Teach Kids to Swim Like Their Life Depends on It… Because It Does!

By: Leslie Hickerson

Not everyone enjoys the clear blue waters surrounding our island. Too many residents don't know how to swim, and have never experienced the joy of diving into the ocean and frolicking in the surf. To the non-swimmer, water is a threat; foregoing boat trips to avoid falling into the water, and even a fear of walking down a dock in the dark. Parents who are uncomfortable being close to the ocean tend to raise children who can't swim either. The Carib Swim Team wants to break this cycle by teaching youngsters how to enjoy the water safely.

There is, perhaps, another reason why parents should be obliged to teach their children to swim. After all, many of the island's jobs are around boats; from being part of the crew on a mega yacht to working on a day charter cruise. The children, who are not taught how to swim, are blocked out of a big part of the local job market.

Certified Swim Instructor Eline Broere, of the Carib Swim Team, believes that learning to swim is an important safety skill for those adults and children that live on SXM. “Our island is surrounded by water, and even for the most attentive parents, accidents can happen,” says Broere.

For younger children, it is essential to teach basic water safety and swimming. For that age group, it is very common for some children to be ‘fearless’, as they are not able to understand the risks of certain scenarios. The best way to help these types of children stay safe when living or visiting an island is to ensure...

St Maarten's Language Conundrum

By: Chris Morvan

How did an island that is part French and part Dutch end up speaking English? It's a complicated subject and one that continues to baffle people, including many who work in the field of education. If that is the case, what hope is there for the rest of us?

Four European languages compete in St. Maarten and St-Mart: English, French, Dutch and Spanish. And then there is Caribbean English, which is a law unto itself.

Continued on Page 8

Protecting an Endangered Species

By: Leslie Hickerson

Sea Turtles are one of everyone’s favorite marine animals. Whether it is because of their unique lives and capabilities, or simply because they are just so darn cute is hard to say. We are lucky enough to have a healthy turtle population living around the island of St. Maarten/St-Martin. There are four different species that can be spotted in our waters. The two most common are the Green and Hawksbill turtles along with the less easily found Leatherback and Loggerheads.

Continued on Page 9

"Take home our jewelry, have it appraised, then pay us!"

SHIVA’S GOLD & GEMS - Front Street - Philipsburg - St. Maarten - WWW.SHIVASJEWELERS.COM - 1 (721) 542 5946
In This Issue:

Teach Kids to Swim Like Their Life Depends on It...Because It Does! Page 1

St. Maarten's Language Conundrum Page 1 and 5

Protecting an Endangered Species Page 1 and 9

Luxury Watches: Why Old Can Be Good Page 4 and 5

Crossword Puzzle Page 6 and 14

Moving On Since the Passing of Irma-versary Page 9

The Warmly Welcoming Cafe Rembrandt Page 10

How to Judge Hurricane Forecasts Page 12

Cat 5+ Cocktail Contest Winner Page 14

Direct Links to St-Maarten.com Content

The QR codes below lead directly to content categories on St-Maarten.com. Scan them with your smartphone for easy access to more in-depth information.

Dining

Nightlife

Activities

Accommodations

Beaches

Jewelry

Letter From the Editor

September 14, 2018

Thank you for reading the ST-MAARTEN.COM Weekly Edition! I hope you enjoy our eighteenth issue. If you would like to read past issues, or receive electronic copies to your email inbox, please use the QR code to the right to subscribe.

Being the middle of September, and the peak of hurricane season, the tension and unease around the island is palpable. This time last year, we had proven to ourselves that we were able to survive the nastiest storm to ever come across the Atlantic...Irma.

We should, however, not concentrate on the negative that arose from her, but focus our energy on rebuilding. Renewing the island not just in the literal sense, but what our expectations of the new St. Maarten/St-Martin can and will be.

I wish you all an enjoyable and safe remainder of September. And if you don’t call this island home, pleasant travels to wherever home may be!

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 smartphone to access individual pages directly.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Dutch Side
Ambulance: 912 or +1 721 542.2111
Hospital: 910 or +1 721 543-1111
Police: 911 or +1 721 542-2222
Fire Department: 919 or +1 721 545-4222

French Side
Ambulance: +590 (590) 52 00 52
Hospital: +590 (590) 52 26 29
Police: +590 (590) 87 88 33

Entire Island
24 Hour Emergency Pharmacy:
+1 721 581-6243

ST-MAARTEN.COM Weekend Edition

ADVERTISING SALES
If you are interested in advertising, please contact Roy van Zutphen Email: sales@st-maarten.com Phone: +1 721 522-7948

Distribution: Aquiles Raphaela Email: distribution@st-maarten.com

Official St. Maarten/St-Martin Internet Portal: www.st-maarten.com

Please email 'letters to the publisher' to letters@st-maarten.com

ST-MAARTEN.COM Weekend Edition is a publication of DigiPost Media:

DigiPost
149 Rue Lady Fish
97150 St-Martin
Email: info@st-maarten.com

Publisher: Jan Thoelke
Email: j.thoelke@st-maarten.com

Editor: Hilary Grant
Email: n.grant@st-maarten.com

DigiPost
49 Rue Gustave Della Faille
97150 St-Martin
Email: info@st-maarten.com

Publisher: Jan Thoelke
Email: j.thoelke@st-maarten.com

Editor: Hilary Grant
Email: n.grant@st-maarten.com

DigiPost
49 Rue Gustave Della Faille
97150 St-Martin
Email: info@st-maarten.com

Publisher: Jan Thoelke
Email: j.thoelke@st-maarten.com

Editor: Hilary Grant
Email: n.grant@st-maarten.com

ST-MAARTEN.COM Weekend Edition is a publication of DigiPost Media:

DigiPost
149 Rue Lady Fish
97150 St-Martin
Email: info@st-maarten.com

Publisher: Jan Thoelke
Email: j.thoelke@st-maarten.com

Editor: Hilary Grant
Email: n.grant@st-maarten.com
We assemble every single watch twice. Because perfection takes time.

For us, perfection is a matter of principle. This is why, on principle, we craft all timepieces with the same care and assemble each watch twice. Thus, after the LANGE 1 Time Zone has been assembled for the first time and precisely adjusted, it is taken apart again. The movement parts are cleaned and decorated by hand with finishing and polishing techniques, followed by the final assembly procedure. This assures long-term functional integrity and the immanulacy of all artisanal finishes. Even if this takes a little more time. www.alange-soehne.com

Jewels by Love
Exquisite Jewels & Rare Timepieces

Tel: (1 721) 542 6808 • USA Tel: +1 917 463 4319 • Email: J2@jewelsbylove.com
69B Front Street • Philipsburg, St. Maarten
Luxury Watches: Why Old Can Be Good

By: Chris Morvan

Look through any magazine in this island and you will find advertisements for jewelry shops, the vast majority of which sell luxury watches. Stroll along Front Street in Town and you will find such places, currently thronged with short-term visitors from the cruise ships, while the hotel sector struggles back to its feet.

Many of the world's sporting superstars have endorsement arrangements with luxury watch manufacturers, from David Beckham (Breitling) and Natalie Portman (Richard Mille), to Cameron Diaz and Brad Pitt (Tag Heuer), Roger Federer (Rolex) and India's cricket captain Virat Kohli (Tissot).

But what exactly is the appeal of having an expensive piece of hardware on your wrist when you can get a perfectly functional, good looking one for a fraction of the price? Is it the look of the thing, the quality or the prestige of owning it?

Raju Budhriani is a good person to ask. He is the owner of Oro Diamante on Front Street, three doors west of the Court House.

When my colleague and I arrive for our scheduled interview, Raju is at the tail end of a two-hour conversation with a regular customer.

If you have ever wondered why there are so many sales staff in these shops, it's because, as one of them explains while we wait, customers need to be attended to immediately. With so many competitors along Philipsburg's "golden mile", you can't allow one to slip through your fingers.

Raju Budhriani is a master salesman, adept at playing the long game. He has customers who come back every year, clients he has "worked with", as he puts it, for many years, and who trust him.

Of the tourists in general, he has this to say.

"Some tourists come to St Maarten with an agenda. They're on a project: someone wants to buy an engagement ring, someone else wants a ruby bracelet and so on."

There are also those, he says, who just want to treat themselves to nice trinket, a souvenir of their trip, and a piece of jewelry does that in a much more classy way than a mug and a t-shirt.

"People like to reward themselves," he says, pointing out that a watch is just one luxury item that can serve this purpose. The rest of the list - earrings, handbags and so on - tend to be mainly applicable to women, so perhaps that is why the luxury watch is seen as the province of the wealthy man.

One very interesting aspect of the sales floor at Oro Diamante is a display of pre-owned luxury watches.

These, Raju explains, have the same appeal as classic cars. It is not essential that you were the first owner of a particular one. What matters is that it is a classic and that it is now yours.

Oro Diamante sources these watches from estate sales and auction rooms around the world. Each one undergoes a rigorous authenticity check to make sure it's the real thing, and encouragingly in this untrustworthy world, there is usually not a problem.

"Only once in all the time we've been doing this has one been revealed to be a fake," he says.

Each watch is also sent for cleaning and maintenance, usually to a recognized Swiss watch service center, or perhaps to the manufacturer itself. There is a cost saving in buying pre-owned – or there can be.

"You can save between 30% and 70% on a new one," Raju says. "On the other hand, there are some pre-owned watches that cost as much as a brand new one.” This has something to do with scarcity.

"Rolexes hold their value remarkably," he says. "A Rolex Submariner from the 1970s can go for as much as the current list price – or even for a premium. It all depends on the model and the condition.

Continued on Page 3
Luxury Watches: Why Old Can Be Good

There are some models where Rolex has reduced the number it produces,” he continues. “So, there is actually a waiting list to buy a new one.”

And here is an important point in the luxury watch world: the preeminence of Rolex. While names like Hublot, Chanel, Cartier and Patek Philippe join those in our first paragraph on the roster of internationally respected names, if we were to describe a fabulously wealthy man, we might describe him stepping out of his Aston Martin with a Rolex on his wrist. The generic item is represented by the brand, in the same way that much of the world thinks white rum is called Bacardi and vacuum cleaners are Hooveres.

“Everybody has a preference,” Raju explains, “and in terms of quality a craftsman at, for instance, Patek Philippe would claim his work was superior, while others would make that assertion on behalf of their own brand.”

The pre-owned watches are part of Oro Diamante’s strategy to weather the storm caused by the hurricane. While Front Street shows little sign of the nightmare that was Irma, its traders have been affected, like everyone else, by the subsequent downturn in tourism. Amid the rumors and the press releases about impending reopening’s and the imminent resumption of normal service, Raju Budhram is keeping an open mind. If the big hotels and resorts all rise from the rubble fairly soon, so much the better, but until that actually happens, every business has to do what it can to survive and prosper.

Water Safety: A Priority for Local Children

Continued from Page 1

...that if they end up in water too deep to stand they are able to swim to shore or to a boat. Many groups, clubs, or even schools on the island have events on or near the water. Parents and family members cannot always be present when their children are entering the water or guarantee that they will be safe without the proper training.

That is the basis of the training taught at the Carib Swim Team Pool. To progress from one level to the next students are taught first how to be comfortable in the water, and then how to get themselves to safety if it is needed. To reach more advanced levels students must perform these skills for an instructor, some levels are even performed in street clothes to make sure the students can do the tasks at all times. Only after they have mastered the elements of safety do students move on to stroke technique and improving lap time.

For older students, the difficulties facing water safety are the opposite of their ‘fearless’ counterparts. “The older you are the more risks you can see, or create. Some of these risks are not even really there, but they come from fears which are hard to overcome psychologically,” according to Broere, “Many of our adult students join to help get over a past trauma. Some also join because they enroll their children and want to be able to swim with them.”

Whatever your reason is for learning how to swim properly, once you have mastered the ability you are able to carry that with you throughout the rest of your life. “Swimming is a life-long skill. You can do it no matter your age, and because the water makes you light you can do it even when you have other physical problems,” comments Broere.

There are a few different swim teams as well as pools and private instructors you can learn from around the island. Carib Swim Team has been teaching students and hosting swim meets since 1993. Here students can start lessons as infants in Baby Buddy classes, where the parent actually enters the water with their child. In these classes, students are introduced to being more comfortable in the water and the most basic elements of swimming safety. At the age of four, students begin lessons on their own with a swim instructor. For these lessons the size is based on the age; the younger the student, the smaller the class size. To continue to progress to each level the child will perform their mastered skills for the instructor and receive a diploma for that level throughout the rest of your life. “Swimming is a life-long skill. You can do it no matter your age, and because the water makes you light you can do it even when you have other physical problems,” comments Broere.

There are a few different swim teams as well as pools and private instructors you can learn from around the island. Carib Swim Team has been teaching students and hosting swim meets since 1993. Here students can start lessons as infants in Baby Buddy classes, where the parent actually enters the water with their child. In these classes, students are introduced to being more comfortable in the water and the most basic elements of swimming safety. At the age of four, students begin lessons on their own with a swim instructor. For these lessons the size is based on the age; the younger the student, the smaller the class size. To continue to progress to each level the child will perform their mastered skills for the instructor and receive a diploma for that level.

At the age of four, students begin lessons on their own with a swim instructor. For these lessons the size is based on the age; the younger the student, the smaller the class size. To continue to progress to each level the child will perform their mastered skills for the instructor and receive a diploma for that level.

For adults learning for the first time, the swim lessons can be structured the same way. With the small class size, you are ensured to get individual attention and help in your specific area of need whether that be overcoming a fear, basic technique, or to become more active after an injury.

If you are already a comfortable swimmer, the Master’s program would be the best fit. This option is used for tri-athletes or those interested in refining their technique and swimming for fitness.
The puzzle in this issue of the ST-MAARTEN.COM Weekly Edition is a departure from our traditional island trivia, and might be easier to solve for most.

Our eighteenth crossword honors the competitors that participated in our Hurricane Irma Category 5+ Cocktail Competition.

The questions are shaped around the names of the bars and restaurants which came up with their special drink.

For simplicity’s sake, the answers are written as one word and without spaces or special characters.

Example: Mario’s Bistrot would become MARIOSBISTROT as the crossword answer.

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 purposefully. Good luck!

Cheating? Find solution to the puzzle on Page 14
HEARTS ON FIRE
THE WORLD’S MOST PERFECTLY CUT DIAMOND®

46 Front Street | Philipsburg, St.Maarten
Harbor Cruise Terminal | St.Maarten
721.542.2473
majestyjewelers.com
facebook.com/majestyjewelers

ALAN SHEPPARD
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays & Sundays

CHURCH ON MONDAY
featuring What the Funk

CARIBBEAN FRIDAY
with Tonik Band and DJ Tete

The Red Piano
ST. MAARTEN

Located behind the Hollywood Casino in Pelican Key

Enjoy Live Music Nightly
Voted "Best Live Music Venue" on St. Maarten!
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
DOORS OPEN 8PM, ALL SHOWS START 9PM
Tel: +1 721 52-PIANO (74266)

Present this ad for a 2 for 1 BACARDI RED PIANO Rum Punch! 1 per customer, per visit.
St. Maarten's Language Conundrum

Continued from Page 1

To try to unravel the issue, I spoke to Dr. Rhoda Arrindell, a teacher of English and Literature at the University of St. Maarten, and Stephanie Deerveld, School Manager at the Asha Stevens Hillside Christian School, Cay Hill.

So, what is the official language of St. Maarten, I ask both of them at separate interviews, and rather than the clear-cut answer I expected, both women hum and hah and point out that the language of law here is Dutch.

“But the people’s language is English,” Dr. Arrindell explains.

The language of tuition in most schools is English, with some Catholic institutions and the Asha Stevens School’s sister campus, Helmich Snijders, among those teaching in Dutch.

Such is the level of confusion among the public that I had heard stories of tuition being in English but exams taken in Dutch. Not so, says Ms. Deerveld. If the students learn in English they take exams in English.

Whichever language is the one spoken in the school, though, the other is taught as a subject.

Dr. Arrindell tells me that many of the higher-achieving students are channeled towards tertiary education outside the island, i.e. universities in the Netherlands or the US. She is a staunch defender of the validity of St. Maarten English, believing that students must be encouraged to be proud of their homegrown version.

“But often their level of education is judged by the kind of English they speak,” she says. She goes so far as to admit that if she, a highly educated, degree-laden authority on the subject, were talking to her family rather than me, whom some regard as being very British, she would be speaking quite differently. And this is the woman who has written the definitive book on the subject: Language, Culture, and Identity in St. Martin.

On the other hand, Ms. Deerveld, who hails from Suriname, has the task of educating young people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures – who may speak not just those four European tongues but even Chinese.

Both experts agree that a good level of both English and Dutch is helpful for someone hoping to prosper in this country. “While English may be the standard language spoken by people of different countries, there are plenty of Dutch people living here, and it helps to be able to talk to them in their own language,” Ms. Deerveld says.

Her students, she says, average about 40% in their Dutch exams and can hold a basic conversation.

However, it all depends on the individual and their desire to learn a language after they have left full-time education. As a teacher of English as a foreign language myself, I can confirm that it’s the Spanish speakers who seek help, rather than those whose first language is Dutch.

The situation on the French side is different, yet similarly confusing. Walk into any shop in Marigot and you will probably find the staff speak to you in French but can easily switch to English when their “Bonjour Monsieur” is met with “Good morning”.

It is therefore perfectly easy for a visitor who does not speak French to eat, drink and shop on the French side: you don’t need a passport to cross the “border”, which is marked by signs on the main roads but involves no checkpoints; the US dollar is accepted even if the prices are generally shown in Euros and you can speak English even if they greet you in French.

It is a common belief that, when in France itself, you had better at least try to speak French because they’re not going to help you out by speaking English. That is not the case here, but officials certainly has no intention of demoting their own tongue to second place.

To add to the picture, a significant number of immigrants from Curacao, Aruba and Bonaire speak Papiamento (also spelled Papiamento), the roots of which are from Portuguese or Spanish (there seems to be no definitive answer to this), with elements of African languages.

Languages are being lost all over the world due to the preponderance of English-language films and music, which leads people to at least attempt to speak English. What is the point, some would say, in speaking a language that no one outside your own borders can understand?

While there is no immediate likelihood of Dutch falling by the wayside, English is the international language of business, science, air travel and a host of other spheres, so surely it is understandable that people should want to speak it.
Protecting an Endangered Species

Continued from Page 1

All species of Sea Turtles spend their lives in the ocean feeding, swimming and sleeping beneath the waves. The only time they venture onto shore is to lay their eggs. Females travel thousands of miles back to the beach they hatched from to make their own nests. They come onto shore at night and dig out the nest cavity with their back fins, lay their eggs inside and then pack sand back on top of the eggs to protect them.

On average 90% of these eggs will hatch successfully but only 1% will live to sexual maturity. There are several obstacles for hatchlings to overcome including, predators, harsh water conditions during storms and human impact on the ecosystem. Baby turtles hatch together so they can storm the beach as a group, increasing their chance for survival. Most often they emerge at night using the moonlight to guide them to the water. Beachside buildings with powerful lights can confuse newborn turtles into heading inland rather than out to sea. So turn off outdoor lights that point toward the ocean in the evenings!

Once they have reached the relative safety of the water, the juvenile turtles begin solitary lives traveling to the surface for breaths of air and then returning to the bottom of the ocean. For a female to be old enough to lay eggs, she needs to reach a certain size. Some turtles grow faster than others making their age for nesting vary.

Hawksbill Turtles mature and grow quickly and can be large enough to nest by the age of three. Green Turtles on the other hand, grow more slowly and might not reach the proper size until they are between 20 and 50 years old! Throughout their lives most turtles will pick one area to live in until it is time for them to return to their birthplace to nest. They spend their days eating on the sea floor and coming to the surface to breath. To rest at night a turtle has the capability to slow its heart rate down to use less oxygen and, depending on the size and species, can remain under the water for four to seven hours!

Swimming on the surface with a float. Focus on the grassy areas to increase your chance of spotting one of these creatures. Most turtles are cautious and shy, so if you spot one approach slowly and stay a good distance away to keep it from getting a fright and swimming off.

If you do see one, you will be able to tell the difference in the species most easily by the shape and features of their face and shell. Greens and Hawksbills are very similar but the latter has a pointed beak that is used for eating things like small crustaceans. The Green Turtle has a rounded nose and beck area because it feeds mostly on sea grass.

Leatherbacks are easily identifiable by the ridges that run along their shells and Loggeheads get their name from their large round head, which is unique to their species. The easiest way of telling the difference between male and female turtles is that males have longer tails than females.

Nearly every species of Sea Turtle is listed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Greens are currently listed as endangered, Hawksbills as critically endangered and Leatherbacks and Loggeheads as vulnerable.

Sea Turtles face a huge variety of obstructions in reaching adulthood. Along with the risk of being hunted by marine life and humans for their meat or shells, turtles are often the product of bycatch while humans fish for tuna or swordfish. In addition, more and more turtles are being entrapped each day by human debris in the ocean. As they get entangled in old fishing nets or plastic pollution it weighs them down, causing increased stress and eventually keeps them from reaching the surface to breath.

What you can do to help:
-Refuse single use plastics- Plastic bags look very similar to jellyfish underwater and are often ingested by unsuspecting turtles.
-Use Circle Hooks when fishing- These are designed specifically to avoid hooking sea turtles

Don’t eat fish that were caught using long line fishing- this method leaves hooks in the water for hours and often has a huge amount of bycatch; including Turtles, Dolphins, and other endangered animals.

Don’t drive on the beach- This is illegal in St. Maarten, and you can easily drive over a nest without knowing and crush all the eggs inside.

Moving On since the Passing of Irma-versary

One year has passed since the island got scuttled by Hurricane Irma; an experience to be remembered by the ones who lived through it. Even more intense were the weeks right after the catastrophe. Irma had changed everything, and yet, we need to get over it! Our island in 2018 and the years ahead will be different from the St. Maarten/St-Martin we knew from before 'The Storm'. Fond memories are fine, but dwelling on the past too much can only hold us back.

Lessons to be remembered: disaster management on the Dutch side was a disaster with the head of government denying knowledge of drastic measures, such as the closure of the border points using containers to block the roads. In contrast, substantial amounts of high-quality food items were distributed by the French government; which most certainly fed a lot of families on the Dutch side as well.

To be applauded: the fast clean up and the tremendous efforts by the utility companies on both parts of the island to get services up and running again. Negative on the French side: major communications provider Orange was completely missing in action and didn’t even attempt to repair their landline network.

Social: sad to see the looting of stores carrying luxury items or electronics. There is a segment of society with such low self-esteem and lack of trust in their earning abilities that they believe the only way to acquire a flat-screen TV is by stealing it. Maybe they are right.

Positive was the relative absence of violence; the social fabric of the Friendly Island held tight in this regard, sometimes against the expectations of residents in the posh neighborhoods. The general public did not accept looting and reported culprit.

Many expatriates and even St. Maarteners have left, worried about diminished opportunities in a shrunken economy. The ones who stayed on are now responsible for shaping the future of this most cosmopolitan of the Antillean islands and will hopefully benefit in the long term for their commitment to St. Maarten/St-Martin.

Please also read our article on Page 12 about how to judge hurricane forecasts. For the latest official forecast, scan the QR code published on page 12 and familiarize yourself with the format of the official forecasts.
The Warmly Welcoming Cafe Rembrandt

By: Chris Morvan

There is a gentle hum of conversation. Music in the background. The click and clack of pool balls. And the warm, appetizing aroma of Dutch pea soup.

This is at 3:30 PM on a Tuesday afternoon – hardly prime time for most Caribbean watering holes – so imagine what it's like in the evenings.

In a tourism-oriented island such as this, it is refreshing sometimes to discover somewhere to go that does not pander to the visitor. A prime example of this in St Maarten is the Cafe Rembrandt.

It is easy to miss this place because it is situated in a “shopping center” that somehow never got off the ground. The Amsterdam shopping center at Madame Estate is home to a number of businesses, but not shops, and the good thing about that for Cafe Rembrandt is that the parking that was meant to be shared is largely empty, particularly out of office hours.

This is a friendly bar offering a choice of 70 Scotch whiskies and 40+ types of rum, along with good wines and beers, plus homemade food with the flavor of the Netherlands.

You've probably driven past it without noticing, because that is easy to do. But it's right next to the new supermarket, CostPro.

Cafe Rembrandt is owned and run by Ben and Marjan van der Steen, a Dutch couple from the Utrecht area, who have been in St Maarten for 22 years.

The place has the feel of what in the UK would be called a “local” - a bar that is like a home from home. Like the song says in the long-running US TV comedy, Cheers, “You want to go where everybody knows your name.”

Ben and Marjan are sociable, laidback people, and their bar reflects that. Even at this unusual time of a midweek day, as regulars come and go, they seem to know everyone.

While the range of drinks speaks of knowledge and a certain sophistication, the choice of food, too, is no accident.

“Dutch people who have been away a long time can find they miss the food,” Ben explains. “So they appreciate finding it here.”

Also on offer here is boerenkool, a hearty, thick vegetable stew. Whether you grew up in Utrecht or Detroit, Murmansk or Manchester, this is the kind of thing your mother served up to build a happy, healthy family.

Northern European fare tends to be on the warming side – comfort food – and obviously we don't need warming up in this climate, but the quality and the homemade nature of what’s on the menu are a welcome change from the burgers and pasta that dominate the world.

Ben is the chef and he cooks in the van der Steens' apartment upstairs, from where the food is brought down in sealed containers. The bar itself would lose valuable space if cooking facilities were built into it, and anyway, it's prepared on the premises.

There is live music on the first Sunday of the month from 4 PM until 7 PM and an array of TV screens show live sport including every F1 event, regardless of the time dictated by where it is held. Closing time is a moveable feast at the Cafe Rembrandt.
Visit the Island's Party and Dining Hot Spots

81 Boulevard de Grand Case
For Reservations: Call +590 590 290 829 or +590 690 536 144

Bistrot Caraïbes
Grand Case, Saint Martin

Lagoones Bistro-Bar
MONDAY-SATURDAY from
BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER
THURSDAY 6:30pm ACCOUSTIC DINNER Mason
FRIDAY 8pm Latin Sugar or DUO Gianfranco & Lee
SATURDAY 8pm LIVE MUSIC
WORLD CUP 2018 LIVES

St-Maarten, Wellington Road • 33-350, 000 Cole Bay
+1(721)523-0115 • bistrotlagoones@gmail.com

MARIO BISTROT
PORTO CUPECAY
‘Blend of French, Asian and Caribbean cuisine.’
Marina and Lagoon View Dining
Open for dinner (Sunday Lunch)
(Mon.-Sat. 6 PM to 10 PM/Sun. lunch only)
Porto Cupecay at the Yacht Harbour
Call +1 721 523-2760 for reservation

TACO MACHO

‘Enjoy the best of Latin hospitality’
Mexican - Colombian Restaurant & Bar
Happy Hour: Beer $2 - Margarita $5
Located at the Allegria Resort - enter at security gate - free parking! Call 1 721 553-6322 for reservation

Plantation Restaurant & Bar
*Opening Hours*
Tuesday - Sunday
Breakfast 8am - 10am
Lunch 12pm - 3pm
Dinner 4pm - 9:30pm
Mondays CLOSED!

St. Maarten’s Best
INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANT

St. Maarten’s Best
INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANT

SNOOPY’S
Steak • Seafood • Pasta
Bar and Restaurant at the Bridge to Snoopy Island
Great food, great Happy Hour, live entertainment!
Welfare Road, Simpson Bay, St. Maarten
Call for Reservation +1 721 580-4202

SNOOPY’S SALE & PEPE
FINE ITALIAN ROTISSERIE TAKE AWAY
Air-Conditioned Dining + Outside Terrace
Open 10 AM to 11 PM
111 Welfare Road - Simpson Bay
For Reservation Call +1 721 527-5019

The Boon
‘Right on pristine Simpson Bay Beach!’
Casual Gourmet Bistro
Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner
(8 AM to 10 PM)
117 Simpson Bay Road, Simpson Bay
Call +1 721 545-3070 for reservation

RD Vous
PORTO CUPECAY
‘Enjoy the elegance of marina dining!’
Casual Gourmet Bistro
Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner
(7 AM to 10 PM)
Porto Cupecay at the Yacht Harbour
Call +1 721 545-3070 for reservation

Jimbo’s
“Home of the Megarita!”
Caribbean-TexMex Fusion - Swim-up Bar
Open for lunch and dinner (11 AM to 10 PM)
Simpson Bay Yacht Club - Behind Scotia Bank
Call 1 721 544-3600 for reservation

mélange
‘Only Tabletop BBQ Grill Restaurant’
Open 5:30 PM to late
At the Princess Casino in Port de Plaisance
Call +1 721 526-4049 for reservation
EASY PARKING
www.melangeSXM.com

NOWHERE SPECIAL
Rum Bar & Grill
nowheresxm.com

Pineapple Pete
St. Maarten
5 Pool Tables!
Serving Lunch and Dinner Non-Stop!
Open from 11 AM until late - Closed Monday
Simpson Bay on the main road
Call +1 721 544-6030 for reservation & take out

‘Happy Hour from 4 PM to 7 PM’
Open 11 AM to 2 AM
Airport Road in Simpson Bay close to bridge
Call +1 721 544-2440 for reservation
How to Judge Hurricane Forecasts

Now at the peak of Hurricane Season, social media trolls take pleasure in creating anxiety by hyping up or falsifying storm forecasts.

This is why it has become crucial to learn to come to your own conclusions: just visit the website of the National Hurricane Center of the US at NHC.NOAA.GOV. This is the source for all other forecast services or self-proclaimed 'hurricane specialists'. You will find frequent updates to the intensity and traveling path of a tropical system with easy to understand graphics.

Once you open the website, an image will appear, displaying an icon for each active tropical systems in the Atlantic. Click on the icon of the brewing storm which worries you.

The page now opening will display the projected path of this storm. Above, you'll find some tabs leading to more information. 'Public Adv' (Advisory) is telling you what the meteorologists are observing at this moment. This link is a description of the confirmed data. The next tab 'Fest Adv' is providing the official forecast.

But it is the next tab, labeled 'Discussion', which offers the most insights. Here, the forecasters are allowed to submit their personal opinion of what they observe. This 'discussion' is very much like meeting up with some seasoned meteorologists and asking them about their gut feelings regarding a weather situation. You'll read a well educated opinion, but with the caveats that it's still just that. And yet, picking a meteorologist's brain is entirely the best method for coming to your conclusions: time to prepare by hitting the supermarket for supplies or rather, carrying on with your regular routines?

The more you get accustomed to checking the 'Discussion' segment, the more robust your judgment about the risk factor of an approaching tropical cyclone will become and will free you of unnecessary anxiety.

Try to follow the official forecasts of the National Hurricane Center regularly, so that you could become a specialist with well reasoned opinions about upcoming weather when posting on social media.
THE PALMS RESTAURANT
CARIBBEAN & INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

HOME OF THE DRUNKEN RIBS!

LUNCH SPECIAL
FREE SODA, JUICE OR WATER WITH THE PURCHASE OF A LUNCH MEAL
DON’T FORGET YOUR LUNCHTIME LOYALTY CARD! 10 STAMPS IS A FREE LUNCH!

Open Monday-Saturday
Lunch: 11:30AM to 4:00PM
Happy Hour: 4:00PM-7:00PM
Dinner: 5:00PM-10:00PM

50% OFF DINNER SPECIAL
BUY ONE DINNER AT REGULAR PRICE AND GET THE 2ND ONE OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE FOR 50% OFF*
*based on main course only- valid daily from 6PM to 8PM. Not valid with any other offer or gift certificate.

www.ThePalmsSXM.com
@ThePalmsRestaurantSXM

Airport Road #25
Simpson Bay
Email: ThePalmsInSXM@gmail.com
Call: +1 (721) 554-2375

WASABI CHARLIE
JAPANESE & INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

Sushi, Teppanyaki & International Cuisine
FOR RESERVATIONS OR TAKE OUT CALL 1 (721) 544-2323
Open 5 PM to 11 PM - Closed Tuesday
Welfare Road - Simpson Bay - Right next to Pineapple Pete
The Cat 5+ Cocktail Contest Winner is Lagoonies!!

2nd Place: The Boon Beach Bar
Winner: Lagoonies Bistro Bar
3rd Place: The Palms Restaurant

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.

Over the last few months you have frequented the participating bars and restaurants, and voted online for your favorite. We are now proud to announce the final scoring of our Top Three Finalists!

The Palms Restaurant: 2nd Runner Up
The Boon Beach Bar: 1st Runner Up
Lagoonies Bistro Bar: WINNER!

How to make the winning cocktail...
“F*ck Irma”:
Muddle, shake and pour over ice: cucumber, ginger, grapefruit, Bitters, Gin, elderflower liquor and lime juice. Top it off with Ting.

TIP: Rub the rim of the glass with the ingredients above to activate all your senses before drinking.

Thank you to all of our participants and Dr. Soc at Island 92 radio station for hosting on-air mixology demonstrations and the finals!

Full List of the Cocktail Contest Participants
-The Boon Beach Bar
-Buffalo Wings
-Driftwood Boat Bar
-Jimbo’s Rock & Blues
-The Palms Restaurant
-The Red Piano
-Rendez-Vous Lounge
-Wasabi Charlie
-Isola Ristorante
-Taco Maecho
-Lagoonies Bistro Bar
-Little Moby
-Ocean Lounge Cafe
-Nowhere Special
-Topper’s Bar & Restaurant

Crossword Puzzle Solution

Adult Toy Box
Toys for Big Kids
Three Palm Plaza - Welfare Road, Cole Bay
(1-721) 544 2412
www.AdultToyBox.info

The Art Box
...more than a gallery
open | Monday to Saturday | 10am to 6pm
THE ART BOX GALLERY | HOME OF ZDENKA WEST INDIES
89A WELFARE ROAD | COLE BAY | P: 1-721 588 5999
THEARTBOX3XM@GMAIL.COM
Commit to the Calling

For almost four decades, American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine’s faculty and staff have been working to transform hard-working and determined students into highly skilled, disciplined, and compassionate doctors.

Learn more at aucmed.edu
Take home our jewelry, have it appraised, then pay us!

That's Right! We are so confident of the unsurpassed quality and value of our jewelry that we shall let you go home with it, have it appraised, and send us payment after and only after you are completely satisfied. If for any reason you are not satisfied, simply ship it back to our office in New York or Los Angeles.

If you don’t know jewelry... know your jeweler!

Shiva's
75 Front Street, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten
Tel.: +1 721 542-5946 Email: sxm@shivasjewelers.com
www.shivasjewelers.com