedrooms: two pretty doubles - with White Company bath linen, floral fabrics, limed wood - and a bright and breezy bunkroom. But plans for a further trio of rooms will turn this place into a whopping, bring-the-whole-gang crash pad.

Address: Fisher House, Mustique Island, St. Vincent and The Grenadines

Telephone: +44 20 7201 6831

Website: www.mustique-island.com

Price: Seven nights' villa rental from £8,364, including four staff. Sleeps six