



# Vince Charming

**HOT DOGS . . .**  
resort's labradors  
at beach. Above,  
holiday cottage

## TINY CARIBBEAN ISLAND IS PERFECT FOR TRANQUIL REST

**BLOND** hair blowing in the Caribbean breeze, John Adams greets me on the dock of Petit St Vincent, or PSV as the locals call it, is no ordinary isle. And John Adams is not your average welcoming committee. He is one of six ageing Labradors belonging to PSV's owner, Lynn Richardson.

As welcomes go, it's unusual. But the 113-acre Grenadine island of Petit St Vincent, or PSV as the locals call it, is no ordinary isle. And John Adams is not your average welcoming committee. He is one of six ageing Labradors belonging to PSV's owner, Lynn Richardson. Beautiful PSV is just over an hour from Barbados – a 50-minute flight to Union

Island then a short hop by boat. But it's a world away from the rum-soaked party hotspot that is Barbados. If you want five-star peace and quiet that doesn't come with a flat-screen TV, PSV is the place. Former US pilot Haze Richardson and a sailing pal bought the island from a local in the early Sixties and set about turning it into a mini-paradise for tourists. Haze died two years ago but his widow Lynn keeps alive the legacy they created – a small but perfectly formed place for private people, such as James Bond star Daniel Craig, to get away from it all.



## Naked

The resort has just 22 stone cottages, set on the beach or high up in the hills for views out to sea or of the neighbouring island of Petite Martinique.

There are no TVs or phones in the rooms – guests raise a yellow flag on the flagpole outside their cottage if they need anything. The island's only nod to modern technology is a public computer with internet access so slow you could make a cuppa and come back between clicks. And there's no mobile reception.

But a funny thing happens as you read, potter and ponder what to eat next – you switch off and relax.

And the laidback warmth of Lynn and her staff is infectious.

There is a restaurant, boutique and bar – try the Coconut Cow cocktail – for those seeking company. But most guests prefer to order room service.

The food is good but not the main attraction here, so foodies expecting Michelin stars may be disappointed. One area that will not disappoint, though, is the accommodation – simply breathtaking, from the cottage perched high on a bluff looking out to miles of Caribbean blue to the cabins nestled among the beachside trees.

My cottage consisted of a bedroom, double bathroom, lounge area and sun terrace overlooking the water where I could see but not be seen – naked sunbathing here we come!

## Hammock

I was not right on the beach. But never fear, I had my own private plot of white sand allocated to me, complete with hammocks and sunshade nearby.

Darkly varnished rafters and stone-clad walls date the interiors a bit and the furniture lacks a luxury appeal. But there's an appealing, homely attention to detail. Red hibiscus flowers are laid out on the towels each day and a copy of 101 Uses For A Labrador sits by the bed.

So far, so comatose – but what about the more active guest who prefers relaxation to come with a healthy dose of sweat?

No problem – PSV has a series of hikes and nature trails mapped out for guests as well as its own yacht for snorkelling and sailing day trips.

There is access to every kind of water sport you could wish for and even a shallow seawater pool filled with ray fish to swim with.

The one thing I felt the island missed was a swimming pool – with some areas of the shoreline rocky, the resort is crying out for somewhere cool to plunge on hot days. But that's just a small blip on an otherwise perfect horizon.

Whether it's enjoying a massage in the leafy shade of your own terrace, indulging in yoga stretches on a platform overlooking the sea or whizzing from A to B around the

island in one of the resort's signature pastel-coloured Mini Moke cars, you will love this place.

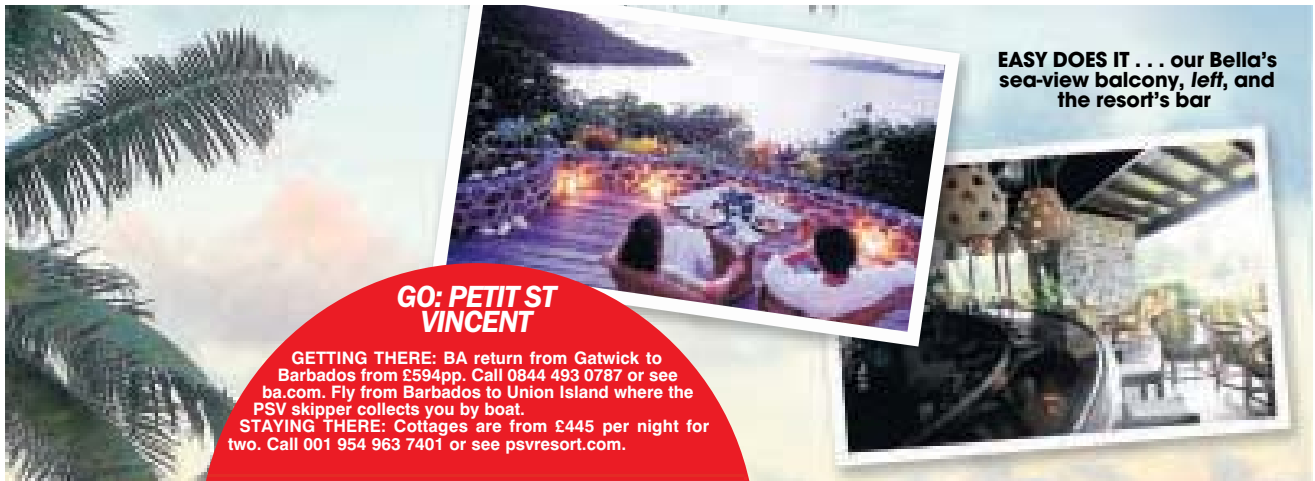
We only stayed on the island for three days but it felt like a week of pure bliss as I boarded the boat back to Union Island and our connecting flight home.

Glancing back at the jetty as it disappeared from view, I spied John Adams turning his back on the latest guests to leave and sloping off past a waving Lynn to settle in the shade for a siesta.

*It's a ruff life in paradise.*

**BELLA BATTLE**





**EASY DOES IT . . . our Bella's sea-view balcony, left, and the resort's bar**

**GO: PETIT ST VINCENT**

GETTING THERE: BA return from Gatwick to Barbados from £594pp. Call 0844 493 0787 or see [ba.com](http://ba.com). Fly from Barbados to Union Island where the PSV skipper collects you by boat.

STAYING THERE: Cottages are from £445 per night for two. Call 001 954 963 7401 or see [psvresort.com](http://psvresort.com).

