



Driftwood Beach Bar

Planes, Booze and Sun ..
Details Page 10



AUC School of Medicine

Celebrating 40 years of excellence...
Details Page 12



Rock, Blues & Good Time Radio - 91.9FM

Bring Sexy Back to Your Vacation

St. Maarten/St-Martin is an island with a sexy vibe providing the opportunity to seduce and ignite old and new flames alike. The ambience is partially due to our nightlife, casinos, fine dining and secluded slivers of pristine sandy beaches; the rest is the opportunity our lends to go on a first date, get hitched or celebrate any occasion.

Here are our top seven favorite techniques to take your vacation game to a whole new level of spicy.

Say 'I Do'

Pick a spot, any spot, and tie the knot. What are the requirements? Both partners must be over 18 years old, paperwork is filed two weeks in advance of the ceremony and an official must attend to make it legitimate.

To make things extra easy, resorts and planners are available to assist you with the arrangements for weddings, anniversary celebrations and vow renewals.

Be creative! Think outside the stereotypical 'barefoot on the beach' wedding and opt instead for locales that can be more imaginative and intimate.

Some ideas would include holding the ceremony on an AquaMania dinner cruise or on a hike at Loterie Farm Nature Preserve and Sanctuary...

Continued on Page 8



Photo Courtesy of St. Maarten Weddings

How to Take a Great Underwater Photo

By: Leslie Hickerson

Whether you are using a disposable underwater camera or the most expensive action camera, your photos will only be as good as the photographer! Here are some tips on how to avoid shaky cam, blurred images and water drops; giving you the best vacation photos.

You have a variety of choices for what type of camera to use while taking part in watersports. If you can find one...

Continued on Page 4

From Chaos to Art: April Hankins

By: Chris Morvan

Driftwood and debris have been providing useful things for enterprising people for as long as man has lived by the sea, but turning such items into works of art is the province of relatively few.

One of them lives in St. Maarten. Her name is April Hankins, and she is an artist with a back catalog of more conventional work. She studied at the Yale School of Art and has exhibited widely in the US...

Continued on Page 5



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Letter From the Editor

August 10, 2018

August has arrived! For those of you who traveled to Anguilla for August Monday, we hope that you had a fun, safe journey at the annual summer beach extravaganza which marks the halfway point of summer.

In this issue, we have a variety of activities that can be done as a couple; from shopping to exploring in the ocean, we hope that you try out some of suggestions we have for you.

Since we are now in August and in the peak of hurricane season, please make sure you are prepared with supplies, emergency plans etc. as you can be. Please see prior issues of our newspaper for ideas on how to prepare yourself.

Thank you for reading The Weekend Edition! We hope you enjoy this issue.



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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How to Take a Great Underwater Photo



Continued from Page 1

there are disposables still for sale that you can take down to shallow depths. There are also lots of cameras on the market that are now waterproof, pressure proof or both; and most smart phones have cases that enable them to be taken into the water with you.

Whether you decide to sign up for a scuba dive or want to get some shots during a snorkeling trip; if you are diving beneath the surface you need to make sure that your equipment is not only safe to be in the water, but also is secure being under pressure. Just like when you go up in a plane, the pressure changes when you dive into the water. If your gear isn't designed for this it might cause the buttons to jam or for the case to crack.

If you decide to use your phone for underwater photos keep in mind even the brands that are waterproof sometimes react differently to salt water than fresh water, AND you could very well drop your phone overboard which happens more often than you think! No matter what camera you use things can get lost or destroyed so always back up your photos before heading out!

For surface activities like snorkeling, jet skiing or kayaking; you should throw on a wrist strap with a flotation device. When you go scuba diving, skip the floaty so if you drop the camera, it doesn't shoot to the surface without you!

To get the best pictures when below the surface, you will need to be very still as particles in the water make it easier for your images to turn out blurry. To reduce the risk of this happening; try out the video mode. Take multiple short clips with slow stable movements and you can always grab still images from the video later on.

Avoid long recordings; nobody will want to watch these when you get home! For

more advanced photographers you will need to add light or a red filter for the best images.

For photos above the surface make sure your subject is facing the sunlight for the best shot, the sun behind your subject matter will create silhouette style images. Before you take the photo, look at the lens and make sure there aren't any water drops. If there are some don't wipe the lens, instead dunk the whole camera into the water and lift it back up. This will prevent any streaks or smudge prints.

Our Top Basic Water Photography Tips:

1. Get close to your subject. This is especially important for action cameras. Most of these have wide-angle lenses to let in extra light.
2. HOLD STILL! If you have a hard time with this, add on a mount you can hold with two hands or a selfie stick that moves the camera further away from your body. This will be even more important below the surface of the water.
3. Take lots of photos. Better to have the options to delete from then be stuck with a subpar photo because it was the only one of the whole group together. Be sure to download your photos early and often! This safeguards your photo memories if you lose the SD card or something gets ruined. You won't have lost everything.
4. Include your group. Scenery photos are amazing, especially on a tropical island, but the ones you will appreciate over and over are the ones that include your travel buddies. Whether you're taking a jet ski over the waves or diving along a coral reef, being able to look back at the pictures might help keep you warm this winter waiting on your next vacation.

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From Chaos to Art: April Hankins

Continued from Page 1

Hankins and her husband came to the island four years ago, having got to know it through friends who live here, and when they finally grew tired of the traffic in San Francisco, they decided that since those friends were happy here, they should give it a try too.

Being from outside Chicago but long since relocated to the west coast, Hankins was undaunted by the prospect of moving.

A career in art was always her dream as a child. "I liked drawing, I liked coloring, I liked to construct things and I just started doing more and more two-dimensional work. I'm quite capable of doing figurative stuff, but I loved doing abstract work since I was little."

This assertion comes as a response to my picking a piece of debris art from her wall and inviting her to explain it.

"I think what I like about abstract art is that you can see things in it," she continues. "It communicates without being obvious. I know some people can't see it, and are not happy with some curves unless it's in the shape of fish. They don't like wavy designs on a bedspread unless they can see it's flowers."

Again, this goes right back to her early years, when she went to the basement of a Chicago museum to look at the abstract art which was kept there rather than in the more accessible display spaces.

"I looked at this piece for a long time and suddenly it became three-dimensional. I almost fell off my seat. I couldn't believe it. There was something about staying with it long enough where you could see – not movement - but different relationships."

As for the current wood-based work she is producing, there may be a simpler explanation for its fascination.

"My father was a carpenter, and he always taught us the value of a good piece of lumber. After Irma, there was wood everywhere. I have no idea why I felt I should put some of it together. I guess I felt badly that it was from buildings or it was pieces of somebody's furniture. I started picking it up and playing around with it and thought 'I can make something out of this'. I



could make things that would delight me and make me feel better until I started painting again."

Hankins had not picked up a paintbrush since arriving in St. Maarten, but the hurricane and its resulting detritus triggered something.

Then one day her husband came home with the news that he had found a suitable office space in Cole Bay and there was a part of it that would make a good studio.

Thus began the renaissance of April Hankins, and when artist and gallery-owner Zdenka Kiric expressed an interest in her work, the ball really started rolling.

Hankins' studio has a strangely museum-like feeling, but it's not fossils and shards of roman pottery all over the place; it's mainly pieces of wood, which she hoards and mulls over until she starts a new piece and finds a home for,

what to the rest of us, would be a meaningless scrap.

On the floor are four shallow trays on casters, laden with raw materials, and I'm wondering what they are when she volunteers the information that they are old paintings, pieces of her own work which she clearly doesn't value very highly, so she has inverted them, screwed wheels to the corners and the thick frames have enough depth to serve as mobile containers which constantly serve up potential elements for a new piece of work.

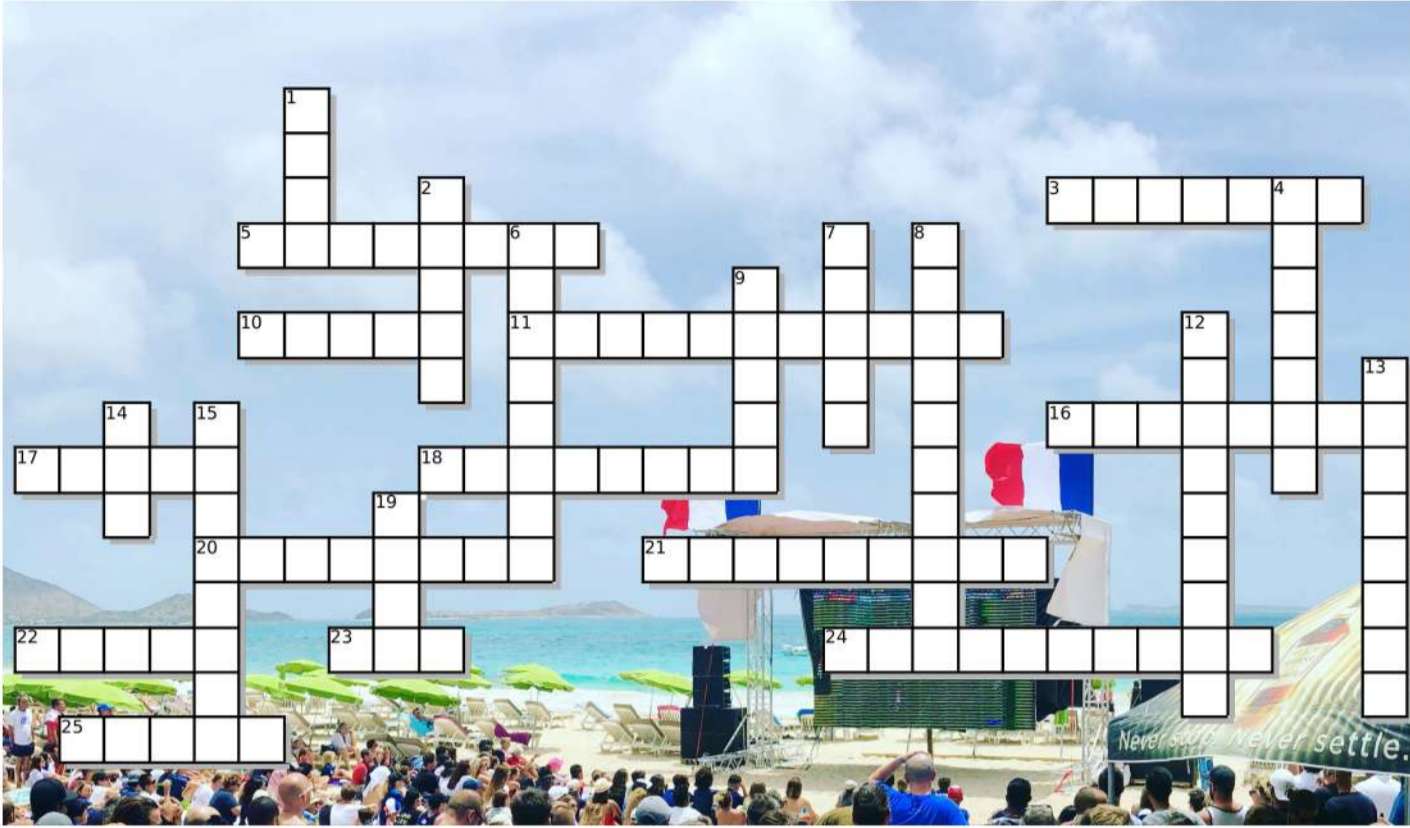
To illustrate how she works, Hankins takes a piece of found wood about a foot by eight inches. "Sometimes I just like the shape of a piece and I like the screw holes or something. With this piece, I like this ripple here because it's been in the water," she says, indicating where the top layer of plywood has warped. It is also darker at one end than the other, which again she ascribes to its having been in water.

"In art, light things go at the top and dark things below, because that's how the world is. Light comes from above, be it the sun or the moon. So, I deliberately reversed that because it creates tension, and that's what I want. It catches your eye."

And so begins a new piece of the April Hankins collection. It's all in the eye of the beholder and if you like it, you like it, simple as that.

Do You Know St. Maarten?

Cheating? Find solution to the puzzle on Page 14



Please enjoy the sixteenth 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 Wings, not of a cow
- 5 Cruise line named after celebrations
- 10 Jamaican fruit eaten with salt-fish
- 11 Caribbean home decoration
- 16 Rum brand distilled on island
- 17 Italian restaurant in Pelican
- 18 Discoverer of St. Martin
- 20 Capital of St. Barths
- 21 Owing a week
- 22 Central instrument in famous bar
- 23 Animal competing in contest in Columbiar
- 24 Large car dealership
- 25 Casino card game

DOWN

- 1 Presently unpopular female name
- 2 Small islet to reach by ferry
- 4 A farm with pool
- 6 Eel island
- 7 Non-stop flight destination in Europe
- 8 National tree
- 9 What animal races in the Caribbean for money?
- 12 Path along the beach in Philipsburg
- 13 Gelateria
- 14 Gasoline and fuel brand on Dutch side
- 15 Shrub growing in saline coastal water
- 19 The unspoiled queen

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Peridot Known as the 'Gem of the Sun'



A delicate shade of yellow-green, reminiscent of a lily pad. Ironically, this gemstone has inclusions called 'lily pads' because they look precisely like their namesake. Known as the "Gem of the Sun", Peridot is the official birthstone for the month of August!

Gems come from all over the globe, and form in different types of rock. Peridot however, is found in lava, meteorites and deep in the Earth's mantle. In fact, Peridot was found in comet dust brought back to Earth from the Stardust robotic space probe.

But if you own a Peridot, don't get your

hopes up that your gem is extraterrestrial. Most Peridot formed deep inside the earth and was delivered to the surface by volcanoes. Regardless of where it originated, Peridot's beauty is truly out of this world!

Early writings suggest that the ancient Egyptians mined an attractive green gem on an island in the Red Sea called Topazios, now known as St. John's Island or Zabargad. Legend has it that the island was infested with snakes, making mining horrid until a pharaoh took it upon himself to drive the snakes into the ocean.

From the earliest times, people confused Peridot with other green gemstones. And because of the ancient literature about this particular gemstone on Topazios, it was one of many considered as 'topaz.'

Peridot for centuries has continued to be confused with emerald.

A prime example is the extraordinary 200 carats of green gems adorning the shrine of the Three Holy Kings in Germany's Cologne Cathedral, which have long been thought to be emerald emeralds. They are, in fact, Peridots.



Three Holy Kings Shrine at Cologne Cathedral

So, if you are celebrating an August birthday or a fifteenth wedding anniversary, consider purchasing a Peridot to commemorate the occasion.

Bringing Sexy Back to Your Vacation

Continued from Page 1

Beach Indulgences

Clothes on or off? Yes, you have the option while on island! If you'd rather forego your swimming attire and the tan lines that go with it, visit Orient Beach on the French side. While first-timers may feel shy baring it all, most Orient Beach go-ers know that this beach offers privacy and lack of gawking. If you do not feel comfortable entirely nude, that is ok too! No one will force you to dive into the waters completely bare. But we warn, once you've tried it you may never want to put on that constraining swimsuit again!

For the less nudity-inclined, Kim Sha Beach is wide and flat, located in Simpson Bay adjacent to the Atrium Beach Resort. This beach has become a cruise hotspot, and is very family friendly. You can rent jet skis, snorkel, or other water sports. And when you are ready to chow down, there are multiple colorful huts that play home to beach bars, serving Caribbean fare like ribs, BBQ'd red snapper and of course, rum based drinks!

Ultimate Rubdowns

Massages pour deux are a vital part to spicing up your vacation. Decline the individual massage, and opt for a couple's massage. Your relaxation and relationship will be taken

to new heights as you strip away the stresses of travel and real life. Hint: Book this for the day you arrive so that you are rejuvenated and ready to party the rest of your time on island!

Open the Toy Box

Make a visit to the Adult Toy Box to take a peek at pleasurable items that can bring excitement in the privacy of your bedroom. Never been to an adult store before? No judgement here! You can feel comfortable to ask questions, explore new products and be adventurous while shopping. To build anticipation of trying out your new treasures, try shopping together to pick out your new boudoir treats.

Dance for Us

Maybe you would rather try adult entertainment as a fun experience. Getting a couple's dance is extremely popular, so don't be reluctant to ask your favorite girl for a private dance. Platinum Room located in Maho and Red Diamond in Simpson Bay are both hospitable to couples; so, sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

Stimulating Food and Conversation

A decadent meal or lush dessert has the capability to put the sexy back into your vacation; and it doesn't have to be an aphrodisiac!

A delectable Italian pasta, filet mignon, chocolate cake, crème brûlée and believe it or not, ribs; are top choices when it comes to sexy foods.

Ensure that the conversation is flowing! Connect with each other not just discussing the food, but your vacation. And most importantly, show that you made the effort and make reservations. Now all that is left to do is enjoy your tantalizing meal.

Ring Leaders

Want to get hitched or purchase a keepsake to commemorate your adoration for each other? St. Maarten is the shopping mecca in the Caribbean. Front Street in Philipsburg is laden with stores selling everything your heart desires. Computers, designer clothing, sunglasses, handbags and jewelry are just some of the treasures you'll find while walking the street. If you love the Tommy Bahama vibe, visit Pacific Avenue. In addition to the famous designer, they boast a plethora of attire that provides a laidback feeling as soon as its slipped on.



Front Street Shopping, Philipsburg

Perhaps you're inspired to propose while vacationing here. Front Street is home to some of the best jewelers and brands. Visit any of the jewelry stores in our newspaper to ensure that your experience is top notch.

Of course, no shopping expedition is complete without an adult beverage in hand. This will absolutely bring some fun to your shopping!



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The "Sea" Exhibition: Where You Can Eat or Wear the Art

Art, jewelry and food are coming together on Saturday 25 August in a fun exhibition event at the NOCO studio of artist, Norma Trimborn.

The event, entitled Sea, runs from 5 PM to 8 PM and features jewelry by Joanne Dekker, Norma's oil paintings and cookies designed and baked by Lea Dreyfus, intended to reflect the paintings.

There will be refreshments and music.

The studio is in the Terres Basses estate on the road from Cupecoy to Marigot. It's 39 Falaise des Oiseaux.

NOCO's official directions (from the Porto Cupecoy roundabout):

Up the hill, on your right you will see a sign saying "Welcome to France".

Continue to follow the main road, through some right and left bends.

Then on one right bend, you see on the left a wall with large gold letters saying "Terres Basses".

There you turn left.

Tell them at the security gate that you're going to NOCO art studio.

It's the fifth gate on the left.

For additional details, please contact:

Norma at contact@normatrimborn.com or call (0690) 456-7891

A Daytime Adventure at the Driftwood Boat Bar



Photo: Meet Guy, the owner of Driftwood Boat Bar

A visit to the Driftwood Boat Bar needs to be on everybody's Caribbean bucket list: soaking up rays in the tropical sun while overlooking the turquoise Caribbean waters, holding a Piña Colada made from fresh fruit in your hand...and a jetliner passing over you so close that you feel you could touch the landing gear. Only on St. Maarten.

The end of the airport runway is one of the island's premier attractions. Jumbo jets and smaller island commuter planes are in their final approach to touch down and will clear the beach only by ten to twenty feet. Nowhere in the world is it possible to come that close to an operating airplane (without being crew or passenger).

The very best location to watch the planes arriving and taking-off is right at the Driftwood Boat Bar. The tables are only a stone's throw away from the runway; but thankfully, almost, out of the blast zone. At the same time get a tan, enjoy free beach chairs with drinks, try the delicious pizza and a broad selection of other dishes.

The Boat Bar is popular not only with island visitors but also a preferred hang-out of many St. Maarten residents. Drinks are well priced, the quality of the cocktails is second to none (only fresh fruit is being used!), and service is personal, with a genuine smile and appreciation of each guest. No matter if you are a frequent local guest or a first time visitor, the great staff at the Boat Bar will always make you feel at home.

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Studying in a Vacation Destination

Each year hundreds of medical students from the United States and beyond come to St. Maarten to experience island life while studying to become physicians. American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine, from its technologically advanced campus in Cupecoy, carries out a powerful education mission while also helping to improve the health and well-being of the people of St. Maarten.

Like the island where it has its home, American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine (AUC) prides itself on diversity, opportunity and leaving a lasting impression on those who encounter it. This year the medical school is celebrating its fortieth anniversary, a milestone reached after enduring a volcanic eruption in its original home and the devastation wrought by Hurricane Irma.

AUC's campus, built in 1998, looks out onto Mullet Bay, but the 700-plus students tend to have their eyes on their studies. AUC offers a four-year medical degree program modeled after US medical schools. Students spend about two years in St. Maarten mastering the basic medical sciences before leaving the island for hospital-based training in the United States and the UK.

The university, which started in 1978, was originally located in Montserrat, but a volcanic eruption in 1995 forced a move to St. Maarten, where AUC has been a valued citizen institution ever since. Medical students, faculty and staff members provide community service programs all over the island, including everything from health screenings for diabetes to beautification projects to youth programs with local orphanages and schools.

Although about 90 percent of its students are from the US, the AUC campus has an international character. The faculty are recognized education experts from across the globe, many attracted to St. Maarten by the island's vibrant culture, lifestyle, and sunny skies. The university employs over 100 St. Maarten nationals, who take pride in

contributing to an institution whose impact is felt far beyond the island shores.

That impact means doctors: more well-trained physicians to care for patients, especially in underserved areas of the US where good doctors are badly needed. In 2018, nearly 300 new AUC graduates completed medical school and started medical residency positions in the US, and the school has more than 6,500 graduates. Visitors exploring the island of St. Maarten just might run into one: they may practice medicine far away, but AUC's alumni never forget St. Maarten, and return again and again.

Welcome all new and returning students. We hope that in-between your studies you have the opportunity to enjoy all that our thirty-two square miles of paradise has to offer.



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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.

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



Photo: Mixing it up at 'Nowhere Special'

THE RED PIANO

Pelican

RENDEZ-VOUS LOUNGE

Porto Cupecoy

WASABI CHARLIE

Simpson Bay/Cole Bay

TACO MACHO

Beacon Hill - Maho

JIMBO'S ROCK & BLUES CAFE

Simpson Bay Yacht Club

ISOLA RISTORANTE

Pelican at the Hollywood Casino

LAGOONIES

Cole Bay

LITTLE MOBAY

Maho

OCEAN LOUNGE

Philipsburg

THE PALMS RESTAURANT

Simpson Bay

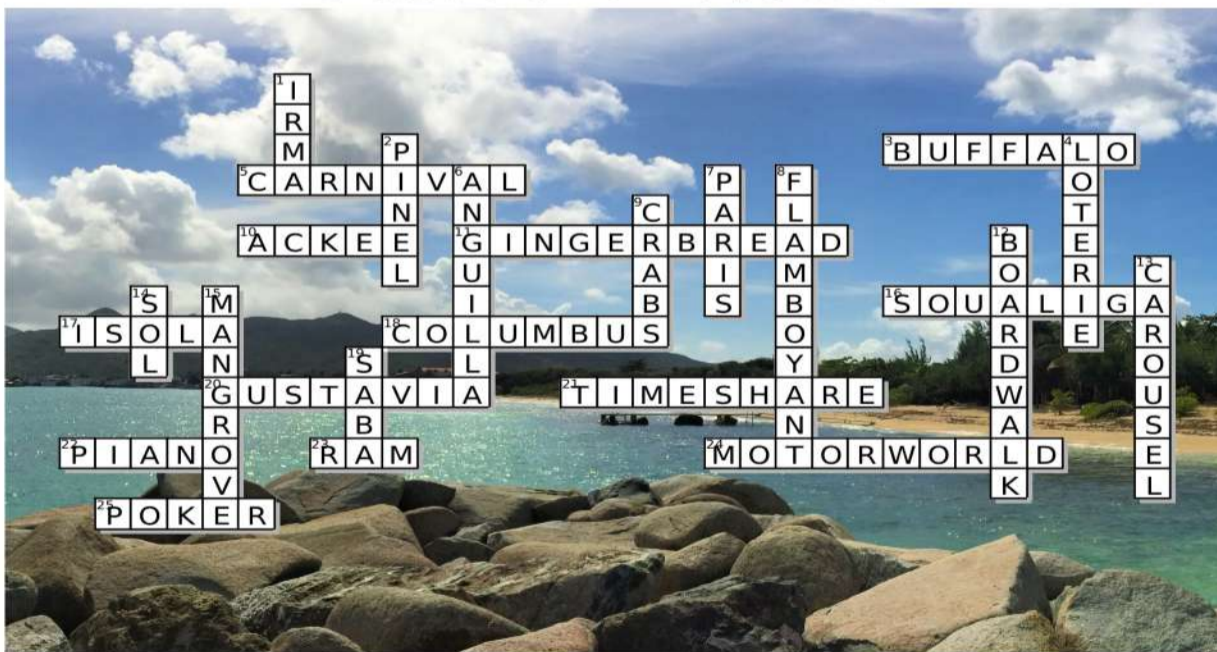
NOWHERE SPECIAL

Simpson Bay

TOPPER'S BAR & RESTAURANT

Simpson Bay

Crossword Puzzle Solution



To view a list of contestants and to vote, visit ST-MAARTEN.COM by using the QR code to the right:



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