

January/February 2013

# duPont REGISTRY™

*Luxury Living in Tampa Bay*

RESTAURANTS • JEWELRY • REAL ESTATE • FASHION



# ISLAND OF DREAMS *Necker Island*

By Susan B. Barnes

Have you ever dreamt of living like a media mogul, jet setting across the world to exotic destinations? Dining in world-class restaurants? Enjoying the privacy and seclusion often afforded to the elite? Is this a dream of yours? It certainly is of mine! But it doesn't have to be a dream.

Necker Island—Sir Richard Branson's private island paradise—is 74 acres of pure heaven in the British Virgin Islands and can be yours, either exclusively or on an individual basis. If you're really looking to wow your crowd, hire the entire island—accommodations can be made for between 16 and 28 people. Or, experience the island during Celebration Weeks, when individual rooms can be booked by singles or couples to enjoy the island "house party" style. However you choose to visit Necker Island, the staff will work with you to best accommodate you and your group.

The six Bali Houses are built in authen-

tic Balinese style, three of which sit atop a cliff in order to maximize stunning views, sea breezes and the sounds of the ocean. Another overlooks the beach, and the last two are in the middle of the island, overlooking a large, private pool.

Temple House was built to Richard Branson's specifications and features a freshwater pool. The house sits in the middle of the island with incredible panoramic views. Nearby is Love Temple, a private and amazing room with a covered but open air bathroom.

A truly unique option is one of the four main cabins aboard the Necker Belle, a 105-foot luxury catamaran: the master suite, two double VIP guest cabins, and a double guest cabin. All cabins are fully air conditioned and have the latest in entertainment technology.

After you've settled in, it's time to explore the island, and there's much to see

and do! As you can imagine, the island paradise offers plenty of ways to enjoy the Caribbean Sea.

Necker Island is a water sports enthusiast's dream come true, offering myriad adventures, including kite-surfing, sailing, windsurfing, waterskiing, kayaking, power boat trips, snorkeling and more. Even if you're not an avid waterman or waterwoman, give it a go and try something new! On-site, highly qualified instructors are ready to show you the ropes near Main Beach.

The island also features four pools: the freeform infinity pool at Pool Pavilion in Main Beach with a swim-up bar; a freshwater infinity pool at Temple House; a private pool at Bali Lo & Bali Buah; and a plunge pool at Bali Hi, Bali Cliff and Bali Beach. Plenty to choose from!

Back on solid ground, play tennis under the lights in the Main Beach area. If







you're looking to improve your game or perfect your serve, a pro tennis coach is more than willing and able to take you to the next level. And if you forget your racket, equipment is available and ready for your use. Or, if you choose, take a two-hour walk around the island, taking in the various flowers and wildlife.

When it comes to dining on Necker Island, you certainly won't go hungry! Whether you choose formal or informal,

inside or out, themed or traditional, the island's chefs are ready to prepare your favorites, from a Sunday roast to lobster and caviar! To wash it all down, choose from a wide variety of international wines, beers, spirits and house champagne is ready for the pour. You're encouraged to make yourself at home on-island—cheers! Dreams really do come true on Necker Island. Don't wait to make yours a reality! [QR](#)



#### When you go:

Ready to make your jet setting dreams reality? Getting to Necker Island can take some time, but it's well worth it! The closest international airport is on Virgin Tortola, a 35-minute flight from San Juan. AirTran and JetBlue fly direct from Tampa to San Juan. The most popular routes to the BVI within the Caribbean are via San Juan, Antigua and St. Thomas.

Necker Island is an approximate 30-minute boat ride from Tortola, or 10 minutes from Virgin Gorda. Yachts are also able to anchor off Necker Island.

Necker Island  
[www.neckerisland.virgin.com](http://www.neckerisland.virgin.com)