



Secluded beach on Virgin Gorda

# PARADISE FOUND

## A CARIBBEAN GEM IS NEW AGAIN

by HADLEY HENRIETTE

Who hasn't dreamt of taking a trip to Necker Island, Richard Branson's private British Virgin Island? But alas, the \$20,000 per day rate is a bit steep for most people. The next best thing is Necker's neighbor, Virgin Gorda. And the best thing on Virgin Gorda is Rosewood's Little Dix Bay, where the price tag seems downright reasonable in comparison. However this isn't a value vacation, but rather, a once-in-a-lifetime-if-you're-lucky kind of place everyone dreams about. It's what one imagines when conjuring up the perfect, sparsely populated tropical island with crystal

blue water and lush, natural vegetation. There are mountains to climb with breathtaking vistas and private beaches teeming with fish. Think of it as a pampered naturalist's vacation destination.

And that pampered naturalist can revel in the results of a recent three year, \$25 million renovation, which is apparent in the accommodations of Little Dix Bay. Outfitted with organic materials, bathrooms the size of most New Yorkers' apartments, outdoor showers and deep tubs, the rooms define new luxury. Additionally, the resort features seven brand new tennis courts, a

fitness center and a luxurious spa called Sense where yoga classes are held. Guests can also take a dip in the infinity pool or receive a Virgin Gorda Goat Milk & Honey Wrap and Salt Island Scrub in private bungalows that open up to the sea.

This is the kind of heaven-on-earth spot where one could spend a lot of time. The recommended five-night stay (mandatory during holidays) is long enough to relax and take advantage of all the resort has to offer with its sprawling grounds and three different open-air restaurants.

The best, most gourmet restaurant at Little Dix, and perhaps on the entire island, is The Sugar Mill. While island fare is generally simple, the offerings at The Sugar Mill are not. Entrees, served with Asian and Indian flair, are top-notch. Two casual dining spots are also available on the island; or for a much more romantic dining experience, guests can opt for private dinners on the sand or packed lunch picnics on any one of the eight beaches, to round out a brochure-perfect experience.

Eating isn't the only thing to do on the island — snorkeling, diving and lying on the beach are high on the list, too. And the best place for that is a short boat ride away at Devil's Bay and The Baths. Situated between white-sugar sand and gigantic, smooth granite boulders, this is the ultimate spot to take in the best snorkeling and blue-water experience imaginable. Swimming between boulders and inspecting colorful shelves of coral that plunge deep below is only half the fun. The other half is on land, navigating the rocks, discovering interior tide pools and real life grottos, and seeking out the local bar set just a few feet away.

If it sounds like a perfect, romantic vacation, it is. For families, The Children's Grove and babysitting services make it possible for couples with children to visit, as long as tots are seaworthy, as Virgin Gorda can only be reached by ferry from the nearby Tortola Beef. But that's not a bad thing — adults can sip complementary cocktails while the little ones wave at the billionaire-adventurer's island.

[www.littledixbay.com](http://www.littledixbay.com)



*Villa bedroom at Rosewood Little Dix Bay*