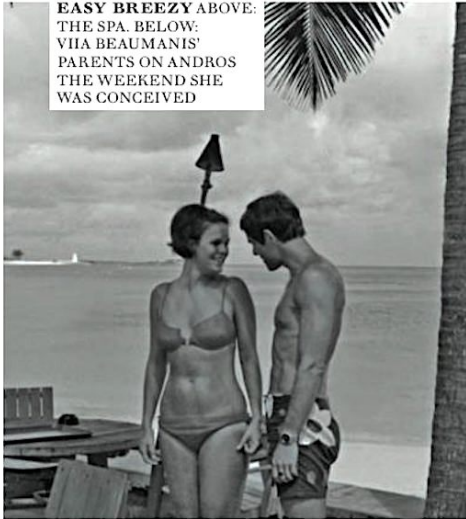




Kamalame Cay, Andros

THE LAID-BACK & LOVELY ... for chilling out and chilled chablis.



EASY BREEZY ABOVE: THE SPA. **BELOW:** VIVA BEAUMANIS' PARENTS ON ANDROS THE WEEKEND SHE WAS CONCEIVED

The Bahamas are a three-hour flight from many major cities, but the resort-lined beaches of the larger islands won't appeal to isolationists. For a remote vibe without the air miles, Kamalame Cay, just 400 metres off the coast of Andros, offers turquoise water and miles of powder sand beach on a private isle equipped with an excellent spa and the world's third-largest barrier reef. The Hew family, which settled on the island in the early '90s, have infused it with boho charm while transforming its landscape into 66 acres of tropical flowers and greenery and scattering pretty cottages along its shore.

Centred off a breezy great house—where staff dish out Caribbean cuisine and an abundance of wine and cocktails, all included in the rate—the secluded bungalows feel more “friend's house” than “hotel room.” They are done up in Jennifer Hew's informal island fusion of bamboo and rattan, slipcovers, French doors, high ceilings and sunshine, seashells piled tubside, bookshelves lined with Tom Perrotta and William Boyd, Bach and Chet Baker stacked by the stereo.

While you could happily spend the day naked in your hammock, diving, windsurfing, bonefishing, picnics on nearby islets, snorkeling, tennis and yoga are all on hand, along with a menu of spa services like hibiscus wraps and coconut scrubs. Tool your golf cart up the conch-lined road to the house for breakfast. Or have it Continental in your room: Stocked with espresso and a French press, a big basket of fresh baked goods, jams and fruit is dropped off each morning. Expect homemade cookies mid-afternoon.

If you're lucky, you'll score an invite to the Cove, Brian and Jennifer Hew's private villa, for a lively dinner party with their friends and family. Welcomed by their eye-catching son, David, I found myself on the veranda of an elegantly cozy home where cocktail hour lasts three hours and plates don't hit the table until 10. I spent dinner seated between a photographer from Arizona full of stories about shooting my hero, Lauren Hutton, and a very naughty, late 20s gay ad man from London who made me laugh until I cried. By the time I left, my only wish was that the Hews might adopt me... »



PRETTY IN PINK ABOVE: INTERIORS REFLECT KAMALAME'S LAID-BACK ISLAND STYLE. **BELOW:** A CHARMING BEACH COTTAGE



SITTING PRETTY ABOVE: VIEW FROM A SEASIDE BUNGALOW. **BELOW:** PLAY CASTAWAY ON DESERTED SHORES

