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SUCCUMB TO THE RHYTHMS OF **CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA.**

# AAA WORLD

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012

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Wait, not that way!

**HEY, JEALOUSY**  
Keith McIntyre takes  
the wheel of the 2012  
Porsche 911 Carrera S

**ALT PICS**  
AAA World chats with  
punk rock icon turned  
travel photographer  
Henry Rollins

## Island Hopping

**DISCOVERING THE OLD-SCHOOL  
CARIBBEAN IN ST. JOHN, USVI**

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For more on villa vacations and an inside look at the luxurious Eco Serendib, check out our November AAATV segment at [AAA.com/World](http://AAA.com/World).

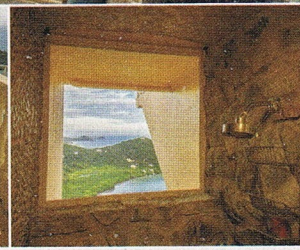
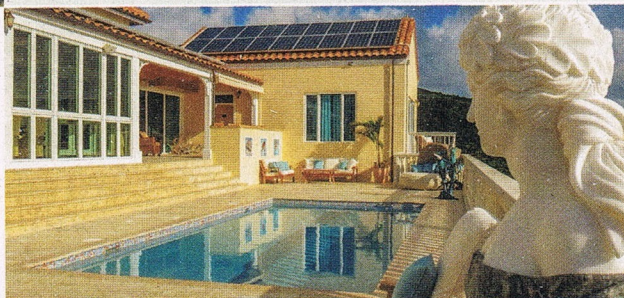
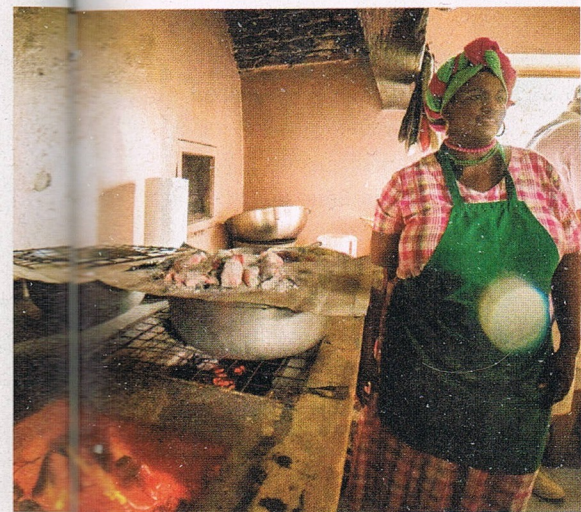
## Living La Vida Villa

IT'S NO SURPRISE that the azure waters, gorgeous scenery, fantastic food, refreshingly underdeveloped feel and serene, laid-back lifestyle that characterize the alt-Caribbean experience that is St. John draws hosts of eager tourists each year. While lodging options for visitors abound—from hotels to resorts to cottages and even campgrounds—perhaps the most alluring possibility is a villa rental.

Offering a more private experience—a true home away from home—villa rentals are especially attractive to families or those traveling in groups, giving you the space and flexibility that most other properties simply can't offer. Like any hotel or resort, amenities and features differ from villa to villa, ranging from a humble place where you can rest your head to a veritable Caribbean palace of pampering.

If you're after the latter, there may be no better snapshot of all the amenities these lodgings are capable of offering than the enchanting **ECO SERENDIB VILLA AND SPA**, a luxury villa perched in the hills on the south side of St. John, overlooking the Caribbean Sea. The epitome of extravagance, Eco Serendib has the total package when it comes to tropical opulence: a saltwater pool with a panoramic view of the Caribbean, perfectly manicured gardens, a private spa, eight individual lavishly appointed suites, a fitness center, a board room, a villa concierge, a full-service kitchen, an optional butler and personal chef, and more.

While luxury like this will likely leave a lasting impression on you (and perhaps



provided the then Dutch-owned territory its main source of revenue.

Today the island's main revenue source is, as you may expect, tourism. And the vast majority of those tourists who seek out St. John do so because it represents a unique opportunity to view the islands as they were before they went commercial.

While there is no fee to enter Virgin Islands National Park, visitors to Trunk Bay Beach over the age of 16 will have to fork over \$4 for the privilege. Similarly,

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your wallet—rates start at \$2,000 per night, plus tax), it does its best not to do the same to the environment. Cognizant of the limited natural resources of the island—and as a nod to St. John's mission of conservation—a huge emphasis has been placed on environmentally friendly practices at Eco Serendib.

"We are not 100 percent green," explains Harith Wickerema, Eco Serendib's chief visionary officer, "but we've done everything possible to weave in the eco-green part into our services."

Equipped with 69 solar panels, an extensive rain water collection and purification system, energy-efficient appliances, an organic garden—one of only two private gardens on St. John that provide fresh produce to local restaurants—recycled and repurposed materials used for construction and more, Eco Serendib's green efforts may inspire other properties, says Wickerema.