## 

**SUMMER EDITION** 



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## WHERE ECO-POWERED OPULENCE... OVER YONDER CAY

THE ULTIMATE LUXURY VACATION





Over Yonder Cay is a special place on Earth, where eco-powered opulence meets barefoot luxury. Richard Knight reports on this unique 72-acre private island retreat.

**Paradise** 

Somewhere in the Bahamas, between the turquoise waters of the Exuma Banks and the deep blue of the Exuma Sound, lies Over Yonder Cay. The Bosarge Family Office has transformed this former remote fishing outpost into a unique eco-friendly haven for those seeking authentic and sustainable luxury. The island can accommodate from two to thirty guests in four uniquely designed villas with private beaches, pools and breathtaking views. This ecologically designed secret sanctuary is powered by pioneering wind and solar technologies, technologies so advanced they are being studied as a global model

for pollution-free island living. My own journey to Over Yonder Cay was by sea-plane but, as the Cay has its very own sheltered deep water marina that can dock yachts of up to 180ft (55m), pulling in aboard one's own super-yacht would be equally easy. The marina is home to an armada of the island's own dive, fishing and sailing yachts, including resident super-yacht S/Y Tenacious. Her high-tech black sails strike an amazing sight against the turquoise waters, either as she departs carrying guests on sunset cruises or on overnight adventures to one of the nearby pristine marine parks.

This splendid island sanctuary sports all the expected activities and water sports. It also boasts a nine-hole, par three golf course, replete with a fleet of eco-electric

powered golf carts that thread the golfer from hole to tee along paths through tropical gardens. All of the gardens, including the kitchen gardens that supply the island with fresh vegetables, are irrigated by a combination of rainwater stored in huge sunken water tanks and sparkling fresh water produced from eco-powered water makers.

All the villas have their own private gardens. The finest of these surrounds Meridian House, which has been situated on the highest point of the island to take advantage of the stunning 360-degree views. Meridian House is the largest of the villas with four suites sleeping up to eight guests. Its Rococo interior provides an elegant setting for group gatherings. The opulent conservatory, with a Steinway

piano, leads to a grand dining room and on to exterior terraces for al fresco dining. The villa packs it's own entertainment punch with a 12-seat movie theatre, fully equipped gymnasium, treatment rooms, sauna and steam rooms. The master suite is expansive with 'his' and 'hers' en-suite bathrooms, a beauty room and a dressing room. The dressing room has a spiral staircase leading to the top of a viewing tower, which offers spectacular views in all directions.

The three other villas are West Sands, East Cove and South Point. Each of these has its own individual interior style, but all are equally luxurious and benefit from having their own beaches. Their locations provide guests with laid-back luxury, tranquility and privacy yet without any sense of isolation.

The days on the island were based around a simple idea: do what you want when you want. Do nothing at all, or play hard. With so much on offer, I found it impossible not to want to play. In the event, the party would often stretch late into the evenings, often at the beach club which, by day, acts as a social hub for tennis, volleyball and water sports but, at night, comes into its own with its DJ booth, amazing speaker system and dance floor. The provision for relaxation was equally impressive. Active days and fun nights mellowed seamlessly into

chilled mornings. The beachside spa cabana provided a haven for either massage treatments or yoga classes with our own yogi. If that wasn't sufficient to revitalise my party, then we found that Chef was more than able to conjure up one of his special detox spa menus. Chef had been trained in many of the world's top restaurants, and it showed. The comprehensive menu, reliant for its inspiration on produce from local fisheries and nearby kitchen gardens, featured a wide variety of global influences and was complemented by a very fine wine cellar. Overall, the food on the island was sublime.

It's true that many special places like to hide their light under a bushel. In that case, I would say that Over Yonder Cay's bushel should be kicked deep into one of its dreamy, blue lagoons. Whether you are looking for retreat or exploration, private holiday or special event, you'll find that Over Yonder Cay offers it all in the finest of luxury.

Richard Knight is CEO of Wilkins & Rock Ltd, which has been working with the world's most luxurious destinations for 25 years.

For enquiries and details please contact the island manager through the website www.overyondercay.com

