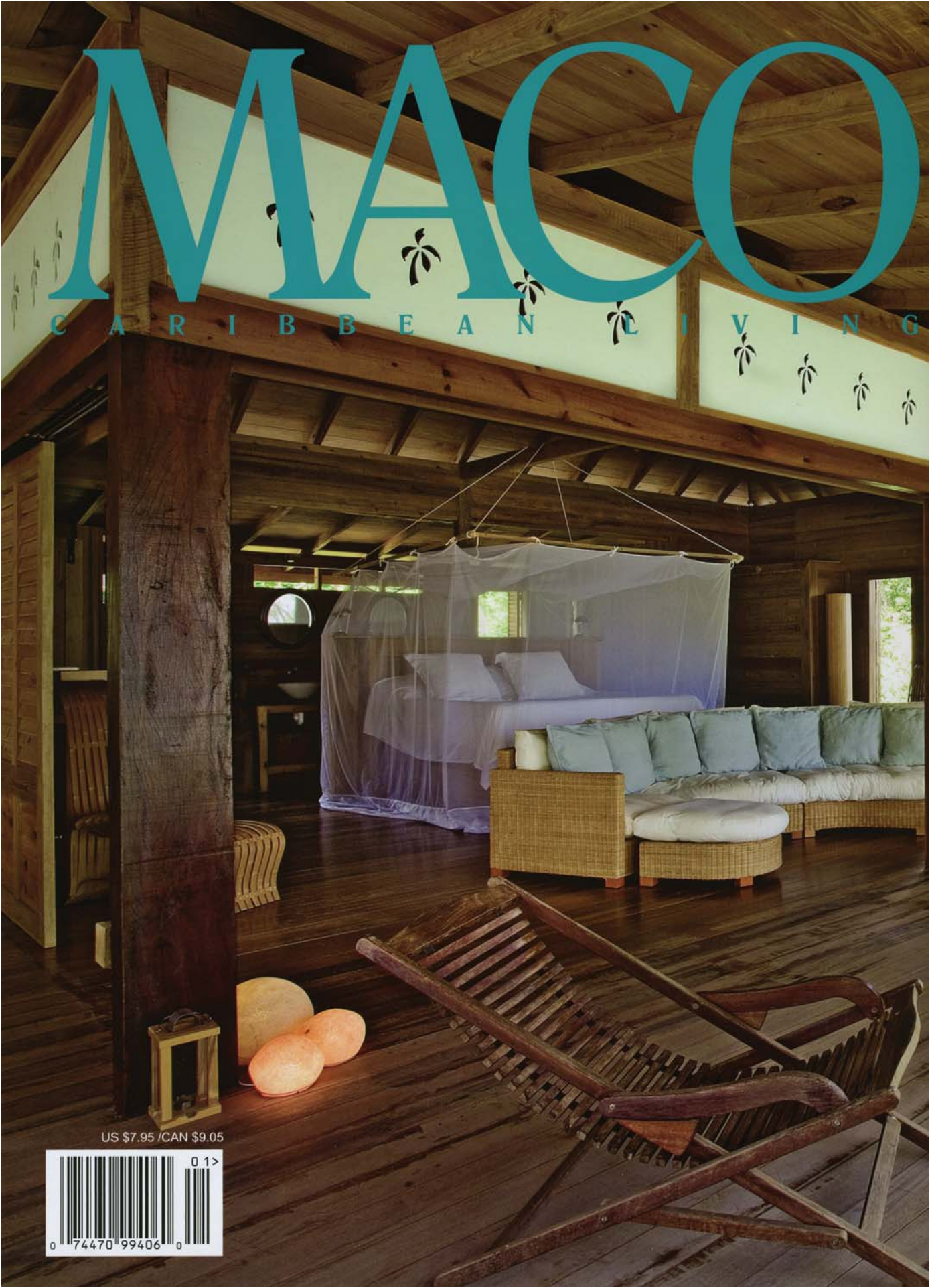


MACO

C A R I B B E A N L I V I N G

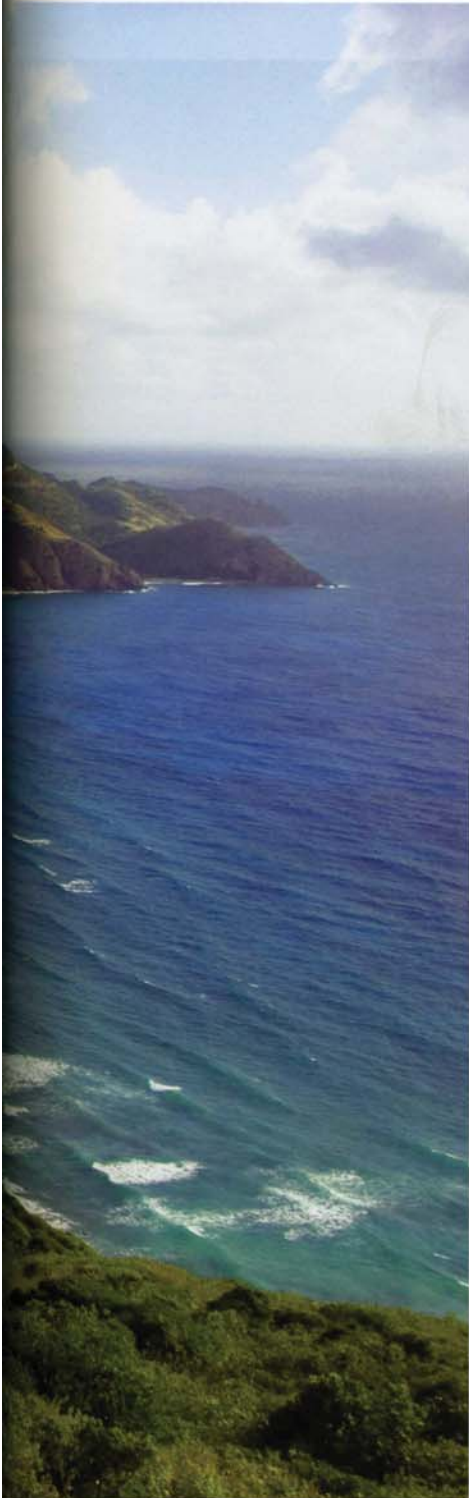


US \$7.95 /CAN \$9.05





FIT FOR A PRINCESS



The intimate and sophisticated Biras Creek Resort in Virgin Gorda is the ideal destination to get away from it all.

Debi Carson shows why

Photography courtesy Victor International Corporation

VIRGIN GORDA'S pristine beaches have lured guests for centuries. The third largest island of the British Virgin Islands, Virgin Gorda measures eight and a half square miles and features quiet coves, safe anchorages, and an extraordinarily secluded environment. It is no surprise that it is home to one of the world's most exclusive boutique hotels, Biras Creek Resort. Recently recognised by *Travel + Leisure* as the seventh of the top 25 hotels in the Caribbean, Bermuda, and the Bahamas region, Biras Creek is undoubtedly one of the BVI's best destinations.

Surrounded by hills of uninterrupted green and washed by three bodies of water, the Atlantic, North Sound lagoon and Caribbean Bay, Biras Creek Resort is only accessible by boat or helicopter, ensuring privacy and exclusivity. So much so that folklore says that its name comes from the legend of Arawak Princess Biras, who hid safely from her enemies in this idyllic corner of the Caribbean. Still, today it is the perfect place to get away from it all. Its stunning views and breathtaking natural environment have attracted guests for years, and it certainly caught the attention of owners Pam and David V. Johnson.

"Biras Creek perfectly complements our portfolio and philosophy with its relaxed environment," said David V. Johnson. "Our passion for the BVI keeps us focused on our goal to be God's caretaker of the land and leave it better than we found it."

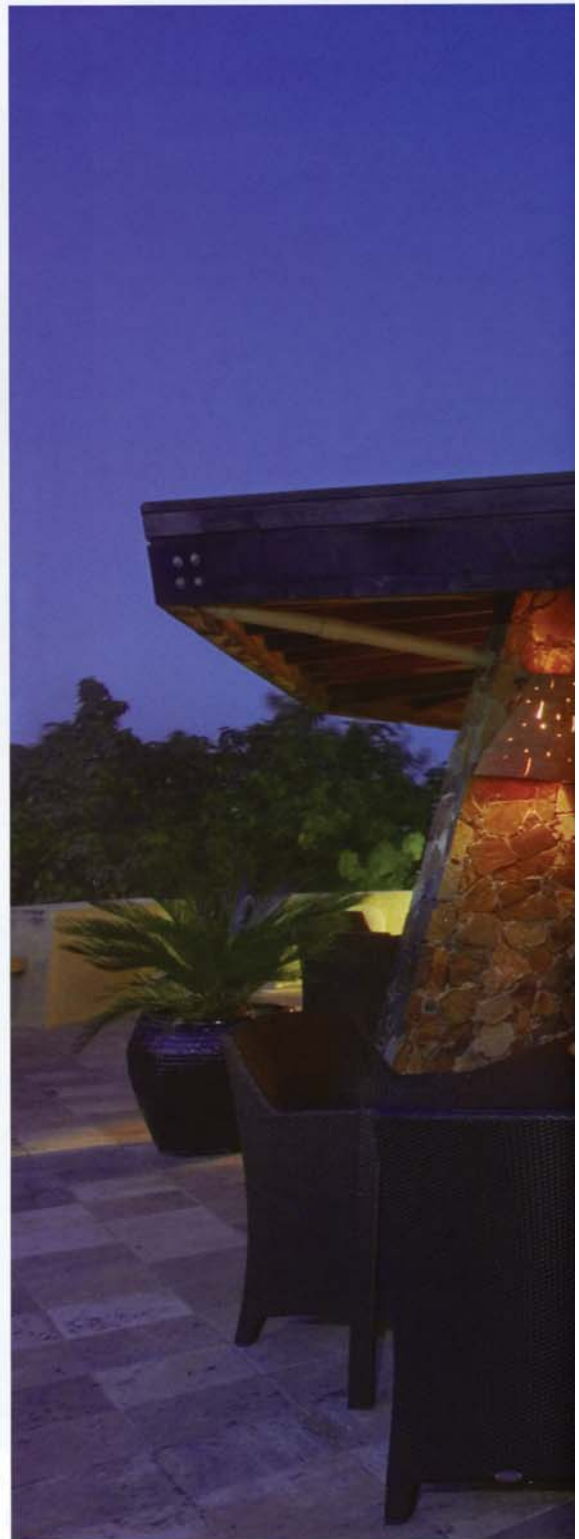
The Johnsons' company, Victor International Corporation, is a US-based resort development that has a long tradition of creating "unique living environments in ecological harmony with the land". That is why careful consideration was given to the BVI's surroundings during the recent upgrade of the 140-acre estate, as one of the greatest challenges in designing for tropical environments is choosing products that complement Nature yet can stand up to the elements, such as humidity, sun and salt.

Committed to the ever-increasing needs and demands of the luxury traveller attracted to boutique hotels, Biras Creek recently underwent a comprehensive refurbishment of guest rooms and public areas. The design team took a Caribbean-style approach, with neutral tones contrasted by colourful artwork by local artists that highlights the island's exquisite splendour. Particularly, stylish furnishings are a new feature in the Arawak Room, which is an open-air lounge that is perfect for taking in the views, socialising with other guests or getting cosy with a great book. Moreover, the dining room, bar and snooker table room also display new, climate-safe furnishings, draperies and artwork.

Other upgraded amenities include Caloi bicycles for touring the natural plant life, including the extensive mangrove forest that is home to iguanas and other exotic species. And, of course, for the enjoyment of its incomparable marine setting, enhancements were made to the water sports and beach equipment, including new Boston whalers and kayaks for island hopping in the North Sound.

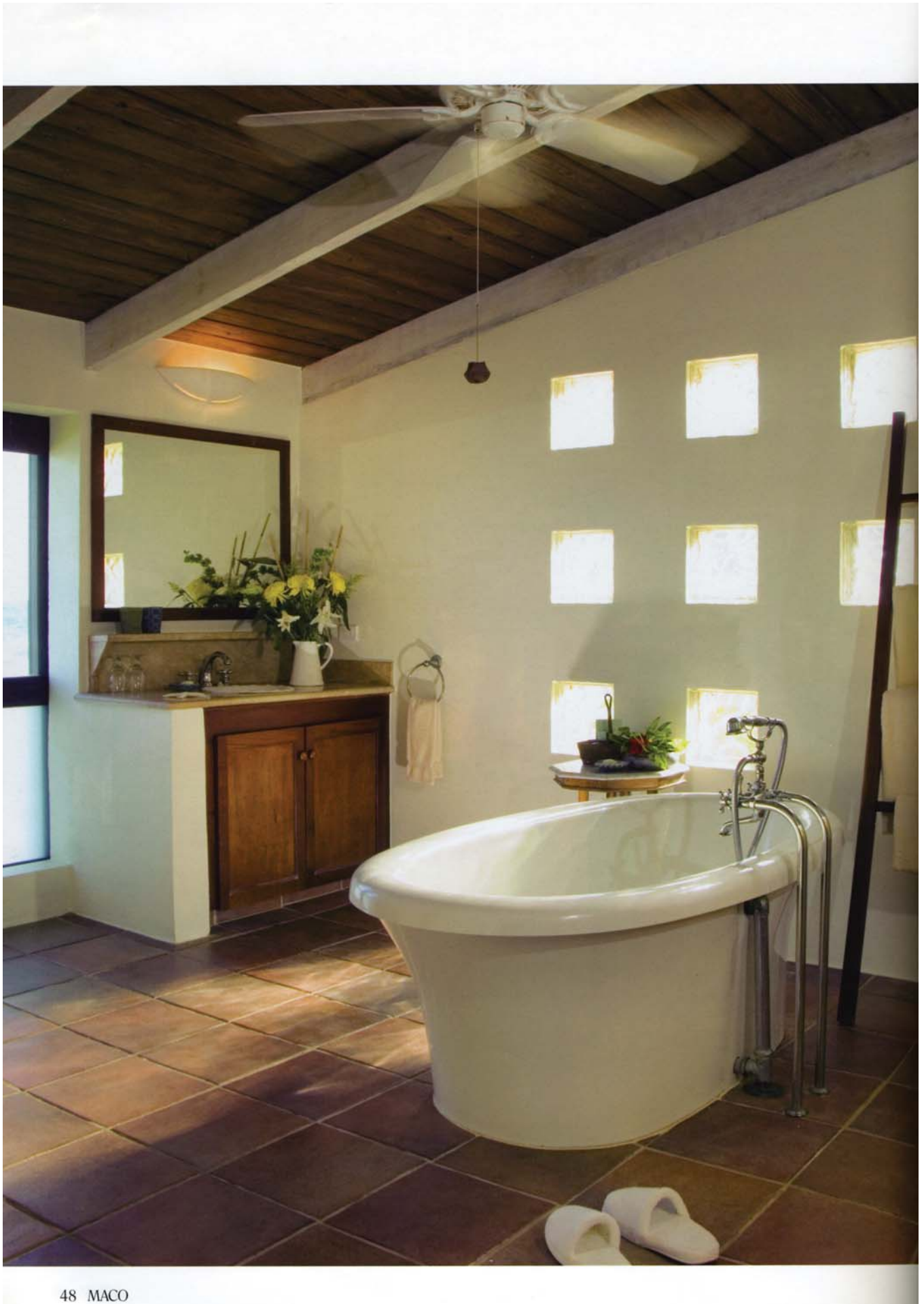
As Biras Creek Resort seeks to differentiate itself by providing personalised accommodations, its 33 guest suites, located along Berchers Bay on the Atlantic side, have all been redesigned to emulate the serenity of their ocean views. "The renovated suites feature a more simple, sophisticated, comfortable and elegant décor, capitalising on the outside beauty," added Pam Johnson.

Resort accommodations now have luxurious soft goods, such as 300-thread count cotton linens, Sealy Plush pillow-top mattresses, and feathered down pillows. Its ensuite baths also have oversized cotton towels and tropical waffle-weave robes, along with other signature Relais & Chateaux amenities.





Above: The Arawak Room is great for taking in the views





Left: Ensuite bath area features an oversized soaking tub with an ocean view

Above: The 33 suites whose décor is both sophisticated and comfortable are all located along Berchers Bay

For the ultimate experience in accommodations, either of the two Grand Suites will do. Situated on the water at the end of Berchers Bay, the suites ensure complete seclusion. Each has a large entryway that opens to the living room, offering a fabulous view of the Atlantic Ocean. A furnished veranda is an extension of the living room, which provides a beachfront sitting area and sun deck. Each suite has a king-sized bed and ensuite bathroom with an oversized soaking tub with an ocean view, as well as a separate open-air garden shower. And, if that isn't enough, the suites also feature Sony LCD TV's, DVD players and Bose iPod sound docks.

In addition to the attractive enhancements and magnificent setting of the property, Biras Creek is ensuring that it maintains the Relais & Chateau levels of service and attention to detail. Its exceptionally friendly and professional staff is dedicated to not just meeting, but exceeding, guest expectations. Although the legend of Princess Biras still remains, the letters in the name have evolved to mean Beautiful, Intimate, Restful, Active and Sophisticated. The resort is a carefree escape that preserves the natural balance of the island and provides guests with an incomparable destination and experience.

Debi Carson is Senior Interior Designer for OBM International's BVI office and led the redesign of Biras Creek Resort.M