



THE TV ISSUE

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aquamare

virgin gorda,
british virgin islands

Even though it's just a short ferry ride from Tortola, St. John, and St. Thomas, Virgin Gorda seems a world away from those cruise-ship-plagued islands. Life is slower and quieter here, and once you arrive back home you may find yourself wanting to keep it something of a secret, lest word get out that paradise is only one easy flight connection and a boat ride from JFK. That is however, unless you're staying at Aquamare, one of the island's most exclusive properties that consists of three identical five-bedroom villas, each with its own infinity pool. This is a place you'll want to bring some friends to. One of the villas is beachside, but whichever you choose, the resort has an idyllic, private half-mile beach where you can while away the time kayaking, looking for sea turtles, or watching what is surely one of the most beautiful sunsets anywhere, over the Sir Francis Drake Channel, which is dotted with islands and boats shuttling back and forth. The cavernous villas themselves, with huge vaulted living rooms, are made for entertaining groups, and this is where your friends come in: Whether you're taking one villa or all three, Aquamare—owned by four young friends who live in Puerto Rico and apparently have exceptional taste in interior decoration—is a place to bring other people. And when you need some quiet time, each room has its own balcony (complete with hammock), Frette linens, and vast bathrooms with a glass wall behind which is an outdoor shower. At about 10 times the size of the average New York City hotel suite, they're spacious enough to hang out in until you're ready to go back downstairs and join the party.

ROB MANDELSON

villaaquamare.com