

Saints Alive

The inimitable luxuries of St. Bart's are made all the more appealing at Eden Rock.



Author Lizzie Simon does her due diligence in St. Bart's.

On the day I arrived at Eden Rock in St. Bart's, Sir Paul McCartney had come for lunch and Usher was pushing his departure further back. To my knowledge, the two talents never merged for an *Ebony* and *Ivory* remake, but there were plenty of other

magical moments at this spectacular boutique hotel.

Lovingly looked after by owners David and Jane Matthews, Eden Rock sits atop a mini-mountain along a pristine Caribbean beach

complete with coral reefs, pelicans, and sea turtles. To the left, the teensy-tiny St. Bart's airport hosts incoming and outgoing planes, reminding you that you are definitely among the jet set. With only 33 individually designed accommodations, the resort feels cozy and intimate, but there's plenty of grandeur as well. At *On the Rocks*, the resort's restaurant, imported foie gras, Champagne, and oysters grace the tabletops, and well-heeled diners enjoy cinematic views of St. John's Bay.

Eden Rock was built 50 years ago as a private home for the legendary thrill seeker and first mayor of St. Bart's, Remy de Haenen. There, he entertained Greta Garbo and Howard Hughes, and the hotel has dramatic suites named after all three of them. This fall, the hotel premiered the *James*, an impeccable suite with a sleek, contemporary interior design and its own private pool, Jacuzzi, and terrace area big enough to entertain 50 people.

But simple pleasures abound at Eden Rock as well: The landscaping is designed for you to discover private moments of contact with the natural magnificence of the Caribbean; the staff is warm; and the homemade yogurt at breakfast is a treasure of gastronomic perfection. Doubles from \$860. *Visit edenrockhotel.com.* ★ —LIZZIE SIMON