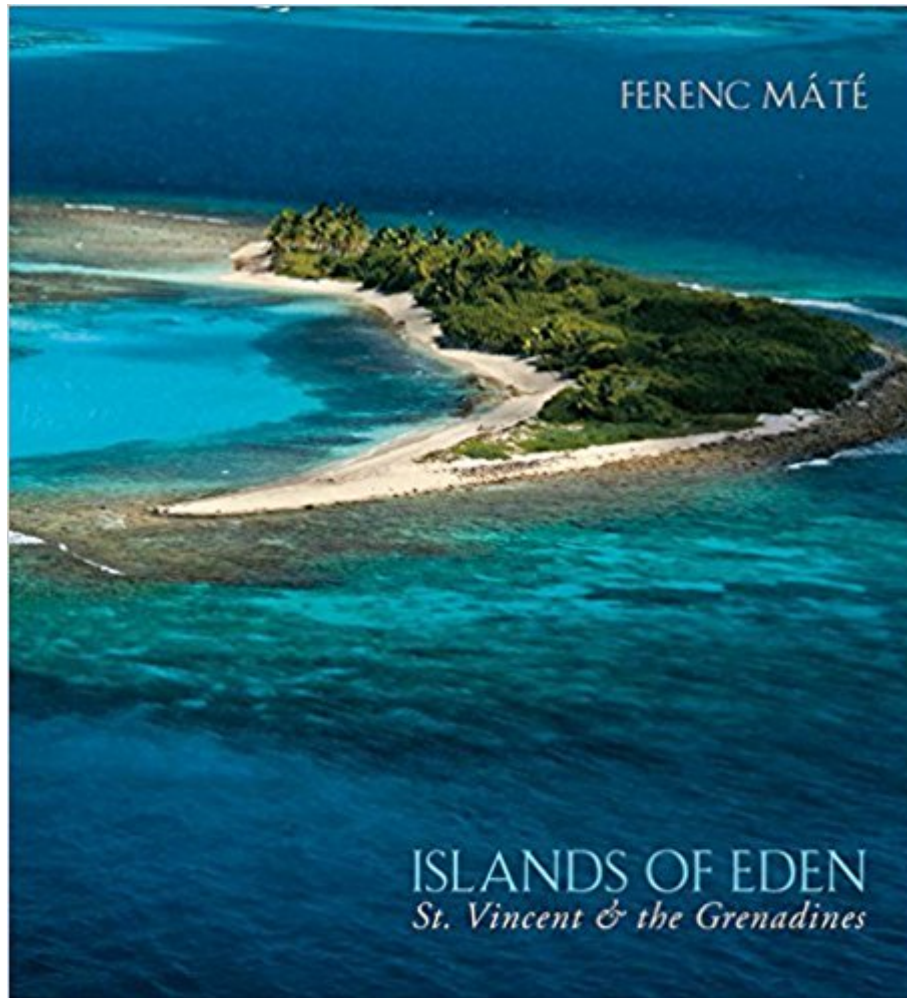




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Islands Of Eden: St.Vincent And The Grenadines



Synopsis

A mesmerizing journey through a chain of tropical islands in a little known part of the Eastern Caribbean. The peaceful azure waters, lagoons, untouched rainforests and stunning white sand beaches will have you packing your bags to leave the world behind. There is a country of small islands in the West Indies, lost in time. Its mountainous terrain has helped in keeping its vast natural beauty intact. Thirty two islands with mystical names like Bequia and Mustique, St Vincent and the Grenadines is in the most blessed part of the Caribbean—dramatic mountains and beaches, fertile soil and plentiful rain. This idyllic setting has nurtured a gentle and simple way life yet one rich in adventure, social contact, and a dazzling variety of locally grown cuisine. Explore the rare flora, taste the fresh fruits, local fish and spices, and partake in Vincentian “liming”—sharing food, drink, jokes and anecdotes, with no other intent than enjoying life. This collection of breathtaking photographs will revitalize both body and soul. 128 color photographs

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Photographer and author Ferenc Máté has published 16 books about places around the world. His latest release, *Islands of Eden*, reveals the breathtaking beauty of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Máté had access to parts of the islands that most mainstream tourists never see, to take these gorgeous images. - Frommer's “Dazzling photos.

Stirring...a beautiful coffee-table book. - Travel with Rick Steves

Ferenc Máté is the author of 15 books translated into 12 languages, including New York

Times Notable Book A Vineyard in Tuscany and the Dugger/Nello historical sea adventure fiction series. He lives in a 13-century friary with his family tending vines and olives in Tuscany. Visit www.ferencmate.com

Great photos but minimal prose.

Mate's book, *Islands of Eden*, is aptly named. Gentle introductions proceed segments of photos, segments that lead me as a reader to places I had never dreamed of visiting: St. Vincent and the Grenadines. And yes, now I want to go. In addition to what you would expect from a book of photographs from a renowned photographer--gorgeous photos that mimic a gourmet meal--Mate's words enchant and introduce. Simple and complex, his photos showcase the islands, the people, the food via color and perspective. Pictures of fruit and vegetables, vibrant with color, "pale" in the face of the joyful faces of the people themselves. Children and adults, photos impromptu and those more staged--all make me want to sit down and visit, laugh in chorus, and step up to dance. As striking as the photos of crystalline waters and eye-popping color-ridden natural vistas were, it was the faces of the people that inspire me. Ageless, from child faces onward, I fell in love. My favorite was one of a group of school children, girls and boys. A two-page spread, those five students spoke to my teacher heart. White uniform shirts nest below smiles and more somber faces, and a burst of pink flowers dangles amid the green, green leafy background. Were they on their way home from school? Or, were they still on the way? What did they learn and what did they write? Whose version of history and which scientific concepts took precedence? Stories upon stories reverberate from those faces, generational stories of what came before and anticipated tales of what lies ahead. Along the narrative way, Mate explains "liming" to readers, a concept that enchants me. Liming is hanging out, talking and laughing, dancing and connecting. It is informal, it is fun. We see it in neighborhoods around the world, neighborhoods where people connect. On the islands, liming leads to dancing, perhaps a few drinks, and--from what I can tell--connections. That liming resonates from my favorite photo. Perhaps that is the true gift that Mr. Mate gave to me this morning: Connection. His book led me to connect in my heart's core to people and islands I may never visit, but more importantly IMHO to the connection with all people of the world. That connection whispers and dances, one photo at a time, and inspires me to look for more books by him. And, that is the connection that will save us as a world community. Connections--one photo and one experience at a time.

Photographer Ferenc Mate provides stunningly colorful views of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. From aerial shots to close-up flora this is a delight to the eyes. You won't see any water color more spectacular (Fiji and the Seychelles are roughly equal). I'm ready to go. His commentary is about life for the locals- how they live, work, and eat. He recounts the happiness and friendliness of the people. Ferenc took a lot of photos of the locals and their food. He tells his experiences while filming and vacationing.

Boy, just when I was ready to pack up and move to Tuscany I received " Islands of Eden. " Wonderful book just oozing with humanity and goodness on every page, a warm and loving tribute to a people and a place seemingly unchanged since the world was young.

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