THE TIMES

50 best villas in the Caribbean



31. Villa Bleu, Proctor Point

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From an ultra-plush pad just yards from a white sandy beach to the villa where Ian Fleming wrote James Bond novels

St Vincent and the Grenadines

1. Peace Villa

Bequia

This gorgeous, remote villa lives up to its name. It's in an isolated spot amid woodland with a coral stone path leading down through a garden to a sandy beach. The west-facing lounge opens on to a large covered terrace with sea views, and there's also a roof terrace amid the treetops. As well as a large upper-floor master suite there are two twin bedrooms on the ground floor. **Details:** A week's self-catering for six is from £2,190 during winter; a chef is on hand to help with cooking should you wish for six days of the stay. Flights can be arranged for about £750pp (020 3468 5592, grenadine-escape.com)

2. Cassava

Bequia

There's a colonial-style feel to the interior of this sumptuous three-bedroom villa set in lush gardens close to the sea on Lower Bay. The master bedroom comes with a four-poster bed and has a high ceiling with exposed beams and a fan (there is also air-conditioning). Lower Bay's beach is especially good for swimming, and you can relax afterwards at three chilled-out beach bars.

Details: A week is from £1,565 for six (oneoffplaces.co.uk)

3. Ravenala House

Beguia

The splendid pool at Ravenala House curves outwards at the end of a terrace with views down to Lower Bay. The three-bedroom villa is set on a secluded hillside, although the walk down to the beach is only five minutes. Rooms are cosy and colourful, some with french windows leading on to wooden balconies. At one end of the main terrace is a dining table big enough to seat ten. **Details:** The house is from £231 a night for six but you must book at least a three-night stay (holidaylettings.co.uk, reference 271088)

4. New Eden

Bequia

On Friendship Bay, by a beach, New Eden has four minimalist bedrooms with whitewashed walls interspersed with splashes of colourful art. A terrace with loungers faces out to sea on this quiet stretch of coast, but it's not too far away from the restaurants and bars of the lively yachting harbour of Port Elizabeth. Watersports, sailing facilities and tennis courts are also close by. **Details:** A week costs from £2,815 for eight (oneoffplaces.co.uk)

5. Cottages

Petit St Vincent

Expect contemporary interiors with pale blue decorations, modern art and exposed stones walls, as well as hammocks slung across wooden terraces at one of the cottages on the resort island of Petit St Vincent. This is a high-class hideaway with a spa offering Balinese massages as well as a Jean-Michel Cousteau dive centre. There are 22 cottages in total, with either one or two bedrooms. Food is served at a restaurant next to a casual barefoot beach bar.

Details: A week's full-board for two in a one-bedroom cottage is from £3,299pp with flights and boat transfers (01244 355527 itcluxurytravel.co.uk)

6. Mustique Cottage

Mustique

Recently renovated with a slick modern interior in pastel colours with the odd splash of pink, Mustique Cottage has a long pool curving round a terrace surrounded by a well-kept garden. There are three en suite rooms in this unusual stone building, which has a mini castellated tower. It's a peaceful place with a rooftop veranda for sundowners as well as a pool table and a games room with backgammon and chess boards.

Details: One week for six is from £7,995 including daily housekeeping, the services of a chef and a vehicle (01242 220006, thewowhousecompany.co.uk); return flights to Barbados are from about £655 (virgin-atlantic.com) and onwards to Mustique is from £325 return (mustique.com)

7. Sea Feather Villa Palm Island Resort

Right on a white-sand beach with a wide open wooden deck terrace with steps down to the waterfront, Sea Feather is the newest villa in the grounds of Palm Island Resort. It comes with two colourful bedrooms and a comfortable lounge looking out across the turquoise water — it can sleep up six people. The villa has a small kitchen but is sold on an all-inclusive basis; you can also dine at restaurants at the resort. Maseo of the hip-hop group De La Soul recently stayed here.

Details: A week's all-inclusive is from £2,779pp with return flights, via Barbados to Union, a seven-minute boat ride from Palm Island; this is based on two sharing, if six are sharing the price is from £1,899pp (0844 3714004, caribbeanwarehouse.co.uk)

Jamaica

8. Villa Scotch on the Rocks

Ocho Rios

A guest account is arranged at a supermarket around the corner from this fabulous five-bedroom villa perched precariously on a rocky outcrop surrounded by palm trees by the seafront. So it's easy to order food for your private chef, and there's also a butler who can ask local fishermen to bring over their catch. The rooms are whitewashed and minimalist. As well as a pool, steps lead down to a sandy beach with a private pier with a gazebo.

Details: One week is from £1,189pp including flights and transfers, based on ten sharing (0843 2495361, tropicalsky.co.uk)

9. Cliffhouse

Cousins Cove

Set in three acres of tropical gardens on a quiet clifftop, this is a perfect choice for a group of friends looking for a cool place to chill out. Cliffhouse is a five-bedroom villa half-way between Montego Bay and Negril. The interior is contemporary, with a whitewashed open-plan design. The villa has its own L-shaped pool, hammocks and a modern kitchen (plus a barbecue). **Details:** A week is from £1,967 for ten people, including a daily maid service and a welcome hamper (i-escape.com)

10. Wag Water near Ocho Rios

Named after a river that meanders through the parish of St Mary, Wag Water is one of a handful of seafront villas in a pretty 980-acre plantation estate. It's got its own 1.5 acre garden with a secluded pool terrace, beyond which steps lead down to the sea, where there's good snorkelling. The villa's three bedrooms are cosy and colourful, and there's a large terrace with white tiles and comfy chairs.

Details: A week is from £1,686 for six people and includes the services of a cook, butler and maid (020 7351 6384, sixillas.co.uk)

11. The Pepper House near Montego Bay

The Oueen and Duke of Edinburgh stayed here during their 1966 Caribbean tour; the Oueen later described Pepper House as

being in a "beautiful" setting. There's a terrace with a kidney bean-shaped pool at the back of this elegant villa that was originally built for a French count and countess in the 1950s. The six bedrooms are tastefully decorated and there's a dark wood floor lounge with a chandelier and art-lined walls. It's on the edge of the Round Hill estate, with access to all its facilities and beach.

Details: A week's stay is from £6,108 for 12 people, and includes the services of seven staff and a minibus with driver (020-7351 6384, sjvillas.co.uk)

12. Round Hill Villas

near Montego Bay

These are next door to the Pepper House on the Round Hill estate, which is also home to a hotel where John and Jackie Kennedy spent their honeymoon. The estate's scatterings of two-bedroom villas have a traditional but unfussy style with outdoor decks and open-air living rooms overlooking well-maintained lawns. They come with wi-fi and Elemis products in the bathrooms. Most of the villas have private pools.

Details: A week's stay for four is from £3,100 (020 3642 2595, simpsonexclusive.com)

13. Calypso

near Sandy Bay

The highlight of this four-bedroom villa is an eye-catching circular pool surrounded by a red brick terrace. The interior is a touch chintzy, with bright sofas and flowery bedcovers, but rooms are spacious and grand with, the feeling of staying in a country mansion. It's next to the 16th green of a golf course and guests are welcome to test out their putting skills before golfers arrive in the morning. Two golf carts are provided for travelling down to a nearby private beach.

Details: One night for eight people costs from £280 (0800 0885574, blueskyluxury.com)

14. The Fleming Villa Oracabessa Bay

Perhaps the most famous villa in the Caribbean, this is where Ian Fleming wrote his James Bond novels. It sits on a mound overlooking a small, private sandy bay with old-fashioned wooden chairs on a terrace plus a pool next to an entertainment room with a film screen. You can either rent the main master bedroom — so that you have the villa to yourself — or take up to five rooms for ten guests. Although the villa is next to the swanky GoldenEye resort with its James Bond Beach, it's far enough removed to be quiet. But the Fleming Villa does not cheap.

Details: A night's stay for two is from £1,550, while the price for ten people in five rooms is from £4,650 for a night. If you book it for two you can have the villa to yourself. Meals are extra (thefleming villa.com). There are cheaper villas within the nearby grounds such as Lagoon Cottage, which sleeps two from £388 a night including breakfast (goldeneye.com)

St Lucia

15. Villa Saline Reef

Cap Estate

From this three-bedroom hillside villa you can see across the sea as far as Martinique. Villa Saline Reef is in pretty gardens with verandas, balconies and shaded turrets dotted around the edge of a distinguished two-storey building. There's a lovely pool on two levels and the coast here is particularly peaceful. Rooms are air-conditioned, comfortable and elegantly decorated. The service of a cook is included in the price.

Details: A week's self-catering is from £999pp including flights and transfers (0843 2495361, tropicalsky.co.uk)

16. Light Castle

Cap Estate

Shaped like a castle with turrets and battlements this two-bedroom villa clings to a steep hillside above the sea surrounded by gardens filled with flowers. It's a lot of fun with a grand arched entrance that's reminiscent of a Spanish fort. Inside there's a **pared**-down look with heavy exposed beams and dining tables both inside, next to the open plan kitchen, and on the cosy terrace. The rates are a bargain.

Details: A week's self-catering is from £389pp based on four sharing; the services of a maid and a cook are included (020 7112 0019, fleewinter.com). Flights to St Lucia are from about £700 return with Skyscanner.net

17. Sand Dollar

Cap Estate

There's a hexagonal pool on a terrace running down to a sloping lawn this bijou villa that feels tucked away on a corner of Cap Estate and very private. With three (slightly chintzy) bedrooms and pink exterior walls, Sand Dollar may not be to the interior design crowd's taste, but the prices are good and there's a charming Hansel and Gretel character, plus lovely gardens.

Details: A week's self-catering is from £1,162 in total, sleeping six (tripadvisor.co.uk)

18. Bananaquit House

near Soufriere

This stunning villa has a huge whitewashed open-plan lounge with sides opening on to a terracotta terrace with views of the Pitons, St Lucia's famous volcanic spires. There are six smart rooms including a bunk room for kids and a twin room — it's especially child-friendly and there are dozens of toys, plus a lawn for tumbling about on next to the little pool. The villa comes

with an on-site chef.

Details: A week's self-catering is from £3,129 with a rum punch and a welcome meal on arrival (i-escape.com)

19. Tamarind House

near Soufriere

Tamarind House also looks out across the Pitons, but it's got a more old-fashioned, traditional look. Antiques, rocking chairs, arched doorways and terracotta tiled floors create a homely, down-to-earth feel. The three en suite bedrooms have sturdy wooden-framed beds and come with the occasional splash of local art — the walls of the main lounge are covered in bold works. The pool is on a secluded terrace lined with tumbling boungainvillea.

Details: One night costs from £342 for four people and £435 for six; a staff of two is included (0800 0885574, blueskyluxury.com)

20. La Toc Villa near Castries

This modern villa has a superb infinity pool overlooking the sea — and some very reasonable rates. There are three bedrooms, two of which are a little plain, although the master bedroom is a step up from the others with french windows opening on to a charming semi-circular balcony with chairs and a small table. The downstairs area is massive and open-plan with the kitchen turning into a television lounge with sofas. It's a five-minute walk to a sandy beach and Sandals La Toc golf course is nearby. **Details:** One night is from £171 with a minimum three-night stay (holidaylettings.co.uk, reference 163180)

Tobago

21. Villa Hawksbill

Grafton Beach

Just 100m from one of the best beaches in Tobago, Villa Hawksbill has an imposing colonial façade with verandas on two levels and a sweeping staircase leading up from a smart courtyard with a circular pool. Its three bedrooms are simple but comfortable, with air-conditioning and balconies. The living/dining room is bright and airy, leading through to a fully equipped kitchen (a chef can be arranged at an extra cost). Restaurants and bars are about a five-minute stroll away. **Details:** A week is from £719pp based on six sharing, including flights (0843 249 5361, tropicalsky.co.uk)

22. The Villas at Stonehaven

On a hillside on the west coast close to a bird sanctuary filled with colourful motmot birds, the 14 villas at Stonehaven each come with three bedrooms. Expect four-posters, shuttered windows, infinity pools and verandas. They are tucked away on a quiet part of the island and are best suited to families with older children (over the age of seven), or to adults. If you don't feel like cooking there's a central clubhouse with a restaurant, bar and large pool.

Details: One week costs from £1,423pp based on two people sharing a three-room villa (without other guests), including flights and transfers (020 8682 5050, scottdunn.com)

23. Palmhaven

near Orange Hill

This reasonably priced little villa is in a quiet residential area and built in a French colonial style with louvered shutters. Views are of undulating hills to one side and the sea to the other, and the two-bedroom villa is well-located for popping into the vibrant capital, Scarborough, with its many good restaurants (about a ten-minute drive away). There's a twin room and a double, plus an infinity pool facing the hills and a chilled-out lounge with wicker furniture.

Details: A week is from £725pp including flights on Monarch, based on a family of six sharing (020 7563 7906, cvvillas.com)

24. Villa Petrus

Scarborough

Built in the style of an old plantation mansion and set in two acres of gardens with a 22m pool, Villa Petrus is a great choice for a big get-together of friends and family. Its seven bedrooms are spread across the huge building, which is tastefully decorated in pared-down colours although some rooms have cobalt, pistachio or wine-red walls. There's also a little book-lined study and the massive main veranda overlooks rolling green hills. It's about a five-minute drive to beaches on the coast.

Details: A week is from £2,845 for 14 people (oneoffplaces.co.uk). Monarch.co.uk has return flights to Tobago from about £440

25. Villa Jammev

near Little Rockley Bay

By the sea on the edge of the Tobago Plantations Golf Course, this cute three-room villa has a little pool with a hot tub at one end. Beyond the pool is a sloping lawn leading to a waterfront gazebo that's perfect for enjoying sundowners. Each room — colourful with lime-green or lemon-yellow bedcovers beneath high ceilings with whitewashed beams — comes with an en suite bathroom. It's a five-minute walk to a nearby hotel with a bar and restaurant. Shops are about a 15-minute drive away. **Details:** One week is from £749pp based on six sharing, including flights (0843 7706267, tropicalsky.co.uk)

Grenada

26. Hummingbird Villa

near Prickly Bay

On a grassy slope with well-tended gardens, Hummingbird was completed by the renowned designer Vincenzo de Rosa in 2005 with five rooms in tasteful muted colours, although bright modern art and zebra-pattern chairs liven the lounge and the dining room. The decent-sized infinity pool is overlooked by a grand gazebo that faces out to sea. Guests can use the larger pool, tennis court and snooker room of the next door Calabash Hotel.

Details: One week based on ten sharing is from £7,360, or £3,920 based on two sharing based on two sharing (spiceislevillas.com). Flights are from about £650 with British Airways

27. Mount Cinnamon Villas

Grand Anse Beach

Guests staying here can use the amenities of the neighbouring Mount Cinnamon Resort & Beach Club — including swimming pools, gym and tennis courts — or else keep themselves to themselves in their own villa. The 21 hillside villas have one to three bedrooms with vibrant colour schemes, four-posters in the main bedroom, and sea views.

Details: A week's B&B is from £1,599pp based on four sharing a two-bedroom villa with flights, transfers and breakfasts served in a restaurant that is a short stroll away (01494 678400, turquoiseholidays.co.uk)

28. Villa Belle Morne Rouge

St George's

With a big infinity pool on a terrace overlooking Morne Rouge Bay — and a bar on a veranda for sundowners — this three-bedroom villa is a perfect hideaway for a chilled-out week away. There's a barbecue by the pool as well as an open-plan kitchen next to the lounge. Rooms are basic but comfortable; one has a brilliant view across the bay.

Details: A week is from £2,110 for six (homeaway.co.uk, reference p1079131)

29. Villas

True Blue Bay

For a reasonably-priced villa based within the grounds of a lively resort, try True Blue Bay. There are five villas in total, each with two bedrooms and a small private plunge pool — they also share an infinity pool. There's a lodge-style look to the interiors with wooden beams and furniture, plus metal-framed four -posters in rooms. The True Blue Bay resort has more pools, a yoga centre, spa, two restaurants, rum-tasting evenings and an onsite micro-brewery.

Details: Villas are from £323 a night based on four sharing on a B&B basis (truebluebay.com)

Antigua

30. The Rocksure Collection

Nonsuch Bay

If you're looking for a modernist designer pad with tall glass windows and minimalist decor, this four-bedroom villa on Nonsuch Bay is worth checking out (though it's pricey on peak weeks). The highlight is a splendid infinity pool surrounded by a white-stone terrace leading to a marble lounge with magnolia sofas and abstract sculptures — with a dining room on a mezzanine level. The villa takes a prominent spot on a grassy headland and has access to a secluded beach below.

Details: A week costs from £4,400 for eight (01993 823809, rocksurecollection.com). Return flights with Virgin Atlantic are from about £650

31. Villa Bleu

Proctor Point

The look here is Cape Cod chic with a pastel blue colour scheme, comfy white sofas and wicker chairs on airy terraces. There are five bedrooms in this stylish clapboard hideaway with pretty bougainvillea-filled gardens on a cliff, plus a crescent-shaped pool. From the kitchen and the main dining table you look down across Falmouth Harbour. At the bottom of the garden near the cliff there's a pavilion with a small gym and another that is designated the "gin and tonic pavilion".

Details: One week is from £612pp based on ten people sharing, including maid service for five days (sjvillas.co.uk)

32. Ffryes Villa Jolly Harbour

This neat three-bedroom villa is part of a development, with boutique shops, bars, restaurants and an 18-hole golf course. It's right next to a lovely long sandy beach, and guests also have a decent-sized private pool with sun loungers set around a courtyard, with a lounge-style terrace above. There is one twin room and two doubles.

Details: A week for six is from £1,001 (holidaylettings.co.uk, reference 52060)

33. St James's Club & Villas

Mamora Bay

These villas are tucked away in the Village, a quieter section of the St James's Club resort, on a hill that leads down to a sandy beach. There are two en suite bedrooms, fully equipped kitchens and balconies or patios overlooking Mamora Bay. The style is slick and modern, with air-conditioning and ceiling fans. Guests can use the resort's watersport facilities and tennis courts.

Details: A week's all-inclusive stay is from £2,199pp — a saving of £1,288pp — for departures on December 2 and 4 if bookings are made before November 30, including flights (0844 3714004, caribbeanwarehouse.co.uk)

Barbados

34. Bellevue Plantation House

Waterford

Built in 1753, Bellevue is one of the oldest structures in Barbados, designed in a "Caribbean Georgian" style: limestone walls, shutters, verandas and galleries. Its quaint, old-fashioned feel extends to the interior and the hardwood floors and dark wood bedframes. With eight bedrooms it's a great venue for a family gathering, oozing charm and with masses of space.

Details: One week is from £2,784 for eight guests sharing four rooms, or from £4,176 for 16 guests taking all eight rooms (bellevuebarbados.co.uk). British Airways has Barbados returns from £570

35. Todmorden Gibbs Beach

Almost all of the rooms in this single-storey coral stone building face the garden, with its larger-than-usual pool. Todmorden is in a relaxed residential community that's a short stroll to the soft sands of Gibbs Beach. It's great for families, with a master bedroom, a smaller double and a twin room. There's a bright, upbeat style to the decor and breezes drift through the slatted windows, although there's also air-conditioning.

Details: One week costs from £1,180pp including flights, based on six sharing; a chef is on hand if required (020 7563 7906, cvvillas.com)

36. Barbados Villas by Caribound Mullins Bay

Tucked away on Mullins Bay within a gated community, these three-bedroom villas are included in Virgin Holidays portfolio, with flights included. They are well-appointed properties with tasteful interior decoration in muted colours, spotless bathrooms and kitchens, plus tranquil gardens with lawns and small pools. It's a five-minute walk to a pretty beach and good shops fare nearby.

Details: One week costs from £1,065pp based on six sharing, flights included; you must book by phone although the property can be viewed on the website (0844 5574321, virginholidays.co.uk)

37. Sunset Reach Mullins Beach

Not far away from the Barbados Villas by Caribound is Sunset Reach, with a lovely wooden deck facing the lapping waves on the sandy beach. The villa is decorated in neutral colours and the emphasis is on the sea view — particularly at sunset. There are two smart bedrooms, one a double, the other a twin. A cook's service is included in the price.

Details: A week's catered stay, with two meals a day prepared by a chef, is from £1,230pp including flights, based on a family of four (020 7563 7906, cvvillas.com)

38. Churchpoint 2 near Holetown

Beyond a well-kept garden with a plunge pool, you have direct access to a white sand beach from Churchpoint 2. It's offered by the high-end Caribbean specialist Caribtours, which has many expensive villas on its books. This is one of its least pricey, but you still get a plush, colourful interior with three bedrooms and all mod cons. The covered terrace is spacious, with ocean views. **Details:** A week's self-catering is from £1,529pp based on six sharing and including flights, transfers and use of a lounge at Gatwick (020 7751 0660, caribtours.co.uk)

39. Harpers

Upper Mount Standfast

Close to Holetown and some of the finest west coast beaches, Harpers is a four-bedroom villa with a pool on a terrace with sweeping sea views. This is a budget hideaway with a cosy feel and simple rooms, so do not expect anything amazingly fancy. The modern kitchen is well equipped and next to a large covered dining terrace. The owners welcome long-term lets from those escaping colder climes for a while, although you have to book well in advance.

Details: One week for eight rental is from £1,409 (homeaway.co.uk, reference 441819)

40. Seawards

Fitts Village

This is another good deal, just down the road from the swanky Sandy Lane Hotel. Seawards has three bedrooms and a kidney bean-shaped splash pool. It's right on the beach with a small lawned garden that drops to the sand. Its rooms are basic but there's a generously sized living room. It's also within walking distance of the Cliff restaurant, considered by many to be one of the best on the island.

Details: A week's self-catering is from £359pp based on six sharing (020 7112 0019, fleewinter.com)

Other Caribbean islands

41. On the Rocks Villa

British Virgin Islands

Surrounded by giant boulders overlooking the Sir Francis Drake Channel on Virgin Gorda, On the Rocks is a curious but fun

villa consisting of four suites in a series of circular buildings. Each is plush and brightly decorated. There's a lounge with an exposed beam ceiling, a state of the art kitchen, plus a swanky outdoor charcoal grill.

Details: A week for four people in two suites is from £6,425, or a week for eight people in four suites is from £7,360 (ontherocksvilla.com/the-villa); to book from the UK call World Wide Dreams (0845 0176707), which can also arrange flights to the BVIs from about £850pp

42. Villa Jai

British Virgin Islands

In a stunning location on the edge of a steep hill above a pristine sandy beach on Virgin Gorda, Villa Jai is a super-sleek affair with four double rooms and a fifth with bunks with double beds below and single beds above; the latter is for either kids or adults, although it's not suited to the very young because the terrain is so steep. The highlight is the long infinity pool on the edge of the wooden deck. The rooms are five-star hotel standard and the open-plan kitchen is ultra modern.

Details: A week's self-catering is from £539pp based on eight sharing (020 7351 6384, sjvillas.co.uk).

43. Jewel Box Beach Villa

Virgin Gorda

This is part of a 300-acre resort on the north-east end of Virgin Gorda. Jewel Box is a pricey, ultra-plush two-bedroom villa, with a little pool in a well-tended garden, a few steps from a white sandy beach. The living room comes with a 55in television and there's a hardwood gazebo by the pool for alfreso meals. Use of Oil Nut Bay's spa and Beach Club with its pools, bars and restaurants is included.

Details: A week's self-catering is from £12,488 for four (oilnutbay.com/jewelboxvilla)

44. The View

St Barths

The name of this one comes from the fact that you can see the neighbouring islands of Saba, St Eustatius, St Kitts and Nevis from its terrace. The View is in the verdant Colombier hills, perched on an outcrop with wooden decks with a long, enticing infinity pool. There are four bedrooms with a pared-down minimalist style: low-level designer armchairs, sofas and coffee tables. It's owned by the island's five-star Eden Rock Hotel and chefs from its Michelin starred restaurant can be booked to cook meals.

Details: A week's B&B is from £10,620 for eight people, with a concierge provided (020 3004 8750, villaguru.com); Villa Guru can arrange flights to St Barths from about £1,050 return.

45. Villa Wings

St Barths

Also owned by Eden Rocks Hotel — and with the same arrangement regarding being able to book one of the hotel's Michelin star chefs for a private meal — Villa Wings is seriously slick, as the price reflects. The four bedrooms are in a modernist structure with unusual wing-shaped roofs on parts of a building separated by a chilled infinity pool. Oatmeal sofas on wooden deck floors, designer lights and cool modern art combine to create a rock 'n' roll chic feel.

Details: A week's self-catering is from £12,400 a week for eight (edenrockvillarental.com); flights to St Maarten with Air France are from about £560 and onwards to St Barths from about £110 return with St Barth Commuter (stbarthcommuter.com)

46. Sun Cloud

Cayman Islands

Away from the bustle of Seven Mile beach on a tranquil stretch of coast that's great for snorkelling, Sun Cloud is a five-bedroom mansion of a villa that looks grand enough for a visiting head of state (or Premier League footballer). There's an infinity pool facing the sea and a big open-plan lounge with in an atrium space that opens into a smart dining room. The decor is pastel blue and whitewashed, and the bedrooms are big.

Details: A week for ten is from £4,530 (caymanvillas.com); BA flights via Nassau are from about £790 return.

47. Villa Castellamonte Dominican Republic

This one is so huge it's as if you've got your own hotel. There's a big curving pool that winds its way between well-kept beds of tropical flowers, Spanish colonial era arches leading through to massive (slightly gaudy) lounges, and nine bedrooms — a few of them particularly big with french windows onto the garden. It's close to a long sandy beach in Cabrera. Table football, table tennis and a pool table are provided.

Details: A week for up to 20 is from £10,437 (holidaylettings.co.uk, reference 185649)

48. Channel View

Nevis

Overlooking the channel to neighbouring St Kitts, this villa has a down to earth, homely style, with nothing flashy about the design. It's in a little lemon-yellow house in a three-acre plot of land with lawns, fruit trees and a small pool on a fenced off terrace. The rooms are simple but the price reflects this. It's a five-minute walk to the restaurants and bars of Chrishi Beach. **Details:** A week is from £1,200 a week for ten people (homeaway.co.uk, reference 1486632); flights to Nevis are from about £1,050 with Skyscanner.net

49. The Galleries

Nevis

Simple yet elegant and chic on the edge of a tropical forest, The Galleries is the perfect spot for a peaceful and stylish hideaway. There are two well-decorated bedrooms (one is a twin) and a main lounge with oatmeal sofas and a view of the rolling landscape leading to the coast. Serious swimmers will enjoy its 22m lap pool. It's a ten-minute walk to Pinney's Beach. **Details:** A week's self-catering is from £1,295pp including flights based on a family of four (0207 563 7999, cvvillas.com)

50. Belle Mont Farm St Kitts

Infinity pools and wooden deck with outdoor baths are among the features of the villas at Belle Mont Farm at Kittitian Hill. The farm grows many fruits and vegetables including mangos (of which there are more than 100 varieties) and avocados (of which there are 40). The villas are super-smart yet have a traditional appearance: shingle roofs, shuttered windows and carved balustrades. There's a nearby championship golf course.

Details: A week is from £2,360 for six (bellemontfarm.com); BA has flights to St Kitts from £628 return **Unless otherwise stated, prices are all on a self-catering basis**

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