

marieclaire

fashion
with
heart

WHAT'S THE
GOSSIP ON
BLAKE
LIVELY?

It's the
**HAPPY
ISSUE**

FEATURING
**SHOES
SHOES
SHOES!**

GLOSSY
HAIR DAYS
+ UPLIFTING READS
GUARANTEED TO BRIGHTEN
YOUR WORLD

Smile!
**FEELING GOOD
STARTS HERE**





LAI-D-BACK LUXURY

Leeward House is one of the many dream villas for rent in Nevis.

LAZE IN THE CARIBBEAN

Rum, limes, fresh tuna, sweet potatoes, guava juice, banana cake... writing a shopping list in the Caribbean is a lot more fun than your usual supermarket slog.

As most villas here are geared up for North American tourists, everything, from the beds to the fridge, tends to be big – though you do get the feeling no one uses the oven. It's a pity, because the best thing about self-catering in these laid-back islands is the way it gets you out of the tourist bubble and into the local lifestyle. Visit the fish market, call into the rum store, track down the farm shop and scrump mangoes from your neighbour's tree.

Villa holidays here can also be good value, particularly if you go in summer when prices drop by a third compared to the peak winter months. The best way to do it is to first find affordable flights, then search for a villa.

Top islands to consider are



ISLAND LIFE

Sip some rum, below right, and dine on the terrace of an old plantation house in Nevis, right

Anguilla (good beaches and restaurants), St Barths (French glamour) and St Lucia (lots to do). For old-style Caribbean charm, head for Nevis, now easily reached thanks to British Airways' new direct flights to neighbouring St Kitts (ba.com). With one main road, a beautiful volcano to climb, good horse riding and lots of villas with pools, it's the dream location you may want to move to. ▶

BOOK NOW

Wimco Villas (0870-850 1144, wimco.co.uk) offers villa rentals on many Caribbean islands including Anguilla, Barbados and St Barths. A week in Nevis at Leeward House, sleeping four, costs from £1,479 excluding flights. For more information on Nevis, see nevisisland.com.

