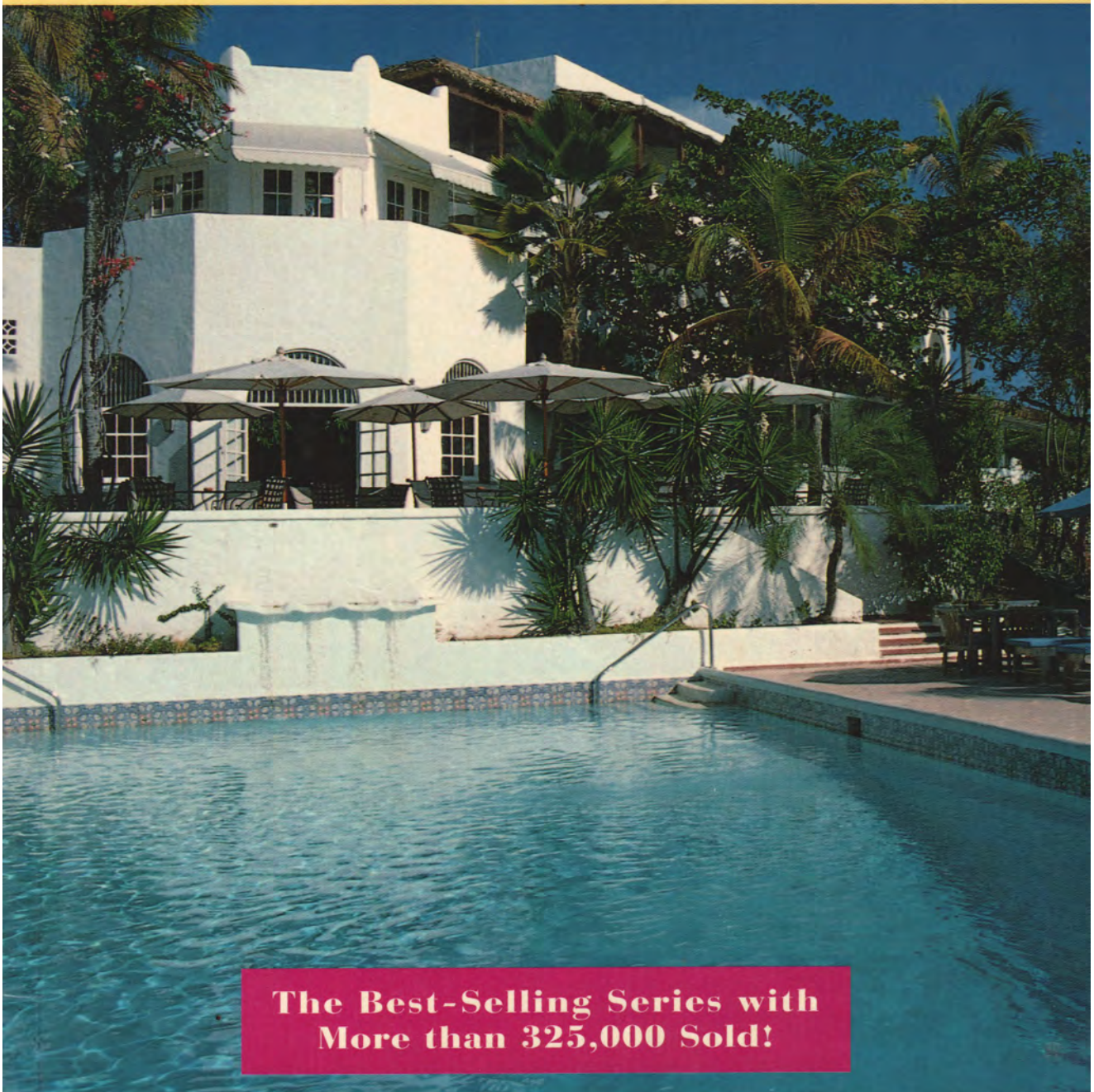


FROMMER'S

Bed and Breakfasts
in **THE CARIBBEAN**

**A Selective, Full-Color Guide
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Guest rooms are in the stone house.



Owners Sonja and Otmar Schaedle.

THE OLD FORT

A reconstructed stone fortress

The Old Fort is perched like a medieval castle on one of the highest hilltops of Bequia, commanding a panoramic view of the Grenadines. This inspired creation is the realization of a dream for Otmar and Sonja Schaedle, the inn's charming, Bavarian-born owners.

The Schaedles reconstructed their stone estate as accurately as possible over the remains of a two hundred-year-old foundation. Otmar's former profession as a history teacher gave him a fine eye for authentic detail—stone towers, arched doorways, rustic hinges, and stone walls—without any sacrifice of comfort. Though the overall impression is medieval, The Old Fort maintains an auberge kind of elegance. A typical day is spent lounging in the shady garden, listening to classical music and sharing stimulating conversation.

The tower guest rooms are large and atmospheric, with thick stone walls and floors, wonderful views

Left above, the restaurant at night. Below, the thick stone walls don't deter nighttime marauders, hence the traditional mosquito netting.

from the arched windows, and beds surrounded by mosquito netting.

While Otmar runs the inn, Sonja oversees the restaurant, which turns into a magical setting at night with its Afghan wall hangings, crackling fireplace, and profusion of candles. The delicious Mediterranean-Creole cuisine places an emphasis on fresh local fish. (Try the smoked red snapper.) Breakfasts are a delightful blend of the tropics and Europe—fresh pineapple, a salad of smoked fish, tomatoes and feta cheese, followed by eggs, bacon, and pumpernickel bread.

This Shangri-La environment is enhanced by a menagerie of gentle resident pets—dogs, cats, donkeys, peacocks, sheep, goats, lambs, and rabbits. In the morning you might be awakened by the braying of Boxi, the donkey, or the mating call of Pasha, the peacock.

THE OLD FORT, Bequia, Mt. Pleasant, St. Vincent & Grenadines, West Indies; (809) 458-3440; Fax (809) 458-3824; Otmar Schaedle, proprietor. Open all year. Six rooms, all with private baths. No air conditioning. High season rates: \$80 to \$120; low season: \$65 to \$100, with breakfast available for \$10 extra; MAP plan available. Children welcome; smoking allowed but not encouraged; German, French and Italian spoken; Visa/MasterCard. Nature trails and unspoiled beaches within walking distance. Restaurant on premises; Plantation House also recommended for dining.

DIRECTIONS: ten-minute winding drive (or a very steep, 20-minute walk) to Port Elizabeth and ferry dock; about 25 minutes from the airport.