



Dining in Grand Case

The fine dining you've been craving...
Details Page 13



Seven Beaches in Seven Days

Bask in the sun at our Top Seven beaches...
Details Page 8



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A hidden locale on French St-Martin, Tijon Parfumerie and Boutique offers a class to 'invent your scent'. Tijon is the only working parfumerie on St-Martin.

The term perfume derives from 'per fumus' meaning from smoke. The use of perfume and cologne dates back to 4000 BC. Fragrant substances were burned in Arabia and Egypt for sacred purposes. The belief was that through burning these scented treasures, the smoke would carry a message to the gods.

Perhaps the most famous of perfume aficionados was Cleopatra, who would douse the sails of her boat in fragrant oils to seduce Mark Anthony; her plan was to have her scent wafting through the air and arriving before he had caught a glimpse of her.

Fast forward to present day, with John and Cyndi opening Tijon in 2007. They crafted the opportunity for you to produce your signature scent to seduce whomever you choose, much like Cleopatra had done all those years ago...

Continued on Page 10



Experience the Islands Outside of All-Inclusives

Glamorous All-Inclusive resorts have sprung up in many Caribbean destinations during the past decades, offering a vacation environment polished to such perfection that guests never have to leave the compounds.

For some of the Caribbean nations, these types of resorts are a convenient way to mask social problems and poverty. Once the guests have checked in at the property, they are discouraged to leave on their own...

Continued on Page 5

Guavaberry: The Tasty Island Berry

Guavaberry; a sugary sweet and slightly acidic fruit. Rich in flavor and history, this tiny berry is used to make St. Maarten's National Drink: Guavaberry Liqueur.

Guavaberry, scientific name *Myrciaria Floribunda* and also known as rum berry, grows on a fruit tree indigenous to the Caribbean, South America and Central America. You might see it in parts of North America, but the guavaberry is part of our Caribbean culture and heritage. Although it has 'guava'...

Continued on Page 7



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Letter From the Editor

May 25, 2018

Thank you for choosing to read the ST-MAARTEN.COM Weekend Edition! We are proud to be your newspaper of choice when learning where to dine, shop and play on our island.

We would like to welcome our new contributor, Chris Morvan, to the Weekend Edition. Our expectation is to diversify points of view, while continuing to bring you articles that reflect our personalities, experiences and passions on island.

I hope you enjoy trying the many Cat 5+ cocktail offerings at participating bars and restaurants; the bartenders on our island are very talented! If you have found your favorite already, don't forget to scan the QR code to send in your vote. Also, tune in to Island 92 radio station to listen in while these cocktails are being made live in studio!

Wishing you all a wonderful rest of May.



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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A Fine Day Out at the Endemic Animal Festival

By: Chris Morvan



An impressively large group of volunteers were on hand to welcome visitors to the Endemic Animal Festival at Amuseum Naturalis's new site at The Old House, high on a hill in French Quarter. But how were the organizers, the splendidly named Les Fruits de Mer, to grab the public's attention and keep them on the premises while a glorious day and views of the nearby beaches set up the temptation of other things to do?

Well, there was a man telling us about sharks, for a start. Tadzic Bervoets of the St. Maarten Nature Foundation was there to talk about the image of sharks in local waters, where they are protected on the Dutch side but not the French. Tadzic demonstrated various ways of tagging these controversial creatures with a variety of methods including radio chips and satellite tags, which are injected into the fin (where there are no nerve endings and therefore no pain), so their movements can be monitored by satellite, revealing their itinerary from our island to Trinidad and on to Puerto Rico.

Close to Tadzic in the shade alongside the house was Christophe Henocq, an archaeologist whose subject on this occasion was "slave walls", so called because they were built by slaves rather than stone masons.

What these have to do with endemic animals is that they are dry stone walls, which are not held together by mortar, but by careful placing of one stone after another to create a stable structure. But they are structures that inevitably have gaps and crevices: little hidey holes where creatures from cockroaches to lizards can live, sheltered from the elements.

In a room at the back of the house stood Binkie Van Es, an ornithologist with a passion for getting young people interested in nature through noticing the birds in our

environment. Ever-changing attentive little groups sat in a makeshift classroom while Binkie pointed out simple methods of identification, the silhouette of a bird giving a clue as to what family it belonged to, while ever more complex factors such as colors and markings could eventually narrow the possibilities down to the point where it could definitively be said to be a this or a that, rather than simply "a bird".

Special visitors for the day came from Anguilla to tell us about their project to rehabilitate the Lesser Antillean Iguana, which once stalked the landscape of St. Maarten/St-Martin and still survives in our northern neighbor. Hunted by predators and diluted by interbreeding with the green Iguana, The Lesser Antillean is being looked after on offshore islands where the greens are banned and predators have been eradicated.

Les Fruits de Mer co-founders Jennifer Yerkes (aka Madam J) and Mark Yokoyama gave me an overview of the new location of Amuseum Naturalis. "We originally saw it as a kind of 'pop-up' museum," she said. After a successful first year in Grand Case, a second seemed like a good idea but then along came Irma and the damage to the building was severe enough to look like it was all over.

"What was really touching, though, was that although it was closed, people kept leaving things outside for us. Skulls and bones," Jenn added. Suitably encouraged, she and her colleagues set about finding new premises, and an offer came from the Beuperthuy family to use The Old House, which had been a museum some years earlier.

"It was a jungle, with debris all over the place," Jenn says, but that dedicated band of volunteers got the place, not exactly shipshape, but functional. And so, a new era begins.



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Experience the Islands Outside of All-Inclusives

Continued from Page 1



Typical resort buffet

No exploration of the foreign land outside an organized tour, please. What has once been a legit way of keeping visitors safe has transformed in recent years into a form of controlling their spending.

The All-Inclusive resorts operated by international brands bring only limited benefits to their host country. Yes, jobs are created but there is not much of a trickle-down effect on the rest of the economy. There won't be any local bars and restaurants opening up, and there won't be

nts opening up, and there won't be any opportunities for local entrepreneurs to get deeper involved in the tourism trade. All is controlled by a foreign corporate entity who also receives the complete payment for the booked vacation and has only to transfer the funds to pay for local overhead.

How different St. Maarten/St-Martin is! Here, the entire island is part of the vacation experience. It is the 'Friendly Island' after all, where visitors are welcome to explore any region. With only a few all-

all-inclusive offers available, our guests are encouraged to patronize local businesses! They rent a car, they try out different beaches, check out beach bars and restaurants. And - most importantly! - they mingle with the island residents and make friends.

That's why we thank you, dear visitor, for not surrendering to the temptation of a perfectly managed all-inclusive stay, that you put up with our imperfections and are willing to experience the real Caribbean.

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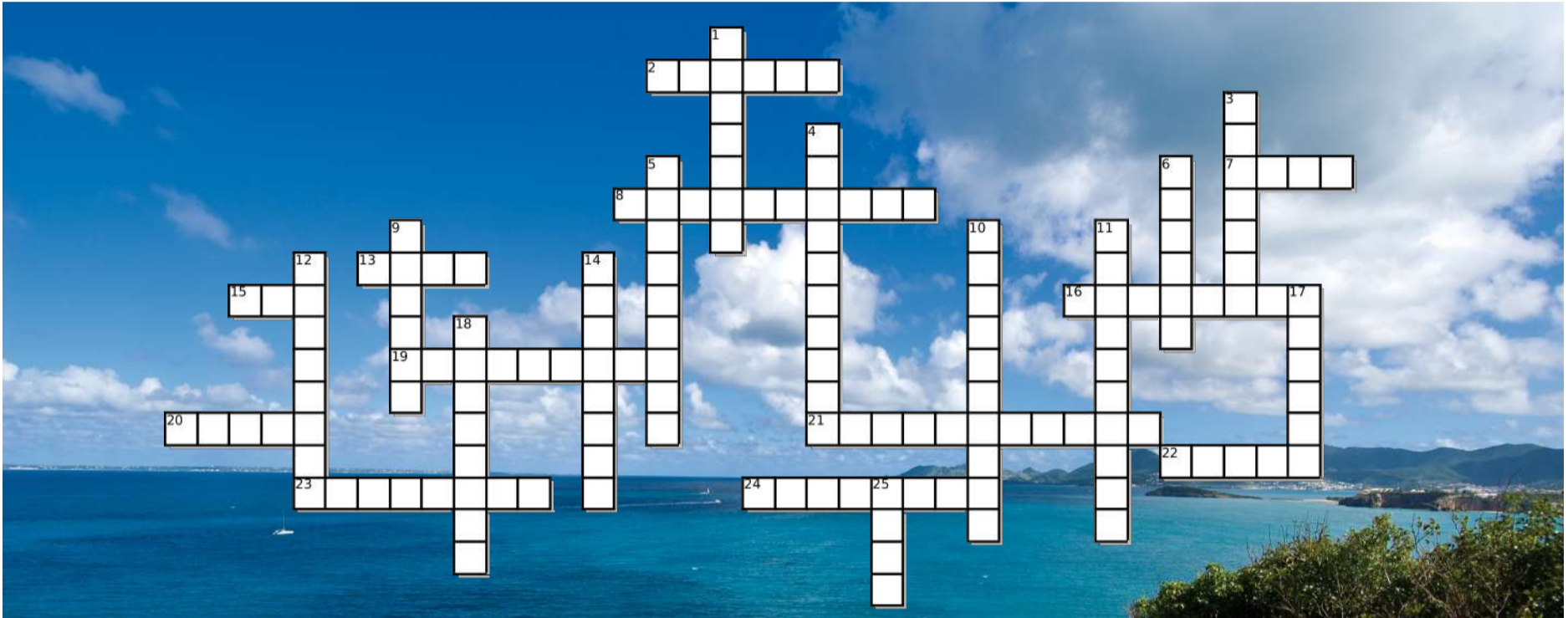
Please enjoy the eighth edition of our crossword puzzle. You will notice that all of the questions are rooted in the Caribbean hemisphere and might take a bit of research to answer if you haven't spend much time here. It also means: the answers are valid for St. Maarten/St-Martin, but could also be for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

This island is a melting pot of many cultures and languages; setting St. Maarten/St-Martin apart from other Caribbean islands. This is why we love it here.



ACROSS

- 2 Official currency of St. Maarten
- 7 Irma's nasty boyfriend, twenty-two years her senior
- 8 Close island with an active volcano
- 13 Dutch-side utility company
- 15 Columbus named Anguilla after which animal?
- 16 Type of government of Saint Martin
- 19 Dive shop and day charter company
- 20 Unique perfumery
- 21 Causes saltwater to form salt crystals
- 22 What does a buffalo need to fly?
- 23 Type of government of Sint Maarten
- 24 What do they study at the American University of the Caribbean?

DOWN

Cheating? Find solution to the puzzle on Page 15

- 1 International hotel brand to reopen at Maho
- 3 Dutch side mobile phone brand
- 4 French island to the South
- 5 Path along the beach in Philipsburg
- 6 Resort which never closed after hurricane
- 9 Jamaican music style
- 10 Secluded area in the NE of St. Martin
- 11 Caribbean hairstyle
- 12 Precious metal of adult club
- 14 Beer distributed by ILTT
- 17 Indian nation at the time of Columbus
- 18 Restaurant/beach bar using old name for island
- 25 Largest Antillean Island

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Guavaberry: The Tasty Island Berry

Continued from Page 1



in the name, our berry is not related to the guava!

The trees bearing guavaberries can tower over other greenery at a height of 60 feet (18 meters), covered in pink and white flowers. The guavaberry is typically a yellowish orange or dark red color, and smaller in size than an American penny. If you are exploring St. Maarten, you can find the trees in the hills on the center of the island.

Guavaberry Liqueur is legendary on St. Maarten. Made in homes across the island centuries ago, it is a prized symbol of our island's background. The liqueur is made from oak aged rum, cane sugar and tangy sweet guavaberries.

Decades ago, Guavaberry Liqueur was considered the Christmas beverage, much like Egnog is for us today. Christmas carolers would knock on the door singing, "Good Morning, good morning, I come for me guavaberry...". if they were fortunate enough, the home owner would pour a sip of our treasured national cocktail for the singers. But lucky for us, this delicious adult drink is now served year-round.

Drink it on the rocks, or it is especially delightful in a piña colada. Plan a visit to the Guavaberry Emporium located on Front Street in Philipsburg to learn more about our national drink and to taste a variety of specialty flavors, all made right here on St. Maarten.



Draught Beer Fans Get Ready!



Soon to be popping up in many restaurants and bars all over our island, is the newest tabletop draught beer dispenser, the Heineken Blade! With draught beer being difficult to find on the island, this new technology is thrilling for beer enthusiasts.

Dubbed 'the Nespresso for beer', the machine hosts an eight-liter keg using Brewlock technology, which will smoothly pour draught beer into your glass at a chilled 35 degrees Fahrenheit (2 Celsius). While this technology was already in use on island with twenty liter machines, this is a modern miracle to now be

able to pour draught beer in the smallest of bars.

The Heineken Blade is aimed at establishments which are unable to install draught beer due to a severe shortage of space, or restaurants that would like to offer draught beer to their customers but cannot make the twenty-liter obligation currently required. With a brew expansion plan in place, more draughts are expected to become available to be used with the Blade system by next year. Keep your eyes open for draught beer at your favorite establishments!

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A Beach for Every Day of the Week

By: Laura Bijnsdorp



Mullet Bay

When you talk to a resident that has grown up on our island and ask about their favorite childhood memory, it is almost certain they will mention their beach days at Mullet Bay. This local pick is one of the few beaches on the island that isn't surrounded by development, so you can get a true 'beach getaway' feeling as you stroll along the deep sand, fringed by sea grape trees.

Simpson Bay

If you want to just sit back, relax and not have to lift a finger for the day; Simpson Bay is your beach! Most people head to this beach to spend a lazy weekend at a beach bar. The establishments on this stretch of sand: El Zafiro's, Karakter and Mary's Boon, all provide beach chairs and beach service.

Happy Bay

Once you set eyes on this hidden gem, you will feel your mood instantly lifted. Many

know Happy Bay as the prettiest beach on French St-Martin. However, it is never crowded as there is no public road connected to it. The easiest way to get to Happy Bay is to park at Friars Bay. On the far right of this beach, as you face the ocean, is a path leading up along the rocky shore. The walk is just fifteen minutes, and quite rewarding in views.

Orient Bay

Orient Bay, was known for its dozens of trendy beach bars and watersport activities. After Irma, many of the shore side restaurants were swept away. As a result, residents and visitors alike were surprised with an impressive flashback at how this beach looked 40 years ago, before it was taken over by concrete, wood and zinc.

Baie Rouge

Rum cocktails, reggae tunes, snorkeling and pink sunsets; Baie Rouge offers everything

that you would expect from a Caribbean destination. At 3 PM, you'll hear a bell ring sounding the time for happy hour! For just a few bucks you can get a fresh fruit cocktail of your choice made with ample amounts of rum.

Grand Case

Grand Case? Some will ask: does this beach still belong on the Top Seven list of beaches on the island, after the hurricane? In our opinion: YES! The old charm of the historical fishing village cannot be taken away by wind, rain or waves! The water in Grand Case is still shallow, calm and clear, making it perfect for families with young children.

Baie Longue

Love walks on the beach? Head out to Long Bay, and you can have the longest beach walk, you have ever had! This beach is in Low Lands, known for its million dollar villas and celebrity appearances. On the left, you will find Belmond La Samanna, a five-star resort, undergoing post-Irma renovations. In front, is possibly the prettiest part of the Baie. The water here is calm, crystal clear and pure turquoise in color.

TIP: To find these beaches, just use Google Maps!

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A DIY Experience For All That Will Tantalize the 'Scent'es *Continued from Page 1*



With over 300 oils to select from, and using 4 oils per perfume you make; the possible combination you will develop is more than one trillion. For instance, there are over 7 vanilla oils to choose from; such as vanilla lavender, vanilla jasmine, vanilla cinnamon and bourbon vanilla.

Our sense of smell is developed as a newborn, in fact it is one of the first experiences a baby has! Our nose can differentiate between about 10,000 different odors and favorite scents are individualized! So, when creating a perfume, use the ones that speak to you. Christian Dior said it best, "a woman's perfume tells more about her than her handwriting". Of course, the Tijon experience is open to men and women, welcoming all to create their scent!

John, Cyndi or Milena will guide you through the creative process. You start by selecting one of twelve perfectly balanced

pre-mixed oils, and then add in up to three additional oils that you enjoy the aroma of. You'll hear terms like top, middle and base notes which just like music, they need to be in perfect harmony. This is where the notes like floral, citrus, woody, fresh and spicy come into play so let your personality shine! Create something that is a reflection of you. The top note is typically about 15-25%, middle note 30-40%, and base note 45-55% to create the final product.

It is important to remember that the climate you live in and the season might dictate whether a lighter or stronger fragrance is more beneficial to you. Whether your skin is oily or dry, foods you eat, time of day you plan to wear your fragrance and even medications can affect your fragrance.

Once you have your fragrance nailed, it is time to take it for a test drive! A dab will be placed

on your skin, and then you head outside for some fresh air to clear the nose before sniffing your sample. When you are ready, you will finish the bottling process by adding denatured alcohol, water and propylene glycol. Select one of the beautiful bottles, or try a scented pen or jewelry for your signature fragrance in an unexpected way.



The adventure is sweetened with a swag bag featuring items like massage oil, lip balm, one of the Tijon fragrances, and a larger gift of your choosing. Browse their gift shop or learn more about the history of perfume and see antique bottles in their museum. The Tijon experience is interactive, unforgettable and entertaining as you create your masterpiece. It truly is scent-sational!



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Have You Been to Church?

Unless you have attended church service in a bar, we are confident that this is not the church you are thinking of. The Red Piano is home to weekly favorite amongst the locals; Church on Mondays. The only singing involved is that of the band performing live on The Red Piano's stage; unless after a few cocktails you decide

to sing along, which is not out of the ordinary!

Boasting free entry, this weekly live show is one of the many reasons that The Red Piano was voted as the 'Best Live Music Venue' year after year. We recommend you arrive early, as the bar gets packed and becomes standing

room only. Mingle with island visitors and residents alike, and learn yet another reason St. Maarten/St-Martin is called 'The Friendly Island'.

So, saddle up next to the bar and order an adult beverage that will bring out your gregarious and fun loving side. We recommend their espresso martini to get the party started, and to make sure you stay awake until the wee hours of the morning when it is time to head home.

Doors open at 8 PM and the show starts at 9 PM. The Red Piano is located in Pelican Key, behind the Hollywood Casino.



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Grand Case Dining: A Five Star Experience

Fine dining in quaint houses reformed to the needs of the hustle and bustle of a restaurant is part of the charm while dining in St-Martin's Grand Case. With the ocean just steps away from this culinary mecca, on a quiet night you can hear the murmurings of the water as it lands ashore.

Before Hurricane Irma arrived, you could feel the energy emerging from this culinary strip, with dozens of delectable restaurants to select from. While we know it will take time to get there again, we are thankful for the brave few who have been able to reopen their doors. Here are three astonishing options that will make your taste buds rejoice, and perhaps your next visit to our island you will see many more eateries have resurrected for you to experience.

Across the street from Tijon, is Café Spiga. This Italian restaurant serves creative Italian dishes with explosive flavors. Lara and Circo created and opened Spiga some 18 years ago, with a vision to carry on the restaurateur legacy from Lara's father.

Some favorite dishes include Spiga seafood Trio appetizer, homemade pastas like the

beef agnolotti with mushrooms and asparagus or the pumpkin and mushroom ravioli duo in a butter sage sauce, and their herb crusted New Zealand rack of lamb is out of this world! Make sure to save room for dessert, it is equally as delicious as their savory fares.

Maybe you would rather try some French cuisine. Bistrot Caraibes is heavenly! Owned and operated by brothers, Thibault and Amaury, this restaurant is consistently in the top five restaurants on our island. Highlighting an extensive wine list and choosing your fresh lobster from the tank for dinner, are just some attributes we love about this establishment.

But their cuisine is sensational, and we would be remiss to not tell you about it! We encourage you to taste their traditional escargot, sea scallops roasted to perfection with asparagus and a delicate butter sauce, and their duck breast served with an impeccably balanced sweet and sour honey sauce. Wrap up your meal with their profiteroles, just make sure to order one dessert per person as they are so yummy you won't want to share! Seating is limited with only fifty seats available per evening, so rese-

rvations are highly recommended.

Another incredible French option is L'Auberge Gourmande. Their solid flavors are what continually land them in the top restaurants on St. Maarten/St-Martin. As for favorite dishes, their Parmesan crusted salmon filet served with a mushroom and parmesan risotto will wow you! Also a top pick is the beef tenderloin, cooked the way you like it with a choice of sauces (from one foodie to another-try the morel mushroom sauce!) and potatoes. Finish the perfect meal with a sweet dessert and espresso.

With tasty options available at these three fine dining establishments, and so many more in Grand Case, we hope you venture out and try something new! Remember, the European style of dining is smaller portions than the American counterpart, so since we are dining on the French side, "c'est la vie" and select something from every course on the menu!

Bon Appétit!

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TripAdvisor Review

"Great place. Amazing, beautiful and kind people who I am now proud to call friends. Great service. They clearly take great pride in their restaurant, food and drinks. They do a great job and I highly recommend. I stopped multiple times while walking in St. Maarten, sometimes for food and sometimes just to have a drink at the bar."

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Luxury Vacation Rentals Are Back



Sea Dream, photographs shown above.

The vacation villa and condo rental market is the second pillar of our island's tourism industry. St-Martin Sotheby's International Realty is the leading agency and most recognized brand in this field. A few weeks after the passing of Hurricane Irma, we interviewed the company's CEO Harrison Reed, about the availability of their luxury rental properties. This interview was for a video produced to showcase the rebuilding of our island.

Reed wasn't very optimistic about short-term developments. His company had written off 2018 entirely and was focusing on the 2019 season, a long 16 months away at the time. They had refunded all deposits for existing reservations, even if the storm had not dama-

ged the rented property. This included units at the posh Porto Cupecoy development that fared well and would have been available. "The island is not ready to deliver the vacation experience our guests have come to expect", explained Reed at the time.

Fast forward to May 2018: we are happy to report that St-Martin Sotheby's International Realty has brought back some of their most impressive properties into the rental market way ahead of schedule. With many excellent restaurants fully operational and the beaches as beautiful as ever, an upscale vacation experience is available again.

"The exorbitant fares presently charged by the airlines are a concern," says Reed. "Our

VIP clients might be a bit less worried about this, but we still advise them to also check connections through the island's second airport in Grand Case." The undamaged La Esperance Airport (SFG) on the French side offers comfortable connecting flights from North America through the island of Guadeloupe - at fares frequently much lower than arriving at the Princess Juliana International Airport.

If you are an island resident and you would like to have friends or family visit, consider checking out the rates for vacation rentals. Especially for groups of six or eight people, a luxury villa rental can be an economical solution over a resort stay.

VACATION RENTALS & SALES



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Try a 'Cat 5 Plus' Libation on St. Maarten

At Island 92 Radio: the ladies of 'Nowhere Special', preparing their cocktail live.

Almost nine months ago we had the largest hurricane to ever hit the Atlantic basin, Hurricane Irma. Our island was forever changed.

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!

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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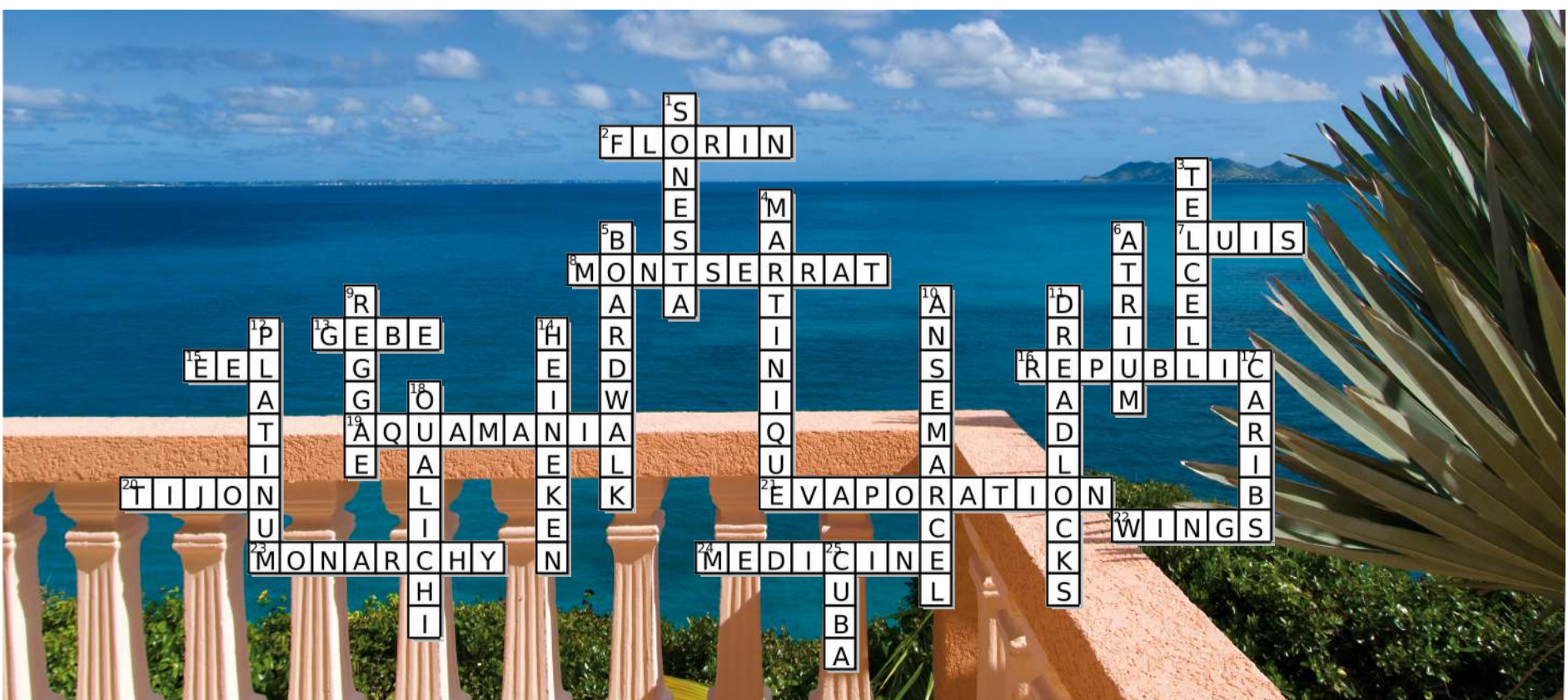


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- NOWHERE SPECIAL**
Simpson Bay
- TOPPER'S BAR & RESTAURANT**
Simpson Bay

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Pelican
- RENDEZ-VOUS LOUNGE**
Porto Cupecoy
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Listen to our favorite radio station Island 92 for updates on the cocktail contest!

Crossword Puzzle Solution



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