

Shiver Me Timbers! Pirate-Themed Estate Heads to the Auction Block

A pirate-themed estate on St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands is headed to the auction block on Dec. 13. Listed for \$35 million in 2012, the property will go to auction with Platinum Luxury Auctions with a sales price at or above \$6 million.

Called Villa Whydah, after an 18th-century pirate ship that sank near the owner's childhood home in Cape Cod, the West Indian-style, seven-building compound sits on almost 4 acres in a gated community. The buildings include eight bedrooms, nine baths, two half baths and about 15,000 square feet of interior space. There is a dungeon in the lower level of the tower, and the compound includes pirate memorabilia like 16th- and 17th-century armada chests, cannons and antique firearms, among other items.

"People have different hob-

bies. Mine happens to include pirate memorabilia," said owner Tom Hudson, 48, a financier who once ran the hedge fund firm Pirate Capital.

Mr. Hudson, who often traveled to the area, said the compound was completed in 2012. He added that the construction cost was something "approaching \$20 million." Mr. Hudson said he and his wife, Raquel, are selling because they are tied to their children's school schedule, and visit less often. Their main home is in New Canaan, Conn.

"We're more focused on the process than the price," he said about going the auction route, noting that it is a more efficient way to sell a unique property such as this.

—Stefanos Chen

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