

Who wants to be a billionaire?

By Motez Bishara



Live a life of luxury on Calivigny Island



Adjectives such as exclusive, luxury, unique and high-end were bywords for the '90s (or naughties), a decade of unprecedented growth internationally, where bling, excess and spending defined an era. The benchmarks for service and style rose to new levels allowing consumers to play in a wonderful world of must-sees, dos and haves. This plethora of choice calls for the redefinition of luxury and exclusivity, a concept that French billionaire entrepreneur Georges Cohen took upon himself in the creation of his own private Caribbean paradise.

Nestled just off the southernmost point of Grenada, Calivigny Island was uninhabited and for sale when Cohen's wife sailed past it in 1998. Upon acquisition, the couple spent the ensuing decade building houses, produce and flower gardens, a water desalination plant and craft workshop to ensure a self-sufficient haven that spans

81 acres (approximately 1.5 kilometers in length). Today it is home to two villas, positioned at each end of a white sand beach, overlooking the water straight to lush Grenada beyond.

The Beach House (an understated name for an 8,000-square-meter villa that combines Balinese architecture and French Colonial style interiors at the highest level of luxury), has 10 suites (sleeping 20 adults) and recently hosted the Caribbean heads of state at their annual conference. The elevated 3,000-square-meter Overhang offers more contemporary interiors and nine suites with panoramic views.

There are also the Calivigny Cottages, nestled on a gentle rockface. The Cohens have created a perfect paradise, and this year open their island to those seeking an experience of private island life, minus the responsibility of running it all year round.



With a host of staff, chefs, masseurs and toys (boats, jet-skis, wake-boards, fishing, snorkeling and scuba), Calivigny is dedicated to the pursuit of pleasure. Staying in a house ensures guests feel at home, while staff attend to every need including the creation of menus (Asian, French or Italian: all ingredients can be sourced and cooked), boat trips (on any of the fun boats, which include a 44-foot Hinckley, a 27-foot Boston Whaler and a 38-foot Munson Landing Craft), barbecues on the beach or a stroll in the plant nursery.

Grenada is a tropical rainforest, and Calivigny's tables are abundant with fresh papaya, mango and melon. Relax at dusk

with an outdoor movie played on the high-definition projector or listen to the Yamaha C3 Concert Grand Piano's Disklavier MKIV (automatic player system), with a collection of titles in the Grand Salon. There are iPod docks throughout the house as well as Wi-Fi. Use the telescope for stargazing or play billiards, poker, croquet or board games.

Calivigny is the pride and passion of the Cohen family, and their decision to offer the island to guests is a unique opportunity to sample a billionaire's playground. Paradise on earth is included.

For more info, tel. 48.607.40.40.64, www.calivigny-island.com