

60 or so islands of the Grenadines offer solitude, sand, sparkling waters

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Unfurling from St. Vincent like tassels ornamenting the tail of a kite, the Grenadines represent a treasure-trove of secret landings.

Mustique

Undoubtedly the most famous of the Grenadines, Mustique was once home to a hundred or so inhabitants who eked a hardscrabble living from sea and soil. It is said that when Scotsman Collin Tennant (a.k.a. Lord Glenconner) purchased the 1,400-acre island in 1958, he paid a mere £45,000. His master stroke was to present a 10-acre parcel to Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowden, on the occasion of her wedding. The gift put Mustique on the map.

Tennant created an infrastructure, and the princess built a home. In her wake came [Mick Jagger](#), [Tommy Hilfiger](#) and others who built villas and made Mustique the Caribbean's most exclusive landing. Today, the colony of staffed villas, plus a small hotel and inn, is overseen by the Mustique Co. Residents are not accustomed to receiving day-trippers, but you can visit on a charter yacht or via the Friendship Rose.

Stay: Seventy fully staffed villas are rented by the Mustique Co. Rates for a two- or three-bedroom home start at \$5,000 per week (\$7,000 high season) but can range up to nine bedrooms and \$150,000 per week. Contact: 1-800-747-9214; www.mustique-island.com.

Play: Idyllic beaches are on the east coast, including Pasture Bay (sometimes a little rough for swimming but ideal for flying a kite), while Macaroni Bay spreads out like vanilla frosting. Ask your villa staff to reserve one of the thatched picnic huts for a barbecue lunch.

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