



NEW WAVE

Apes Hill, Wentworth's luxurious holiday villa in Barbados is hard to beat

WORDS PETER DIXON

As winter takes hold and the days draw in, what better time to enjoy a little Caribbean sunshine? If you are looking for the perfect destination, then the Apes Hill Club in Barbados – with its stunning golf course, polo club and far-reaching views – will take some beating.

Wentworth is so absolutely enamoured with Apes Hill, and all it has to offer, that it has purchased one of just a few exclusive villas overlooking the club's championship golf course and is now making it available for members to rent for their holiday. Put simply, with just a seven-and-a-half-hour flight from London, this is too good an opportunity to pass up. A Caribbean Christmas? Why not?

As would be expected of a high-end development where 'quality' and 'style' are the buzz words, the semi-detached Garden Wall (one of eight neighbourhoods) 'Fairway Villa' embodies the very essence of luxury, with everything brought together in the charming understated style of a Bajan plantation home. With Apes Hill nestling on Barbados's crest, 1,000ft above sea level, the villas are afforded views of the coast, the turquoise blue of the sea, and the 10th, 17th

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and 18th holes of a golf course that has fast achieved a reputation for excellence.

The fully air-conditioned villa itself has three spacious bedrooms, each with en-suite bathrooms and walk-in closets, beautifully appointed and fully-equipped Miele kitchens, and sumptuous living and dining areas. With a veranda overlooking a private, infinity swimming pool, and with the very best of fittings and furnishings throughout the property, it would be easy never to stray too far from home. Relaxation, particularly with a housekeeper and a 24-hour security guard, comes as standard.

For the record, Barbados boasts more than 3,000 hours of sunshine a year and has a perfect year-round climate, with an average daytime high of 30°C/86°F. The prevailing north-easterly trade winds also

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ensure that temperatures do not become uncomfortably hot. Rainfall typically comes in quick showers and the dry season lasts from January to June, with the high season falling between December and March.

Club members renting the villa will receive unlimited free golf for the length of their stay. The course, opened in 2009 and is one of the newest championship layouts in the Caribbean and is making waves for its beauty and testing nature.

"With lush grassland, coral stone quarries, wooded ravines and sparkling lakes, the course is as much in accord with its natural surroundings as it is an exciting challenge for golfers," is how the Apes Hill Club describes its pride and joy. They could just have easily invoked the words of Walter Hagen, one of golf's all-time greats:

"Don't hurry. Don't worry. You're only here for a short visit. So don't forget to stop and smell the roses."

Travel writer Rob Smith described the Apes Hill course in The Daily Telegraph as "exclusive and visually sumptuous". It would be impossible to disagree. "This ridiculously scenic course," he wrote, "sits 1,000ft above the coastline in a position where it is able to offer breathtaking views of both the Caribbean Sea to the west and the wild Atlantic Ocean to the

COMING UP...

Motor Racing

The Race of Champions pitting top-class competitors from across the motor-racing spectrum – Indy Cars, Formula One, Rallying, MotoGP and Nascar – will take place December 13-14. Please visit: www.bushyparkcircuitinc.com

Polo

There is polo on in the high season, starting from December to April. Apes Hill guests will receive free passes to watch the matches. For more information regarding polo lessons, chukkas and such like, visit: www.apeshillpolo.com



Music

Classical Pops at Apes Hill. Piazzolla Trio with special guest Lil Buck, harpist Ann Hobson Pilot and violinist Tai Murray performs the music of Astor Piazzolla. December 12, 2014. For more information visit: www.classicalpops.com



Cricket

Third Test match: West Indies v England, Kensington Oval, May 1-5, 2015

Food and Drink

Visit Daphne's Barbados, one of the island's most acclaimed restaurants. To book, go to www.life.uk.com to read more about this restaurant and book direct via the LIFE office.



ABOVE AND LEFT: RELAX IN THE VILLA; A VIEW OF THE COURSE

to provide the most sensational string of holes that can be found anywhere. It's that good!"

In another review, one guest drew attention to the wildlife (monkeys, actually) you are likely to encounter. "If you take your other half along as I did," he wrote, "warn her about how many monkeys you will see on your way around. Then when she sees her first one on the back nine she won't shout out 'Monkey!' right in the middle of your downswing, causing the most alarming hook."

At just over 7,000 yards in length, Apes Hill is both challenging for scratch players and forgiving for those with higher handicaps, who have the option to play off the forward tees. The fairways are fairly wide and amenable, but well-placed bunkers put a premium on accuracy.

There is a lot more to Apes Hill than the golf, with polo and sailing also coming into the mix. The club has a full-sized polo field, regarded as one of the best in the Caribbean, and hosts regular matches. And for those who can ride, there is the chance to take lessons and play the odd chukka. Tennis courts are soon to be finished, while construction of a state-of-the-art clubhouse will begin soon.

The beauty of Barbados is that there is always lots going on. Apes Hill has close links with the The Royal Pavilion Beach Club, where guests can benefit from special rates on watersports, relax in the bar and restaurant or simply lounge on the beach.

How to book ...

Please contact Linda Williams on williams@apeshillclub.com
Vital links ...
 To view the Fairway Villa, visit: <http://www.apeshillclub.com/Rentals/Holiday-Rentals/Property/3/Fairway-Villa-05.html>

east. All in all, Apes Hill has the wow! factor in abundance."

Praise does not come much higher than in a Golf World magazine review: "Holes 11 to 14 provide an Amen Corner every bit as dramatic as the one we know in Georgia (at the Augusta National, home of the Masters). These holes tiptoe over the brow of the island, disappear among the jungle and rough coral outcrops,