

Calivigny island

A new dream in the Caribbean

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FOR CHARTERERS LOOKING FOR AN EXTRA SPECIAL EXPERIENCE, WHY NOT RENT A SUPERYACHT WITH ITS OWN PRIVATE ISLAND? FOR WHEN THE DECISION BETWEEN BEACH AND DECK BECOMES JUST TOO HARD...



Set in stunning surroundings, the Beach House features a vast circular sitting room and dining area, a billiard room and a gymnasium

When trying to organise an exclusive holiday for a large family, or even a corporate event, a superyacht seems to tick all the boxes. It's a suitably adventurous and sporty platform that combines the highest levels of luxury with service, privacy and security to fit the most demanding occasion.

But there can be a couple of problems. Firstly, when the group in question is over 12 in number, there are relatively few yachts that fit the bill. Of course, one can charter two or more yachts and cruise in company but the thought of taking tender rides to and from dinner or other communal gatherings in less than perfect weather can be a disincentive. Secondly, there is the question of 'mal de mer'. In any large gathering a few are almost certain to suffer from motion sickness, and the chance that they are not going to enjoy the occasion to the full is quite high.

But there now seems to be a new solution in the Caribbean that offers the same promise of hedonism as a superyacht – why not consider chartering a superyacht along with the private island where it is based? That is certainly the course that would be proposed by Georges Cohen, the owner of both the 53 metre Perini Navi *Atmosphere* and the island of Calivigny, off the southern tip of Grenada, just 20 minutes from the island's international airport.

Cohen's wife Martine first came across Calivigny Island 10 years ago when cruising with friends. Seeing the possibilities of this uninhabited island, just half a mile from the main island and totally pristine, she alerted her husband and they eventually closed a deal. Since then, the Cohens, working as a family, have been involved in creating a most amazing retreat that blends high quality architecture with excellence in

construction. Controlling a logistic supply chain that spread its tentacles right around the globe to bring luxurious raw materials, equipment and skilled tradesmen to the island was not an easy task, but despite the almost inevitable setbacks, the first phase of the project is now complete and ready to throw open its doors to visitors.

Atmosphere sits snugly in her berth at the end of the island's main jetty, along with *Spherefish*, a Hatteras 26 metre sport fisherman, a Hinckley 13.5 metre Talaria picnic boat, an 8.2 metre open Boston Whaler sports and safety boat, a couple of powerful jet skis and a Shadow Marine landing craft ideal for diving expeditions or transporting small vehicles to the island. A short walk down the jetty, past a couple of enchanting wooden beach pavilions, guests arrive at a marble-paved, palm tree-studded piazza with a huge freeform swimming pool – the hub of what is (in a serious descriptive understatement) called the 'Beach House'.

Flanked by white beaches, this six-star blend of French colonial and Balinese architecture is run by a 22-strong superyacht-standard staff to offer super-luxurious accommodation and gourmet dining for up to 20 guests – a master suite that makes that on even the largest yachts look cramped, five magnificent VIP suites with dream-like sea views, and four smaller (but still large and luxurious) suites for lesser mortals. Four further en suite rooms are available for children and nannies or staff.

A nearby self-contained beach-side villa, with its own pool, saloon and nine double rooms with sea views comes on stream in June, increasing the island's capacity to at least 38 guests (not counting the accommodation aboard *Atmosphere*), but these ongoing works are sufficiently removed from the Beach House so as not to create any disturbance to guests in the meantime.

The island is rented as a whole, with prices starting at €385,000 per week, a fee that is inclusive of food to gourmet standard and all normal drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, but excludes seriously costly fine wines and luxury foodstuffs such as caviar. *Atmosphere* and *Spherefish* require a separate charter fee, but the Hinckley and other boats and toys are included, as is a VIP greeting at the airport and transfers to the island.

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