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Villa with a View

At one with Virgin Gorda's natural splendour, this stunning property is typical of an ambitious Caribbean development, says *Risa Merl*

"The beauty of Oil Nut Bay is the ruggedness of it – there isn't anything else like it." So says the resort's founder David V Johnson from the terrace of his 745-square-metre villa Halo while gesturing towards the horseshoe-shaped beach below and the wild Atlantic beyond.

The aptly named Halo crowns one of the highest points in Oil Nut Bay, a 160-hectare development perched at the north-east corner of Virgin Gorda. Created to blend into the surrounding landscape and take in the 270-degree views, the five-bedroom property and its adjoining one-bedroom guest house are built into the hillside with flat, garden-covered roofs.

One of the late Ken Kao's final designs, the architecture has a distinctive, modern feel. There are no hard corners, but rather rounded walls and dynamic open-plan spaces framed by enormous glass walls.

"It's really a comfortable house," says Johnson's wife Pam, pointing out furniture by French



company Roche Bobois. The home's focal point is the Great Room. With 5.5-metre-high ceilings, it encompasses a living room, dining area and open-plan kitchen – which is fitted with Gaggenau appliances and adorned with Italian-made walnut cabinetry and onyx worktops. Outside, there is also a separate kitchen for a professional chef.

Just off the Great Room is a media room and the master suite, which has walk-in wardrobes, his-and-hers bathrooms and a fitness room. On the lower level are four guest bedrooms all boasting en-suite bathrooms and private patios with panoramic ocean views, making it perfect for whale-spotting. There is also a double garage for golf buggies, the only vehicles allowed in the development.

"We have 12 more sites that will take a house like this, so we wanted to show what was possible when we created Halo," explains Johnson, who is now keen to turn his attention to building another standout home in Oil Nut Bay, which has plots for sale ranging from 0.2 to 2.8 hectares. Halo is offered for sale directly through Oil Nut Bay's sales team. POA, oilnutbay.com

The lowdown

Oil Nut Bay's marina can accommodate yachts of up to 40 metres. Larger boats can moor in the protected bay in front of the marina. It has a market, boutique, coffee shop, library and the new **Nova restaurant**. Amenities at Oil Nut Bay include the beach club and adjoining restaurant, kids' club and tennis courts. The resort is accessible only by boat or helicopter. **Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport** on Beef Island is about a 30-minute boat ride away.



Halo benefits from open-plan living, huge windows and 5.5m-high ceilings – and the most spectacular views

