

# BAJAN LUXURY

The stylish and minimalist Casablanca Sandy Lane is a jewel of exquisite luxury on the beautiful Caribbean island of Barbados



AS THE QUINTESSENTIAL embodiment of tropical perfection, exclusivity and supreme relaxation, few places on earth can compete with the idyllic Sandy Lane in Barbados. For more than 50 years, this unforgettable corner of the Caribbean has offered perfect coral sand beaches, crystalline water and endless sunshine, complemented by access to some of the Caribbean's finest restaurants, golf courses and spas – world-class facilities delivered with first-rate service. Located in the heart of this remarkable spot is the exquisite Casablanca, an elegant seven-bedroom property that provides all the qualities of a boutique hotel within the intimate confines of a family home.

“As soon as I saw it, I was overwhelmed by the beauty,” says Evlyn Mondo, Casablanca’s Canada-based owner. “It is very striking, with authentic neoclassic Barbadian architecture, and it is very homely. It is wide open so that it feels as if the house is calling you, welcoming you and drawing you in.”

When Evlyn and her husband initially began looking for a property in the Caribbean, they visited several islands in search of a condo or house. But they found they kept returning to Barbados and Sandy Lane in particular, until they finally set eyes on Casablanca and were captivated by its potential. They now make their home available to others, with visitors free to luxuriate in the large house and grounds.

As well as the five-bedroom main house, there is a two-bedroom cottage on the estate and the property’s facilities include a large infinity pool, a games and media room, formal and informal dining areas and an outdoor living room, all carefully designed to create a natural flow, with the exterior almost imperceptibly

folding into the interior. Decorated with great style, Casablanca is minimalist but memorable in ambience and appearance.

The house has office facilities and is available for weddings and celebrations. Guests are cared for by a dedicated staff that includes an experienced butler, a housekeeper and an exceptional chef. “Most people who stay will eat at the villa on the first night and then plan to go to restaurants for the rest of the holiday,” says Evlyn, “but as soon as they taste the food made by our chef they invariably cancel all their restaurant bookings immediately. The food here is so good.”

Alongside the pool and fully equipped gym, activities on offer include racket sports, rum tasting and walks around the estate with its views of the impeccably manicured lawns of the nearby golf course. Guests benefit from access to their own tennis/padel court or the Sandy Lane Estate Beach Club with a private cabana. Upscale shops are available in nearby Holetown, while golfers can choose from three outstanding courses. Tours to the island’s exotic destinations can be arranged by the villa’s staff.

“If you want to define luxury, it’s about how you can completely customise the vacation,” says Evlyn. “We can provide the ability for our visitors to customise their stay to the smallest detail: they can arrive and leave when they want, they can choose what they want to do, and where and when they want to eat. If there’s something we don’t offer, we will do our best to find it. The villa is their home during the time they are staying here and we want them to have the very best experience of their lives.”

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