

# LIFE *style*

# MUSTIQUE MUST-HAVE

## Has Prince William's girlfriend discovered the jet set's favourite designer yet?

**W**HILE we in the UK have been trying to seek out some sunshine over the Bank Holiday weekend, Prince William and his girlfriend have been sunning themselves on beautiful Mustique.

Having flown out four days before the Prince, Kate Middleton will have had time to discover the island's delights, and she may have stumbled on one of the fashion pack's best-kept secrets.

Although it's long been a favourite with royalty (Princess Margaret, Viscount Linley) and celebrities (Mick and Bianca Jagger, David Bowie), this Caribbean hideaway is possibly the last place you'd expect to find a fashion designer to the jet set.

But for Lotty B, whose eponymous label is one of the most covetable on the island-hopping circuit, home is an idyllic clapboard property, nestling in Mustique's lush landscape.

Her glamorous clients — Liz Hurley, Lady Eloise Anson and Jerry Hall — all adore her silk-screened sarongs, elegant kaftans and kimonos.

Lotty Bunbury grew up in England, and spent her childhood running up ad-hoc designs on her sewing machine. Her creative talents were fuelled when she studied glass-painting at Chelsea College of Art & Design.

Lotty and her husband, Michael, moved to Mustique in 1993, when Michael took up a one-year contract to become the island's resident doctor. Lotty's glass-painting equip-



Island lovers: The prince and Kate



It's a wrap: Top, £137

ment was too cumbersome to pack, so she took with her some silk and fabric paints.

Of course, after a few months in their picturesque home, the couple didn't want to leave, and they have remained on the island ever since, raising four children in the process.

Lotty has turned her passion for painting into a thriving cottage industry. At first, she

would hand-paint squares of silk, inspired by the tropical vegetation and beaches. These vibrant textiles quickly became the most popular attire on the island.

As demand grew, Lotty found she was unable to keep up with orders. So, the next step was to create the designs on her silk screen, and have them hand-printed in

multiples. Now these are sold in exclusive boutiques around the world.

So, if the paparazzi manage to catch a glimpse of Kate Middleton floating around Mustique this week in a beautiful printed sarong, chances are it will be one of Lotty B's.

■ [www.lottymbunbury.com](http://www.lottymbunbury.com)

**KAREN KAY**



Coral chic: Silk chiffon skirt worn as a dress, £82