



## A New Queen is Crowned

Miss France here we come...  
Details Page 8



## Who is King of the Sea?

It's likely not what you think it is...  
Details Page 4



**Rock, Blues & Good Time Radio - 91.9FM**

## Shop in Style: Marigot Shopping



The colorful and 'quaintly European' town of Marigot is a shopper's delight with its beautifully presented storefronts and local market. While Philipsburg offers great bargains, the shopping experience there is designed to cater to short-term visitors, who usually arrive by cruise ship and only stay a few hours.

Marigot is the town where island residents get their shopping done, but also where most of the elegant boutiques are.

For the fashion worshiper, you are sure to pick up some unique designs and accessories, as Marigot is renowned for its 'one-off' designer boutiques carrying the latest in Haute Couture from France and around Europe. The main shopping areas are all close together, so you don't need to travel far on foot to find some excellent buys.

### Elegant Food Meets Relaxed Atmosphere at Rendez-Vous Lounge

You are having a leisurely meal at Porto Cupecoy's Rendez-Vous Lounge, overlooking the central plaza and the elegant yachts birthed in the marina. After you sampled some of the food, and assuming that you have a reasonably fine palate, you will surely be impressed.

You might wonder how a casual restaurant serving...

*Continued on Page 7*

### Welcome Back, Orient Beach!

There was no better date for the reopening of the iconic Bikini Beach Bar and Restaurant on Orient Beach than the World Cup Final, which was won by France. A jubilant crowd watched the game and brought back the spirit of Baie Orientale.

For decades, labeled as the Saint Tropez of the Caribbean, Orient Beach could compete with anything...

*Continued on Page 5*

At this time, not all of the boutiques have recovered from last year's destruction; but please, patronize the stores which made an effort to bring life back to this charming Creole town.

Close to the center of the shopping district is the Marina Royale which is a good place to explore with its' original clothing and lingerie boutiques as well as colorful souvenir shops. Many of the outlets are hidden down little alleyways, so a sense of exploration is essential for some unusual bargains...

*Continued on Page 10*



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**Letter From the Editor**

July 27, 2018

Hello to our readers! Thanks for picking up a copy of the ST-MAARTEN.COM Weekend Edition. We hope you are enjoying all of the fun that our paper offers!

In this issue, we drew creativity in our articles and photos from the French side, St-Martin. From shopping to dining and even the nightlife; St-Martin has options that are quickly multiplying in this post-Irma world.

I encourage you to frequent these establishments, as well as the ones listed on page 11, as our island continues to rebuild and rejuvenate.

As always, we love to hear from you! If you enjoyed a particular article or crossword, let us know.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend, and have some fun in the Caribbean sun.



*Hilary Grant*  
Editor

**Online Portal**

For in-depth information about our island, consult ST-MAARTEN.COM - the official online portal. Please use the convenient QR codes with any smart phone to access individual pages directly.



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## The King of the Sea

By: Leslie Hickerson



When you read that phrase, your mind might immediately jump to sharks, which are the well-accepted top of the ocean food chain. However, there is another small fish drifting along the bottom of the reef. It's dark red and white stripes and mane, like pectoral fins, make it one of the most beautiful creatures below the surface. This invasive species, called the Lionfish, unfortunately has a huge impact on the ocean's ecosystem.

Originally native to the Indo-Pacific, there are many theories about how these fish ended up in North American waters. They might have come over in the bilges of large ships during Atlantic crossings, or entered the water via pet shops in the southern United States that were damaged in hurricanes. There is even a theory that some were pets flushed down toilets, like the original myth of alligators in the sewers of New York. Whether it was one or many different ways that these creatures started breeding in a foreign ocean we will never know, but it is almost certain that it is a result of mankind.

There are several things that cause these fish to have such a large impact on the waters that they inhabit. The first is that they have no known predators in the area. Lionfish have an advanced defense mechanism with over a dozen spines that contain venom along their backs, making it difficult for predators to wound them.

These spines can cause reactions even with

a slight touch. For those spearfishing these creatures it can mean severe pain that lasts several days, nausea and dizziness.

The second factor that gives the species an unfair advantage in our waters is their rate of reproduction. In favorable conditions, females can release large amounts of eggs more than once a week. It is speculated that a female can have over two million eggs each year. These tiny babies live near the surface until they are close to an inch in length before returning to the reef floor to start claiming their territory.

Once they have gotten a substantial size, the Lionfish spends the rest of its life binge eating everything in its path. This is an easy job for them, as most fish do not recognize them as a predator. It takes several generations for animals to adapt to new anomalies in their world and this is no exception.

The list of why these marine invaders are problematic goes on and on. Since studies began on their impact, humans have tried to undo their influence by eradicating them. Fishermen, divers and freedivers hunt Lionfish, and on several islands they are eaten as a local dish. If you are interested in hunting these fish you need to do the proper research to make sure you are doing so humanely and without injuring yourself. So, beware: a prick from a Lionfish spine could prevent you from being able to hold your rum punch in your hand the rest of your vacation!

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# Welcome Back, Orient Beach!

*Continued from Page 1*

St. Barths had to offer and then some. But, the string of excellent bars and restaurants were eliminated within a few hours by Hurricane Irma, robbing our island of an essential vacation attraction.



*Orient Village*

In the Orient Village neighborhood, it was Hotel La Plantation with its poolside restaurant and bar which held up the flag and became the center of entertainment in a neighborhood fighting to crawl back to life. La Plantation has now earned a permanent spot on Orient's dining and party circuit. Hotel La Plantation also has a good number of their charming rooms available for visitors.

Technically, Bikini Beach is the second beach bar to reopen: At the clothing optional southern end of the beach, Pearch Bar Lite has already been welcoming guests since the end of October 2017.

The reconstruction of the Club O Resort is still slowed down by legalities, but thirty rebuild units are planned to be available to guests during the first half of next year.

For November, the return of other well-established beach restaurants is scheduled, so that Orient Beach will once again have the capacity to be a major entertainment destination. Beach chairs and umbrellas are available at Bikini Beach and Club O.

The restaurants at the central plaza of Orient Village are all open, as are some eateries on Avenue des Plages. Famous restaurants such as the Astrolab at Esmeralda Resort are also ready to reopen soon.

We are happy to report that a visit to Baie Oriental is once again worth the drive from anywhere on our island, with a broad selection of entertainment options to choose from.



*Bikini Beach during the World Cup Final*

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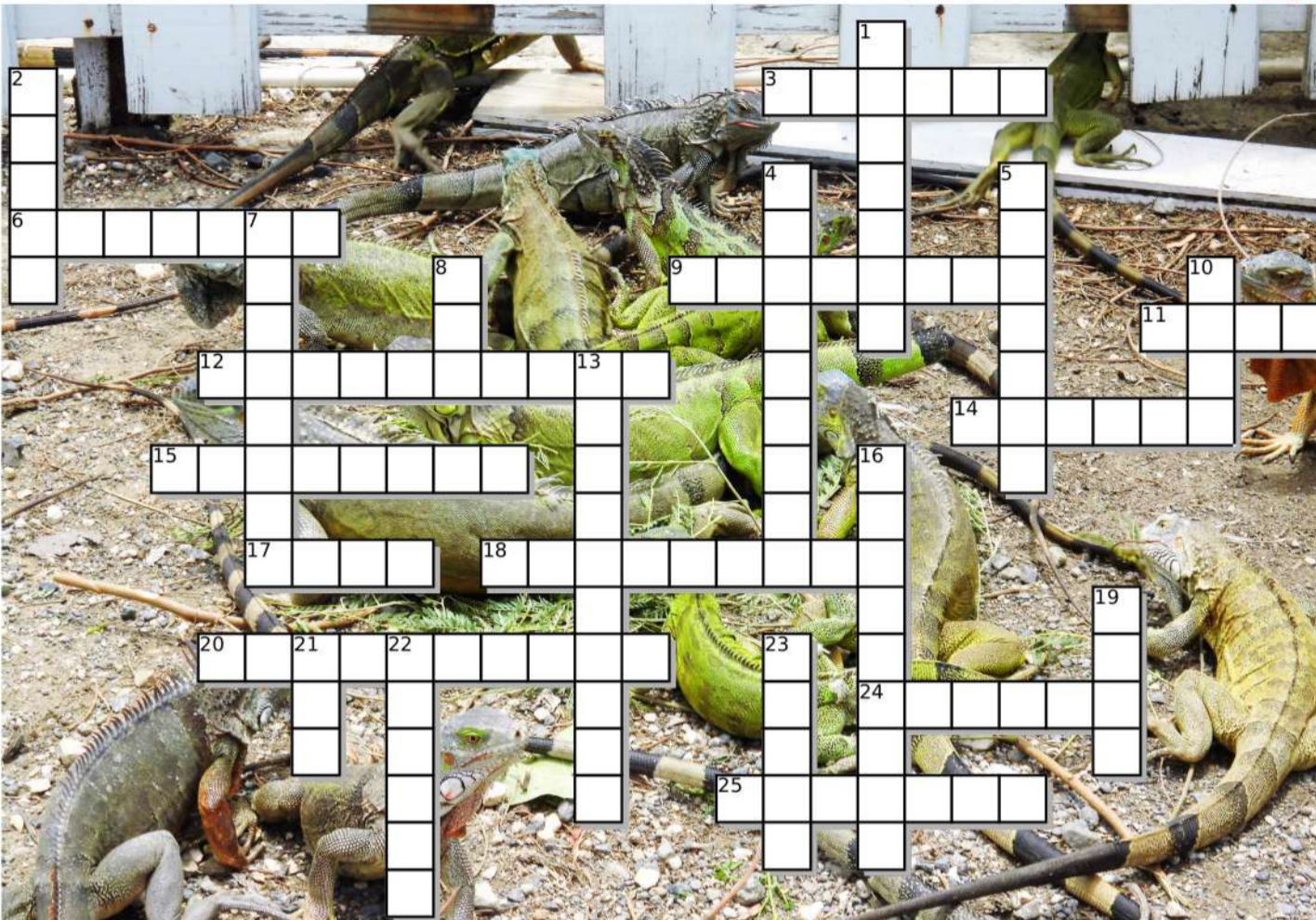
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# Do You Know St. Maarten?

*Cheating? Find solution to the puzzle on Page 14*



Please enjoy the fifteenth edition of our crossword puzzle. You will notice that all of the questions are rooted in the Caribbean hemisphere and might take a bit of research to answer if you haven't spend much time here. It also means: the answers are valid for St. Maarten/St-Martin, but could also be for neighboring islands.

For example, if we are asking for an island to the North of our location, it can only be Anguilla.

If you try to solve the puzzle as a visitor to our island and you get stuck: don't be shy! Approach a local and ask! You might find they struggle to answer as well. Or strike up an interesting conversation and learn a bit about our very unique region.

Mistakes do happen, even though our puzzle is produced right here on island. If you detect a mistake, don't be shy and drop us a line! But, be aware that some of the questions are a bit tricky on purpose. Good luck!

**ACROSS**

- 3 Colorful phone company
- 6 Language of Antigua
- 9 Bistrot in Grand Case
- 11 Latin American airline flying to SXM
- 12 Original home of AUC
- 14 Bluewater game fish
- 15 Type of government on Anguilla
- 17 Old fashioned spelling of cane juice liquor
- 18 Some call it music
- 20 What is 50 km/h on the Dutch side?
- 24 Beach bar on Orient Beach
- 25 Where is AUC located?

**DOWN**

- 1 Skipper
- 2 Head of state of Anguilla
- 4 Sleek predator fish
- 5 DJ of Soggy Dollar
- 7 Multi-masted sailboat
- 8 Two home-improvement centers
- 10 Which heavenly body creates tides?
- 13 Religious sect
- 16 Village in center of St-Martin
- 19 What finds its way with 97150?
- 21 French side utility company
- 22 Yacht tender
- 23 Nightclub named like a sportscar

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## Elegant Food Meets Relaxed Atmosphere at Rendez-Vous Lounge



*Continued from Page 1*

breakfast, lunch and dinner is able to offer this kind of refined gastronomic experience.

Meet proprietor Nathalie Schoenher! The RD-Lounge is her concept. She turned it into the great success it is and now operates one of the most popular restaurants on the island's Western coast.

Nathalie's affinity for the finer aspects of food and service is no surprise; she was the Food and Beverage Manager of St-Martin's flagship resort, La Samanna, and later was manager of the La Samanna Villas. She is

accustomed to operating in a five-star environment. Many island residents and repeat visitors remember her from these positions. Before she arrived on the island in 1995, she had been in a managing position in Chefs de France at Disney Paris.

There is a surprising bridge that Nathalie represents to some of the all-time greats of French cuisine. Much of her professional experience in the culinary field has been shaped in the presence of food giants like Paul Bocuse (1926-2018) and pastry chef Gaston Lenôtre (1920-2009) while working

at Chefs de France.

Nowadays, Nathalie enjoys the fruits of her career by witnessing guests from all walks of life relax at the RD-Lounge.

Be it a student from the island's medical university connecting to the outside world through the free Wi-Fi and consuming a pastry, or guests from the posh Terres Basses villas who love to experience the well-prepared French and Italian dishes in an environment free of all pretensions; Rendez-Vous Lounge is stylish yet welcoming to residents and visitors.

Rendez-Vous Lounge is open from 7 AM to 10 PM. Call +1 721 545-3070 to make a reservation. RD-Lounge is located in Porto Cupecoy in the Yacht Harbour.



# Lights, Camera, Action at the Miss Saint-Martin/St-Barthélemy Pageant



Photo Courtesy of Souleyman T. Photography  
Marigot played hosted to the 2018 Miss Saint-Martin/St-Barthélemy's pageant. A preliminary to the Miss France Universe competition, the stage was set for a glamorous evening. Six contestants took to the stage to compete for this coveted title.

The President of the pageant committee was honored to bring recognition to the French West Indies, "we are here together for a huge opportunity, to put Saint-Martin/Saint Barths on the map, as the show gets more than three million views on French TV. It was a great honor to have Miss France 2015 and the top 5 here on our stage."

The delegates performed an opening number to kick off the show, revealing intricate costumes and showcasing their onstage speeches. The glitz didn't stop there, as each contestant wowed the audience in their bedazzled evening gowns.



Photo Courtesy of Souleyman T. Photography

The Miss Universe organization, formerly owned by the Trump Organization, was taken over by IMG Models several years ago. The pageant now focuses on being 'confidently beautiful', and includes three phases of competition: interview, swimsuit and evening gown all accounting for 33% of the delegate's overall score.



Photo Courtesy of Souleyman T. Photography

Allisson Georges stole the hearts of the judges and was crowned Miss Saint-Martin/St-Barthélemy 2018.

She will go on to compete at Miss France Universe 2018 in December, and could bring the title home to the Caribbean region. If she is successful, Alison would compete in the internationally televised Miss Universe pageant next year.

The pageant committee is already looking forward to next year's competition, and hopes that the pageant continues to grow and flourish.

We will be following Allisson during her reign and preparations for the upcoming competition.

We would like to wish her the best of luck as she readies herself to participate in the Miss France pageant later this year. St. Maarten/St-Martin is proud to have Allisson representing our small yet mighty island!



Photo Courtesy of Souleyman T. Photography



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# Shop in Style: Marigot Shopping



*Continued from Page 1*

Ralph Lauren, Hermes, Jean Paul Gaultier, Armani, Gucci, Gianfranco Ferre, Versace, Serge Blanco and Hugo Boss are just some of the international 'pret a porter' names you will come across as well as many well-known specific sporting brands. Many brands are well established in the North American marketplace as well. Interestingly, the cuts for the European market are different from what is offered in the Americas and in Marigot you will find these different styles without having to travel across the Atlantic Ocean.

Rue Charles de Gaulle is a pretty street, which is host to classic gift shops and home accessories as well as some exclusive optical outlets for the latest in designer sunglasses. Although Philipsburg IS the jewelry capital of the Caribbean, you will also find a good selection of jewelers. And don't miss the amazingly stocked perfumeries and cosmetic stores all located around the main shopping center. In all the leading stores, service is personal and friendly, and store personnel will be happy to help you make those essential purchase decisions.

Le West Indies Shopping Mall is another highlight of St-Martin shopping: this elegant shopping paradise features many fashionable stores on two air-conditioned levels - all framed by striking architecture.

The mall is located right on the waterfront, across the ferry terminal.

For fresh produce, investigate the local produce market on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, the earlier, the better, for fresh fish and seafood as well as rainbow displays of tropical fruit and vegetables. This is located on the main port road alongside the daily market, which is not to be missed for locally crafted souvenirs and gifts. The colors will astound you as will the friendly vendors who will let you browse through their wares in peace without the 'hard sell' typical to vacation shopping! Caribbean colored shirts, dresses, and pareos are not only beautiful and well priced but also essential wear in this climate. An extensive array of sun hats will help to stop that nose peeling!

The unhurried and peaceful ambiance makes shopping in Marigot a true pleasure. It will take a few more months to remove the scars of Irma, but Marigot is well on its road to recovery.

Just remember, as in France, many boutiques close for lunchtime so after a hard morning's shopping, do as the French and enjoy a leisurely two-hour lunch! There are many bistro cafes and restaurants for the weary shopper, so make a day of it!

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# 'We Lounge' Has Arrived!

Looking for the latest hotspot to enjoy a tasty libation? Look no further than Maho Village. We Lounge is a new, vibrant bar in La Terrasse next to Casino Royale (which should be re-opening soon!).

The bar ambience is cool, chic and is always pumping current top hits from the electronic, dance, vocal deep house, groovy tech and other musical genres. Serving fresh cocktails, beer and champagne; this bar has it all.

And if you're looking for some bites to nibble on, they have a delicious selection of fusion tapas. We Lounge is the perfect spot to sit and talk with friends, or cuddle up next to your better half on date night.

If you're looking for live music, Jayson Miro and Natasha Perla perform live every Friday and Saturday. Comining their passion for entertainment and music, bringing the house down with every show.

As you can see, they offer it all ensuring that you can focus on having fun creating new memories.

We Lounge is open daily from 9 PM to 3 AM.



We Lounge, Maho Village

  
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# Cat 5+ Cocktail Contest: Drinks as Strong as Their Namesake

Hurricane Irma changed our lifestyle dramatically. The few bars which were able to open soon after had to deal with limited supplies and make do with whatever they could get their hands on, resulting in a few new cocktails - all based on Irma.

Who could blame the bartenders for naming their concoctions 'Category Five Plus'? Now we have too many Cat 5 drinks on the island and we need a contest to decide which one is the public favorite.

The Category 5+ Hurricane Irma is now part of our history. We made it through and we don't mind Irma being memorialized as a drink causing a horrific hangover.



Marco and the team of Isola Ristorante

**Here is how it works:**

Go on a bar crawl and visit the participating bars and restaurants from all around the island and order each different version of Category Five Plus. (Please make sure that you have a designated driver for the occasion!) Happy drinking!

**THE BOON BEACH BAR**

Simpson Bay

**BUFFALO WINGS**

Simpson Bay/Cole Bay

**DRIFTWOOD BOAT BAR**

Maho Beach

**THE RED PIANO**

Pelican

**RENDEZ-VOUS LOUNGE**

Porto Cupecoy

**WASABI CHARLIE**

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**TACO MACHO**

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**JIMBO'S ROCK & BLUES CAFE**

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**ISOLA RISTORANTE**

Pelican at the Hollywood Casino

**LAGOONIES**

Cole Bay

**LITTLE MOBAY**

Maho

**OCEAN LOUNGE**

Philipsburg

**THE PALMS RESTAURANT**

Simpson Bay

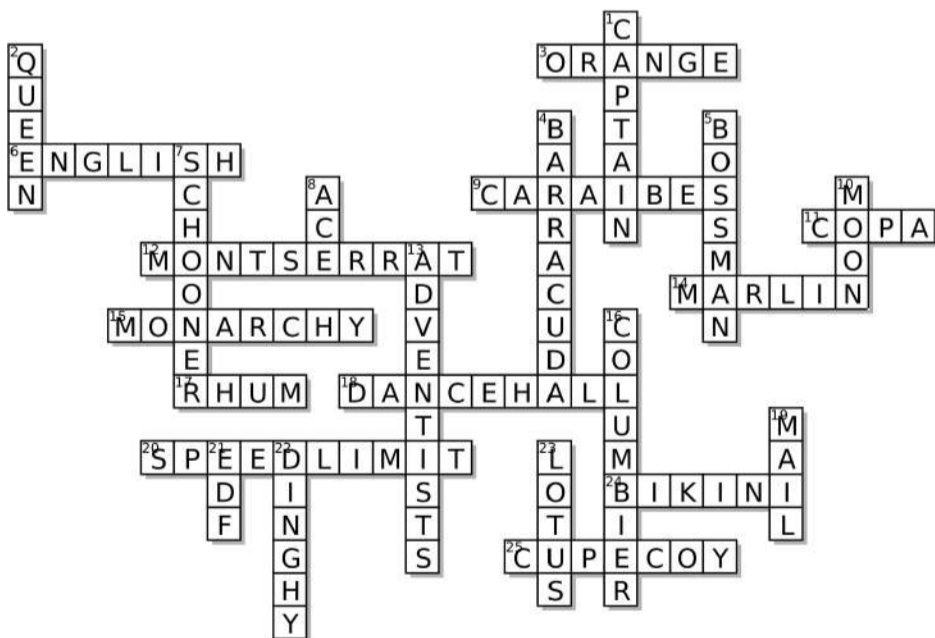
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## Crossword Puzzle Solution



To view a list of contestants and to vote, visit [ST-MAARTEN.COM](http://ST-MAARTEN.COM) by using the QR code to the right:



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