

Reader Competition

Win a holiday worth £8,000

COUNTRY LIFE has teamed up with *Grenadine Escape* and



ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

to offer readers an amazing holiday in St Vincent and the Grenadines



The prize: ● Seven nights in a Luxury Villa on Bequia Island ● International flights with Virgin Atlantic ● Grenadine Airways flights from Barbados to Bequia ● Daily breakfast ● Jeep hire

beaches and overlooking the most magical ocean and views.

Although luxuriously spacious, the six-bedroom villa has also captured the intimate feeling of a home away from home.

For further information visit www.grenadine-escape.com, the Caribbean destination spe-

cialist with more than 40 years' of island experience. The company is able to access unique homes and negotiate with the owners for the best deals. Its aim is to treat you as preciously as it does its own family and give you an unforgettable holiday.

ENTER our competition, and you could be met in Barbados and whisked to the island of Bequia, in St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) renowned for its breathtaking beaches, for a once-in-a-lifetime holiday at the outrageously beautiful Wana Villa.

The epitome of barefoot luxury, Bequia is one of the 32 islands and cays that makes up the paradise of SVG. The laidback island covers seven square miles of secluded beaches, lush rainforest and breathtaking scenery. A short sail away is Tobago Cays marine park, where you can snorkel beautiful coral reefs and swim with turtles. Visit www.discoversvg.com for more.

Wana House can be found hidden within the lush Bequia forest, high in the hills, yet only five minutes' drive from the

Reader Offer

Special offer for COUNTRY LIFE readers for bookings made in January-March
35% off rates for couples
25% off rates for 4-6 guests
10% off rates for 8-12 guests

Any dates excluding April 1-30 and December 15-January 4

Rental includes: Jeep rental
Airport welcome and cocktails on arrival
Maid Service with preparation of breakfast and lunch (Evening cooking available)

Competition Entry Coupon

Grenadine Escape



Please post to: Grenadines Competition, COUNTRY LIFE Marketing, 9th Floor, Blue Fin Building, 110, Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU. Closing Date: 1 March 2011

Question: What is the marine park in St Vincent and the Grenadines called?

Answer:

COUNTRY LIFE, published by IPC Media Ltd (IPC), will collect your personal information to process your entry and to gain a better understanding of our magazine readership.

Please tick if you would like to receive emails containing news, special offers and product and service information, and to take part in our magazine research via email. From COUNTRY LIFE and IPC. From carefully selected third parties.

COUNTRY LIFE and IPC would like to contact you by post or telephone to promote and ask your opinion on our magazines and services. Please tick here if you prefer not to hear from us.

IPC may occasionally pass on your details to carefully selected organisations so they can contact you by telephone or post with regards to promoting and researching their products and services. Please tick here if you prefer not to be contacted.

Use of entrant's email address: when you enter this competition, your email address will be added to the weekly COUNTRY LIFE newsletter. However, you will be given the opportunity to unsubscribe from the email newsletter via the unsubscribe message in the email.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Title.....

Forename.....

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Email.....

Terms and Conditions: Entry is open to residents of the UK, except employees (and their families) of IPC Media, its printers and agents, the suppliers of the prizes and any other companies associated with the competitions. The entrant(s) must be aged 18 or over. Proof of identity and age may be required. Use of a false name or address will result in disqualification. Entries that are incomplete, illegible, indistinguishable, or fraudulent (if made by phone) will not be valid and deemed void. All entries must be made directly by the person entering the competition. Entries made online using methods generated by a script, macro or the use of automated devices will be void. No responsibility can be accepted for entries lost, damaged or delayed in the post, or due to computer error in transit. The prizes are as stated, are not transferable to another individual and no cash or other alternative will be offered. The winner(s) is/are responsible for expenses and arrangements not specifically included in the prizes, including any necessary travel documents, passports and visas. Prizes are subject to availability and the prize applicant's terms and conditions. The promoter reserves the right to amend or alter the terms of competitions at any time and reject entries from entrants not entering into the spirit of the competition. In the event of a prize being unavailable, the promoter reserves the right to offer an alternative prize of equal or greater value. The winner(s) agrees to the use of their name, a photograph and disclosure of county of residence and will co-operate with any other reasonable requests by IPC relating to any post-winning publicity. Unless stated otherwise, all postal entries must be made on the relevant coupon or form printed in the magazine. Unless stated otherwise, the winner(s) will be drawn at random from all correct entries received by the closing date stated within the promotional material. Reasonable efforts will be made to contact the winner(s). If the winner(s) cannot be contacted, or are unable to comply with these terms and conditions, the Promoter reserves the right to offer the prize to the next eligible entrant drawn at random, or in the event that the prize is not being judged, the Promoter reserves the right to offer the prize to the runner(s) up selected by the same judges. Confirmation of the prize will be made in writing to the winner(s). Failure to respond and/or to provide an address for delivery, or failure to meet the eligibility requirements may result in forfeiture of the prize. The prize is applicable for travel from May 1 to June 14, 2011 and November 1 to 14, 2011 (excluding half terms). The promoter reserves the right to change the cover for the flights.



Islands in the sun

Grenada and Bequia are well-established on the radars of yachtsmen, but they also have much to offer second-home buyers, says Arabella Youens



Make newly built Hope Bay your base from which to explore Bequia's unspoilt beaches. \$10 million

TOURISTS tend to steer clear of the Caribbean during hurricane season, with good reason. So it was with some trepidation that I agreed to go on a sailing trip around Grenada and the Grenadines in September 2004. 'Grenada hasn't been hit by a hurricane for more than 50 years—you'll be fine,' reassured a friend.

The reality was, of course, rather different. On arrival in Grenada, we were given a 36-hour window before the eye of Hurricane Ivan was due to pass through the very marina where our boat was moored. We sailed immediately for Trinidad. Hours later, the hurricane caused catastrophic damage to the island: more than 85% of it was devastated.

Fast-forward through six years of slow recovery and a world recession, and the mood today on Grenada is decidedly upbeat. The agricultural industry has recovered, and the all-important airlift to the island is improving. 'It's an incredibly varied island:

beautiful beaches on the south and lovely in the north, and the interior is like the Caribbean used to be,' explains David Vaughan of Savills. 'The capital is so English—it reminds me of a small Cotswolds town. The people are friendly and the infrastructure is excellent, so when the market picks up, it'll be an amazing place to buy.'

The British entrepreneur and developer Peter de Savary has been responsible for keeping some of the momentum for development on the island going over the past few years. In 2006, he sold the newly built super-yacht marina at Port Louis, dubbed the 'Portofino of the Caribbean', and is now developing a maritime village around it with hotels, restaurants and apartments and villas priced from £350,000.

His second project is the boutique beach resort of Mount Cinnamon at Grande Anse beach, one of the best on the island, where villas start from about \$1 million. 'We've sold two

big houses recently to British buyers, one on each site, and are feeling optimistic about what 2011 might bring,' explains Mark Scott, head of sales at de Savary (00 1 473 405 5800). 'Grenada is slightly off the beaten track for people, so we know we're going to appeal to more adventurous buyers.'

'The capital of Grenada reminds me of a small Cotswolds town'

Meanwhile, for those looking for something more historic, old plantation houses do come on the market from time to time. Aylesford International is currently marketing the Mount Edgecombe estate, a 28-acre working plantation and six-bedroom house for \$2.75 million (020-7349 5100).

The island of Bequia (pronounced 'Beckwee'), which forms part of the Grenadines, has hitherto been known principally to yachtsmen. Often dubbed the 'new old Mustique', this tiny speck of land just seven miles long is how the West Indies must have been before the blights of mass tourism. 'Only, it's better than that,' explains Lara Cowan, who lived on the island and now runs Grenadine Escape (www.grenadine-escape.com). 'It has all the charm of the Caribbean as it once was, and yet, because it caters for the yachting market, the service standard is first class.' Key to its preservation has been its relative inaccessibility: most people travel to Barbados and catch an onward flight (landing is described as 'an experience to sharpen the senses' by one local), although an international airport is being built in St Vincent, a one-hour ferry ride from Bequia.

Despite this, when foreigners were given the opportunity to buy land five years ago, parcels sold quickly. One of these plots is now home to Hope Bay, an extravagant home made up of a main house and six cottages built by the British developer Harry Marriott.

Standing just three steps from one of the most beautiful beaches in the Grenadines, each cottage has a bedroom suite, and the entertaining is done in the main house. It's the biggest house to be built and launched on the market in Bequia, and the price tag, although steep at \$10 million, still represents a fraction of the value of an equivalent house on Mustique. Hope Bay is for sale through Savills (020-7016 3740) and Knight Frank (020-7629 8171).