Visit any Caribbean port popular with the major cruise lines, and you will notice a common phenomenon: these charming, bustling towns, during day time hours typically filled with cheerful visitors darting in and out of jewelry stores and souvenir shops, are suddenly shutting down - even before the sun sets. The visitors typically leave around 4 PM, called back by their cruise ships, which prepare to depart to the next port-of-call.

Nassau on New Providence in The Bahamas, Charlotte Amalie on St. Thomas and our own Philipsburg turn into ghost towns once the cruise ship passengers have left. Not enough bars and restaurants can afford the exorbitant rents jewelers are able and willing to pay for retail space and therefore it is well known that cruise ports tend to lose a good part of their civic life.

Once the cruise ship business dominates the economy, towns turn into Caribbean theme parks. This is not to criticize our local business community, after all, it is these retailers who turned Philipsburg into a success story for the cruise industry. And the island can’t do without it.

But we feel that Philipsburg has all the potential of preserving some of its soul as a nighttime entertainment destination, with a few obstacles to overcome. Notorious is the parking situation, where our local government hasn’t been able and willing for many years to create solutions...

Continued on Page 6

Sail a Legend in the Heineken Regatta

The United States is a force to be reckoned with in many fields of sports including the prestigious America's Cup - the pinnacle of regatta sailing.

Reef-It: The Eco-Friendly Park

By Leslie Hickerson

The island of St. Maarten has an amazing variety of activities to take part in; kayak tours, power and sailing boat rides, ATVs that go around the island, and much more.

Full Article on Page 19

Full Article on Page 9

$50 OFF ANY JEWELRY PURCHASE OF $500 OR MORE. SPECIAL ON DIAMOND STUDS: 0.50CT FOR $399 (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST).
Letter From the Editor
February 13, 2019

I hope you all had an enjoyable Valentine’s, Gal-entine’s and Singles Awareness Day! This month is flying by, and before we know it spring will be here.

Just about two weeks until the Heineken Regatta. Be sure to check out this and coming issues for all the details of where to participate and party. We also have extensive information on our website, www.ST-MAARTEN.com.

Shortly after that is a massive music festival, SXM Festival, that will bring lovers of underground house and techno to the island. For our local readers- I urge you to partake in the festivities for both events.

We are fortunate to not have to fly somewhere to join in on the experience! As always, all our previous issues are available on the ST-MAARTEN.COM website. If you enjoyed our publication and would like to continue to read from home, wherever that may be, please use the QR code to the right to access our digital publication.

Have a fabulous weekend and safe travels if you are leaving the Friendly Island.

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.

What does the number on each advertisement stand for?
Please refer to the map on Pages 10/11. Regions of the island are marked with a number which corresponds to the number you see on ads.

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 Weekly Edition

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Please email 'letters to the publisher' to sxm@email.com
Sundial’s “The Source” Restaurant

This island is known as the culinary capital of the Caribbean and that is no empty claim. From world-class restaurants to delightful dives, there is a spot for everyone.

One spot that only comes alive for a few months a year is the Sundial School’s “The Source” restaurant. The high school, located Ch. Vogesstreet in Philipsburg, focuses one of its study streams on the culinary arts and hospitality training. The Source is a teaching restaurant and is only open when examination year students need to perfect their practical skills.

Students hone their skills at the ‘back of house’ – the kitchen, and at the ‘front of house’ – the dining room and bar. This is not just a fun exercise or an escape from the classroom; it is the classroom! The students supervised by their teachers and receive grades for their performance and skills.

There is one missing ingredient at the lunches held on Tuesdays and Thursdays – diners! The Source invites the public to lend their palates in the pursuit of higher education. Diners can access a three-course gourmet lunch for the nominal cost of $12.50 USD per person (cash only).

Even though, the restaurant is a teaching one, it does not mean the food is substandard. The hospitality teachers are focused on giving students the best skills and a head start on their eventual career path, whether it is furthering their education in the culinary arts or moving directly to the country’s tourism frontline. That means true restaurant quality food at the fraction of the price.

Vegetarian delight is on offer on Tuesday, February 19. The menu comprises cheese croquettes, vegetable lasagna and grilled pineapple Cointreau sabayon.

Caprese salad followed by fish n’ chips, served with a mixed salad and a dessert of apple carrée chantilly with a cup of coffee are the palate pleasers for Thursday, February 21.

Get a taste of the far east at The Source with a China cocktail on Tuesday, February 26. A half of a roasted chicken is up next with a mixed salad, apple compote and French fries. Head to the alps for dessert by spooning into a pineapple Bavarian pudding.

The final lunch for the month is on Thursday, February 28. The menu features cured ham with melon, poached red snapper filet with Dijon mustard wine sauce, spinach soufflé and steamed parsley potatoes. The sweet to culminate the meal is chocolate mousse chantilly.
Art in the Park Event Highlights
Local Artists of All Types

By Alita Singh

The annual Art in the Park event drew a wide variety of artists and craftspeople to Emilie Wilson Historical and Cultural Park on Sunday, February 10. Following the talent were art lovers and people looking for locally made items for gifts and souvenirs.

The event is always held the weekend before Valentine’s Day and aims to spotlight the talents and skills of the cottage craft industry. Over the years, it has grown from the art of paintings and jewelry to include artisanal foods and drinks.

A portion of the funds raised from the entrance fee and from parking is donated by the Art in the Park group to a community organization. This way an activity that exposes artists and craftspeople to the wider community also aids another chosen worthy cause.

This year’s event saw a larger number of stallholders from the French side of the island offering everything from handmade jewelry and homebrewed mauby, to old fashioned hand churned ice cream and island liquors.

Adding to the smorgasbord was a plant seller with a decorative plants and traditional Caribbean herbs used in cooking and for bush tea.

Raw Beauty was a new stall at the event. The stall offered cosmetics and body products that are vegan and considered to be environmentally friendly. This is in keeping with the growing trend on the island of people opting for a vegan or vegetarian lifestyle.

SXM Cooks by Lucinda Frye had a line of her homemade chutneys. Most of the jars were gone by the end of the event. The savory chutneys pair well with cheeses or is also delicious on crackers or toast.

Artist Jody Rosen added whimsy and colors with her vibrant paintings of island scenes.

French side-based artist Fin whose renderings allows art collectors to also cherish a bit of sand from one of the 36 beaches and coves dotting the island.

St. Maarten Paws, an animal care group, did not miss the opportunity to seek forever homes for adorable puppies and adult dogs. Volunteers cared for their pawed charges, who were very eager to work their charms on those who they sensed could be their future pet parents.

WasteFactory, an arts and crafts workshop on Front Street, was also present at Art in the Park. Artist Tes Verheij, the force behind WasteFactory, had on display and for sale items made from repurposed materials including melted down plastics, wine corks, glass bottles and soda cans.
**ST-MARTEN.COM Weekly Edition**

**Pub Crawl 2019 Events Calendar**

**13 Jan**
- **Sailor Edition**
  - Dresscode: Sailor

**1 Feb**
- **Twin Edition**
  - Dresscode: Identical Twins

**15 Feb**
- **Valentine Edition**
  - Dresscode: Sock-It-Off

**1 Mar**
- **Regatta Edition**
  - Dresscode: Caribbean Pirate

**15 Mar**
- **St. Patrick’s Edition**
  - Dresscode: Irish green

**5 Apr**
- **Easter Edition**
  - Dresscode: Eggs-Cellent

**26 Apr**
- **King’s Night Edition**
  - Dresscode: Orange

**3 May**
- **Carnival Edition**
  - Dresscode: Carnival Feathers

**17 May**
- **Pirate Edition**
  - Dresscode: Caribbean Pirate

**31 May**
- **Prom Edition**
  - Dresscode: Dresses and Suits

**14 Jun**
- **White Edition**
  - Dresscode: White t-shirts

**28 Jun**
- **Uniform Edition**
  - Dresscode: Uniform

**12 Jul**
- **Masquerade Edition**
  - Dresscode: Mask

**26 Jul**
- **Toga Edition**
  - Dresscode: Sheik

**9 Aug**
- **Back to School Edition**
  - Dresscode: Kids

**23 Aug**
- **Tourist Edition**
  - Dresscode: SXM Tourist

---

**Tickets and Info**

+1 721 533-8820 / +1 721 522-7948 ✉️ events@st-maarten.com

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**Bacardi Red Piano Rum Punch**

Present this ad for a 2 for 1 Bacardi Red Piano Rum Punch!

*1 per customer, per visit*
Caribbean Cruises: Are They a Curse or Treasure?

Continued from Page 1

The Walter Plantz Wharf defines the Western end of the Boardwalk.

And right on the corner and only a few steps through the sand, there is the I Love SXM Beach Bar, gaining a loyal following with their beachfront setting and an attractive food- and drink menu.

And there is nightlife in Philipsburg, with things to do after dinner. Four casinos wait for players.

Among them is the Jump Up Casino at what is called the 'head of town', well known for their free entertainment with live shows and nightly bingo action. On weekends, the Axum Cafe on Front Street frequently has live jazz and other musical performances.

We feel that Philipsburg deserves that both island residents and stay-over visitors plan to spend an evening there occasionally, in order to give a chance to entrepreneurs who are brave enough to invest in the after-hours life in 'town'.

even though investors with full pockets were knocking on their door and offering the construction of parking garages. On a positive note, safety is actually better than perceived by the public, with more frequent police patrols assuring that visitors can have a pleasant nighttime stroll on the Boardwalk.

The Ocean Bar and Restaurant at the Holland House Hotel is the favorite dining destination to enjoy the more elegant aspects of food and wine. The Greenhouse next to Bobby's Marina Village and public parking offers a full menu, starting with American-style comfort food items to international and Caribbean dishes. Chesterfields on the way to Point Blanche has its own parking lot and is another favorite lunch and dining spot, consistently satisfying their guests throughout the past decades with quality meals in an attractive waterfront setting.

During evening hours and walking along the Boardwalk, there are several restaurants open. The Hard Rock Cafe is the area's only representation of a worldwide franchise and is right around the corner of Captain Hodge Wharf. Only a few more minutes of walking further west on the Boardwalk is Burger Madness, an eatery which has established itself as THE place to eat gourmet burgers.
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ALISON HINDS - FRIDAY MARCH

39TH EDITION
FEB 28-MAR 3 2019
Serious Fun!
The Unique St. Maarten/St-Martin Crossword Puzzle

Find out if you are a truly knowledgeable about our region and its culture, history and geography

Please enjoy another edition of our crossword puzzle. You will notice that all questions are rooted in the Caribbean hemisphere and might take a bit of research to answer if you haven't spent much time here. It also means: the answers are valid for St. Maarten/St-Martin and the neighboring islands. For example, if we ask for an island directly to the North of our location, it can only be Anguilla.

If we are using compound words in the answer, they do NOT have spaces!

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 the island. If you detect an error, drop us a line at SXM@EMAIL.COM.

Puzzle Solution on Page 20

ACROSS
4 National bird
7 Hurricane 1999
8 Comes in small green bottles
10 Catamaran of Aqua Mania
13 Place to take perfume lessons
16 You need it to make rum
17 Large French island to the South
19 Card game at Hollywood Casino
20 Queen of Anguilla
21 Trinidad's quiet sister island
22 Used to preserve food before refrigeration
23 Color of piano in bar
24 European non-stop flight destination

DOWN
1 Airlines servicing Saba
2 Boat safari names after which horned land animal
3 End of hurricane season
5 Where was the treaty signed?
6 You find it at the Carousel
9 Island named after an eagle
11 Airline from the USA
12 Pirate
14 Restaurant on Kimsha Beach
15 Home of Carib Beer
18 Continental country due South
19 Mario's or Caribbe what kind of restaurant?
Reef-It: An Eco-Friendly Park in St. Maarten

By Leslie Hickerson

Continued from Page 1

The island of St. Maarten has an amazing variety of activities to take part in; kayak tours, power and sailing boat rides, ATVs that go around the island, and much more. One thing that is hard to find, however, is an eco-friendly tour. While these are popular all around the world, SXM is behind the times. That will soon change with the opening of Reef-It Snorkel Park.

“We saw a niche in the market that we thought could be well used, especially after Irma it would be good to work with the reefs and the St. Maarten Nature Foundation,” says Steve Hammond, owner of Reef-It.

Since the devastation of Irma destroyed Eco-Snorkeling on Pinel, Reef-It will be the only ocean based eco-tour on the island. Located on the Dutch Side on Dock Maarten, this company provides a shore entry guided snorkel tour. The company chose that site as a protected and calm area great for beginners or experienced snorkelers.

The tour will follow a path along the shore where the company has placed informational signs about the fish you will see painted by local artist Carla Templeton. The existing rocks provide shelter for marine-life and amazing amount of variety is already easy to find. The guests who were lucky enough to be part of pre-opening tour trials have spotted grunts, blue tangs, butterfly fish, and even a green moray eel.

In an effort to help promote new coral growth and entice marine-life into the area the team at Reef-It has place Coral Balls all around the tour path. These pieces of concrete are specifically designed to create places for fish to live and hide from predators. The concrete is mixed with a special formula that helps ensure that coral growth will be compatible with the structure.

In the future the crew hopes that the Nature Foundation will be able to use the Reef Balls as part of the Coral Reef Restoration Program. In other areas, these structures are used for promotion of growth by placing small clippings of corals on the concrete where it will grow into its own mother coral, or letting coral grow on its own in time. For more information about the program on SXM you can visit the St. Maarten Nature Foundation’s website or visit St-Maarten.com to find our previous article on Coral Restoration.

These pieces of concrete are already doing their job and providing shelter for marine life in the area. “I was overwhelmed myself of how many fish have come in such a short amount of time, the reef balls have only been in the water one month,” says Hammond.

As well as hoping to work with them on coral restoration Reef-It will be donating to the foundation’s fund with each guest that joins the tour. “Part of the proceeds that we make from the tours will go to the Nature Foundation so they can continue working on the rebuilding. We will also be selling their re-usab

The team is also dedicated to making the tour as sustainable and eco-friendly as possible.

“We have the Nature Foundation flyer so we will focus on talking about the Reduce & Reuse project to the guests. We will tell them about the sunscreen, that it has to be coral safe. Also that if you see plastic along the way to pick it up,” says Operations Manager Aukje Van Kuiken who worked with Kids at Sea before joining Reef-It. le bags, t-shirts, and other things.”

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For Hammond, offering a new tour for St. Maarten/St-Martin is great, but the most important thing is to inform the public about the importance of recycling.

“This needs to be educational, it (recycling and reducing waste) has never been in the culture for the island. The way to start this properly is to start in the schools. We want to get local children from the schools out here doing this so they can be educated to take that home with them. That is our main objective we want to get involved in.”

“Follow updates about the opening date for Reef-It on their Facebook page and look for upcoming projects that will include more locations and a boat tour around the island!”
Nighttime Shopping in Maho

Shoppers accustomed to the professional retail culture of North America are often confused about the opening hours of stores on our island. In Philipsburg, shops close as early as 5 or 6 PM. The fashionable boutiques in Marigot also tend to close around 6 PM, but several also shut down for a long lunch break.

Don't perceive these restricted opening hours as a lack of ambition; it is just the case of different cultures on one small island. Philipsburg lives off the cruise ship traffic, and with the passengers usually gone by 4 PM, there is no point in staying open longer. And the French lunch is important to them, and that's that.

Norman points out that he is certain to offer better deals than most jewelers in Philipsburg. "We own the building, and we don't pay rent. We have much less overhead, and we can pass the savings on to the customer."

His son, Sam Motwani, adds: "Our customers are resort guests or stay at vacation villas. They have time to shop around for price. With us, there is no pressure to buy. We know that the customer will come back to purchase from us after they compared prices."

Jewels & Linen stays true to its roots and still offers souvenirs and beachwear items. Separate from the jewelry department and accommodated in the adjacent retail space, the vacationer will find all beach essentials, plus liquors and Cuban cigars in a walk-in humidor. And of course, there is a broad selection of island souvenirs available.

We give you Maho Village, the one location on the island where night-time shopping is supported. With the major resorts now reopening, the Village is coming back to life after struggling through the seventeen plus months since Irma. Surprisingly, shops not only stay open into the night, but prices are also often better than to be found in Philipsburg.

Jewels & Linen has an outlet at Maho Village for decades now. "The name of our store might be a bit confusing," says owner Norman Motwani, "but it reflects the history of our company. What started as a souvenir and linen shop has develop-
Find Shopping, Activities and Services Here

1. The Body Spa
   6 Billy Fury Rd 3 (St Martin Bay Villas Street)
   Sunday and public holidays: 10am - 7pm
   Call to appointment: +1 721 581-0000

2. NoCo Art Studio
   FREE ENTRANCE
   SATURDAYS 5:00-8:00PM
   Join us for the art tour at Terres Basses, lot 39
   INFO: (+599) 690 36 64 65 or annko_nolov.nl

3. INCREDIBLE FITNESS & MORE
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   CALL: +1 721 554-6666

4. Topper's Rhum Distillery Tours
   St Maarten's newest attraction
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   TOPPERSRHUMTOURS.COM

5. Centre Commercial de Mont Vernon
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6. Centre Commercial de Culebra
   Open from Monday to Saturday 10am - 6pm

7. French Candi Pictures
   Starboard Mall
   wwwخرىماض.com

8. CENTRE COMMERCIAL DE MONT VERNON
   Open from Monday to Saturday 10am - 6pm

9. CENTRE COMMERCIAL DE CULEBRA
   Open from Monday to Saturday 10am - 6pm

10. Eye Land Optique
    Promenade Mall
    44 Front Street
    (Opposite of the Horizon View Hotel)
    Call
    +590 690 36 64 65
    Email
    eyelandoptix.sxm@gmail.com

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

12. Sun Cards
    Quality gifts for all occasions
    Leather bags, candles, and costume jewelry
    Wrapping supplies & helium balloons
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13. JoJonde Tours
    Take an island tour to experience the magic of St. Maarten/St. Martin
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    sbp pharmacist@gmail.com

15. Simpson Bay Bay
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1. R&D Lounge
   - Casual Gourmet Bistro
   - Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner
   - Earth life
   - Portuguese at the Marina
   - Reservations: +1 721 543-8978

2. 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

3. St. Maarten’s Best
   - International Restaurant
   - +1 721 544-3500
   - SXMtoppers.com
   - Steak • Seafood • Pasta

4. Wetzel’s Pretzels
   - N. DeBrot Straat 4
   - Across Post Office
   - Philipsburg, Sint Maarten
   - Call +1 721 542-3100

5. Alina
   - Authentic Japanese Cuisine Prepared Fresh
   - Call for Reservation: +1 721 587-8856
   - Plaza de Luna, Simpson Bay Yacht Club

6. Bistrot Caraibes
   - Open from 9 AM for breakfast, lunch & dinner
   - Live entertainment every day of the week from 7 PM
   - 129 Simpsonbay Road
   - Info@karakterbeach.com +1 721 523 39 83

7. Little MOBAY
   - Authentic Jamaican Cuisine at Maho Village
   - Open from 7 AM until late
   - Reservations: +1 721 545-9279

8. Orient Village Plantation
   - Restaurant Bar & Lounge
   - Opening Hours
     - Tuesday - Sunday
     - Breakfast 8am - 10am
     - Lunch 12pm - 3pm
     - Dinner 6pm - 9:30pm
     - Mondays CLOSED!

9. Snoopy’s
   - Bar and Restaurant at the Bridge to Snoopy Island
   - Great food, great Happy Hour, live entertainment
   - Welfare Road, Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten
   - Call for Reservation: +1 721 580-4202

10. Mario Bistro & Porto Cucina
    - “Blend of French, Asian and Caribbean cuisine”
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    - For reservation Call: +1 721 523-2760

11. mélange
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    - Call +1 721 526-4049 for reservation
    - www.MelangeSxm.com

12. Chang’s
    - Open for lunch and dinner
    - 65 Corner Plaza, Airport Road, Simpson Bay
    - Delivery: +1 721 596 0978

13. Buffalovesxim
    - MAID OVER WITH THIS COUPON

14. Karakter
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    - 129 Simpson Bay Road
    - Info@karakterbeach.com +1 721 523 39 83

15. The island’s Best
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    - Happy Hour: Beer $2 - Margarita $5
    - Located at the Allegria Resort - enter at security gate
    - Free parking! Call +1 721 545-3300 for reservation

16. Sponsorship
    - Sponsored by: Chang’s, Buffalovesxim, Karakter, The Boon, The Island’s Best, mélange, ORient Village Plantation

17. Visit the Island’s Party and Dining Hot Spots
   - R&D Lounge, The Boon, St. Maarten’s Best, Wetzel’s Pretzels, Alina, Bistrot Caraibes, Little MOBAY, Snoopy’s, Mario Bistro & Porto Cucina, mélange, Chang’s, Buffalovesxim, Karakter, ORient Village Plantation

18. Sponsors
   - Chang’s, Buffalovesxim, Karakter, The Boon, The Island’s Best, mélange, ORient Village Plantation

19. Celebration
   - Celebration at The Island’s Best
   - Sponsored by Chang’s, Buffalovesxim, Karakter, The Boon, The Island’s Best, mélange, ORient Village Plantation

20. Congratulations
    - Congratulations to the sponsors on their successes
    - Chang’s, Buffalovesxim, Karakter, The Boon, The Island’s Best, mélange, ORient Village Plantation

21. Sponsorship
    - Sponsorship opportunities available for the next issue
    - Chang’s, Buffalovesxim, Karakter, The Boon, The Island’s Best, mélange, ORient Village Plantation

22. Visit St. Maarten
    - Visit St. Maarten for the best dining and nightlife experiences
    - Chang’s, Buffalovesxim, Karakter, The Boon, The Island’s Best, mélange, ORient Village Plantation
Sudoku Puzzles

Try your skills on our Sudoku. Ranging from easy to difficult, giving you the opportunity to see if you are a puzzle master.

Need help or want to see if you got it correct? Find the Sudoku solutions on Page 20.

Good Luck!

Easy

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Nothing But the Truth: Conflict Diamonds

By Hilary Grant, GIA Graduate Gemologist

Blood diamonds- a term that has been on the lips of consumers since Leonardo DiCaprio starred in the movie bearing the same name that opened the eyes of diamond lovers to horrible practices that were rampant in Africa.

While this movie shed light that led jewelers to adopt higher practice standards, rest assured that the diamonds available for purchase at our many advertisers on Front Street are above board and participate in programs like the Best Practice Principles and the Kimberley Process.

Over fifteen years ago, in 2002, the United Nations adopted a system to end the practice of diamond trading for suspicious means. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme outlines the rules and regulations countries are required to follow to ensure a diamond is mined and shipped in a humane, lawful way.

Although the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and the World Diamond Council System of Warranties addresses the issue of conflict diamonds; no single standard was created to address the ethical practices of the diamond pipeline, including social, employment, business, health and safety and environmental issues. De Beers saw the hole in the system set in place and established the Best Practice Principles (BPP) which established a benchmark for not just diamond mining; but cutting, polishing, and jewelry manufacturing.

Let me cover some information that you should know if you are in the market to purchase a twinkling diamond. I created this how-to guide on buying conflict free diamonds based on questions that I have received from island visitors, so I hope you find it helpful!

How do you know a jeweler is telling the truth? Ask if they participate in the Best Practice Principles, which is also called the BPP. As explained above, the BPP includes from the cutting process of diamonds all the way to the showcases.

Many diamond brands like Hearts on Fire (sold at Majesty Jewelers), Forevermark and Crown of Light (sold at Diamonds International) are all examples of reputable diamond brands.

I’ve encountered a number of visitors that wanted to purchase only Canadian diamonds, because they believe that only diamonds from Canada are conflict free. Although it is true that Canada has a rock-hard (pun intended) reputation for diamond mining in an environmentally conscious and conflict-free way, diamonds from other countries such as Russia, Australia and certain African countries are also conflict free. This is tracked by documentation all along the diamond pipe from the mine to the jeweler. And if at any point the mine is not following the rules outlined by the Kimberley Certification- their diamonds will not make their way to respectable jewelry stores like what our town is filled with.

There are many different factors that can make a diamond pricier such as carat, color, clarity and cut; but being certified as a conflict-free diamond is not a consideration. If you work with a jeweler you trust and research before you buy (check out our advertisers in this publication or our website ST-MAARTEN.COM) and you can be assured you’ve done your part in being a responsible diamond shopper.
Adventures in Sex and Dating in St. Maarten
A Regular Column by Leslie Hickerson

This week we have another rare occurrence of a story that ends happily! To be clear, it’s not that every relationship is doomed on SXM, it’s just that those stories are normally more fun to read. This week is Lola and Matthew and how they got together.

Lola first met Matt on a dive on St. Maarten. The two had mutual friend who took a boat out for a fun day on the water. When they met, Lola was immediately distracted by his 6’4” frame and his biceps. Throughout the day she flirted and laughed at his jokes but when it came time to say good-bye Matt hadn’t picked up the hint. She was disappointed, but not ready to give up. Over the next few weeks they ran across each other a few times and Lola continued to try her best as he seemed single and interested but each time they parted, he still didn’t ask for her number.

As a side note you should know that Lola was rarely without the company of her close friend Niels who fulfilled the image of a tall Dutchman quite well.

One night at La Bamba (which sadly, no longer exists), Lola and Niels were out for the night with their friends when Matt showed up.

Sitting around the bonfire Lola threw out all the best signals laughing at his jokes, touching his arm while she told him stories but nothing worked.

Finally, frustration got the best of her and she asked, “Do I have to sit on your lap to get you to kiss me?”

It turns out for SXM standards, Matt was something of a gentleman and he asked her, “Isn’t Niels your boyfriend?” What a cutie.

Matt just thought Lola was a bit of a skank and flirting hard with her partner always around. When the situation was cleared up the couple had one hell of a good night and have been together ever since.
Continued from Page 1

Get close to the action of the 39th St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, and enjoy the best seats in the house. Go first class aboard the Golden Eagle Catamaran and feel like a real VIP. The official St. Maarten Heineken Regatta spectator boat will be sailing out on Friday March 1, Saturday March 2 and Sunday March 3. Make sure to buy your tickets on time because they usually sell out quickly.

On Friday the spectator boat will be present at the start and finish. In the meantime, the boat will stop at various points to do some sightseeing and cooling down at various swimming stops. Departure time on Friday is 7:30 AM. The boat will return at the Marina at 3 PM.

On Saturday and Sunday, the spectator boat will be all about racing. We will follow the whole race, so if you are a sailing enthusiast sign up fast for Saturday or Sunday. The departure time is at 7:30AM and the boat returns to the marina around 12:30PM.

For all the days: During the day a commentator will be on board and you will receive live commentary of all the on-the-water action taking place. A delicious breakfast and lunch will be served on board, and the open bar will make sure no one gets thirsty. In addition to this, guests will also receive an exclusive goody bag filled with specialties donated by loyal sponsors of the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta.

For only $150 per person for Friday and US$ 125 for Saturday and Sunday, you can get on board of the Golden Eagle Catamaan and be part of the regatta. Feel like a real VIP as you sail down to the start line. The price includes the trip out on the water, breakfast, lunch, open bar, goody bag and a live commentator. For more information or to buy tickets, contact the Regatta Office at +1 721 553-8397 or email Anouk at Assistant@smyc.com.

Racing action in the 2018 regatta - Photo courtesy of the Heineken Regatta

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Yes, You Can: Sail a Legend in the Heineken Regatta

Continued from Page 1

The United States is a force to be reckoned with in many fields of sports and are host to many international competitions. But no event carries as much prestige and status as the America’s Cup - the pinnacle of regatta sailing. Ultra-high-tech yachts operated by teams from different nations and equipped with budgets in the hundreds of million dollars each, are competing every four years. The winning country has to host the following event; which will be New Zealand in the year 2021.

American yachtsman Dennis Connor became a worldwide household name by winning the cup four times with his legendary race boat, ‘Stars and Stripes’.

The homeport for ‘Stars and Stripes’ is now Sint Maarten, where the yacht is part of a fleet of authentic 12-Metre America’s Cup racing boats, which form one of the Caribbean’s most exciting visitor attractions. The 12 Metre Regatta is an excursion that cruise ship passengers, island guests, and the local population can participate in, seven days a week. Guests are welcome to enjoy the exhilarating ride or jump into the action without prior sailing experience.

This year, the 12 Metre Regatta has a special treat for sailing enthusiasts which is hard to beat: it’s your chance to race a real 12 Metre America’s Cup Yacht in the 39th St Maarten Heineken Regatta and experience the ultimate sailing.

So, why is it called the 12 Metre Regatta? First instinct tells us that it is because of the length of the boat, but this hunch would be incorrect. 12 Metre Class sailboats are because they follow a formula that considers various measurements of the vessel. The result of putting together these measurements dictates that the vessel must not exceed 12 metres. But it is fairly safe to say that the majority of these sailboats are approximately 70 feet long with 86 foot masts and weigh in at a whopping thirty-five tons.

The first 12 Metre Class racing yachts were built over a span of 80 years, from 1907 to 1987, totaling approximately 170 vessels. Now, roughly 100 racing yachts still exist, four of which are located right here in St. Maarten.

But now for the really exciting news: 12 Metres will be participating in the annual Heineken Regatta event, which has been on island for 39 years. Although the boats will not be competing as a class in the official Regatta, they will be partaking in their own race by using a customized race course.

St. Maarten Heineken Race Director Paul Miller comments “Racing on the 12 Metres as part of the 39th St. Maarten Heineken Regatta is a thrilling chance to join the classic racing experience that these former America’s Cup yachts offer. It’s the perfect way to experience the thrill of racing and appreciate the classic design of these beautiful vessels.”

Anyone is eligible to buy a ticket to sail, and no experience is necessary. All proceeds from this event will be donated to KidzatSea and the SMYC Sailing School, to support local youth to become competitors and have careers in the sailing industry.

Experience the thrill of a lifetime racing aboard legendary America’s Cup yachts in the 12 Metre Exhibition Class of the 2019 Heineken Regatta.

There are two ticket options:

**ONE DAY HEINEKEN REGATTA 12M CLASS ticket $90.00**
Includes: participation in 1 match race, 1 special “Heineken Regatta 2019” edition 12M crew T-Shirt, and all regatta and prize giving fees. All profits will be donated. No prior sailing experience necessary.

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A Restaurant that Matches the Beauty of the Sea

Indigo Bay is stunning— and not just the view. A tucked away treasure between the bustle of Simpson Bay and Philipsburg lies a protected cove that is a must visit when in St. Maarten. Water as turquoise as a postcard and sand so soft that you are overcome with the notion of wiggling your toes into it—yes, this describes Indigo Bay. And to top it off, one of the most posh and stylish beach restaurants on the Dutch side calls this strand of beach home.

White canopies, weathered (for aesthetics!) wood and bottles of rosé and champagne are sprinkled about Indigo Bay Restaurant.

While you can certainly order typical beach cocktails here, ‘rosé all day’ is much more the mentality of this beach bar and eatery in Sint Maarten. But they still have a decadent bar with everything you could possibly want for a sunny beach day.

Their dining menu offers a wide variety of dishes to please every palate. As you dine in this attractive and sophisticated establishment, take in the gorgeous unobstructed view of the Caribbean waters and decide of how many minutes after dessert you’ll wait before dipping your toe into the warm water.

Indigo Bay Restaurant is open from Tuesday through Sunday from 9 AM until 6 PM. From Simpson Bay, head towards Philipsburg and at the round about at the top of the hill, take your first exit on the right. This will lead you down into Indigo Bay.
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