A Life Lived in Color Instead of Darkness
An Interview with ArtPark Artist: Christiane Ladéon

Tucked away in the Heineken Regatta Village at Port de Plaisance Resort, Casino and Yacht Club is the ‘ArtPark’. Located on the grounds of what is dubbed the hub for all Regatta festivities, the ArtPark showcases the island’s talented artists and craftspeople.

“The goal of these parks is to provide visitors and residents of the island with an informative experience during the Regatta while at the same time providing a location for local artists to showcase their work. Whether you’re a painter, sculptor, soap maker, recycler, water cleaner, or similar we will help you get your products and message out to the many visitors and locals to our event,” said General Manager Michele Korteweg.

A couple of weeks ago, I had the honor of chatting with one such vendor, Christiane Ladéon. Thankfully her English is spectacular and is no comparison to my extremely limited French; allowing us the opportunity to talk about her passion- art with watercolors. Her powerful story was one that I wanted to share. I hope it inspires you as it did me, and that you seek her out at ArtPark to own your very own, Christiane Ladéon original watercolor painting.

Hailing from the Caribbean island of Martinique, Christiane first came to St-Martin twenty-two years ago on a getaway. “I fell in love with this island. I wanted to speak English fluently and was inspired by so many people from different countries..."
Letter From the Editor
February 22, 2019

Next week- Heineken Regatta time! With so many people that will be arriving on island within a couple shorts days, I encourage you to enjoy the festivities.

Please make sure to drink responsibly, have a designated driver or call a taxi if everyone in your group wants to party hearty.

Watch the picturesque sailing competitions around the island, visit the EcoPark and ArtPark in the Village at Port de Plaisance and certainly; drink Heineken.

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. And if you're staying right here with us- have a safe Regatta!

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.

Visit Us Online for FREE Business Directory

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.

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

Entire Island
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Don't Expect Hotel Amenities at Vacation Rentals

Continued from Page 1

With so many resorts still under construction and guests ready to start coming back to the island, several new vacation rental homes have opened to accommodate tourists for their stay. These units are very unlike their counterpart- traditional hotels.

The primary difference is that individuals, rather than a company, manage vacation rentals. There are several websites that have sprung up to facilitate renting your home as an individual; the two most popular are AirBnB and Vacation Rental By Owner (VRBO). These types of sites act as the middleman between the guest and the host. They provide a professional website service for owners to upload their location details and act as a specialized search engine, separating units by location and details of the home, and providing damage protection for the host.

The idea of renting out your vacation home is hardly new. Many people have turned to managers or real estate agents to help pay the cost of their island home while they are not using it. These practices were quickly adapted into some of the earliest websites; VRBO launched its website in 1995!

AirBnB.com started out in 2008, as AirBedandBreakfast.com. Three men were trying to find a way to help pay their expensive rent costs in New York City by offering up floor space and breakfast for guests visiting when the hotels were fully booked. As a small startup, now they cite that in 2018, there was an estimated 650,000 hosts on AirBnB.

One of the many things that help maintain the popularity of these sites is the ability of hosts to charge lower rates than hotels. If you look at a hotel website and see that the cost of a room is 30% cheaper than it’s competitor, you might think twice about booking. What would there be so much difference in price?

Vacation rentals on the other hand are known to be less expensive. Depending on the cost of your unit and the amenities you provide vacation rental hosts can provide an amazing stay at half the cost of most hotels.

By not paying staff to manage a 24/7 front desk, not providing daily house keeping, and cleaning the units themselves; most hosts can use a vacation rental like a second job.

The lower rates do mean that some of the traditional comforts of hotels are missing. Unless you are shopping high end, you will not receive a daily room cleaning. At a vacation rental, you cannot just call the front desk when you need something.

There is no activities desk to book your tours for the week. You might even have to do your own dishes and take out the garbage at the end of your stay.

All of the most popular websites for rentals work with a review system. Both the guests and the hosts leave reviews about their experience. These reviews are made public to encourage hosts to provide accurate details about their listing on the website. They also inspire guests to follow house rules and leave the apartment tidy. Before booking their stay a guest can read all of the reviews that have ever been left for the potential host.

Likewise when a host receives a booking request from a guest they can research what previous hosts have said about them.

The choice is yours- save a little cash and have a full home to yourself, but risk being disappointed by a misrepresented unit? Or stick traditional and deal with SXM’s current 100% occupancy rate and price increases? Whichever you choose for your next trip, our beautiful piece of paradise is ready and waiting for you to come and enjoy.
Thirsty Barons: So Much More Than Just a Sports Bar

Aristocrats roaming Simpson Bay in search of a drink will now find dehydration relief at Thirsty Barons, but luckily, commoners are welcome as well.

Traveling from the direction of the airport, Thirsty Barons Sports Bar and Grill is located right at the entrance of Simpson Bay. It occupies the upper level of the building shared with Pollos Hermanos and Beautique.

Walking up the stairs that are decorated with historic photos of St-Martin, you’ll encounter a modern restaurant that prides itself on the quality of their meals served.

Although they would be categorized as a steakhouse, Thirsty Barons is an all-encompassing destination that overlooks the lagoon and the end of the airport runway.

Just past the restaurant is lounge seating, high top tables, stadium VIP seating and, of course, elegant bar chairs. With over fifteen TVs on display, you can pretty well watch whatever sport you choose and depending on where you sit; more than one TV at once.

Of course, if you are hungry, you aren’t limited to steakhouse dining and prices. They offer a plethora of options, including typical bar food like mozzarella sticks and burgers, but with a twist. The Barons burger is to-die for, with a Johnny cake as the bun and top-notch angus beef.

The concept of a sports bar has been pushed up a few levels with Thirsty Barons; by offering a food menu on the fine side of steakhouse dining, in an urban and air-conditioned environment, this restaurant/bar fills a valuable niche in the island’s nightlife scene. There is only so much ‘sand-between-the-toes’ beach bar nightlife the average person enjoys.

Sometimes, air conditioning and city attire are a welcomed change for island residents and visitors alike. And non-smokers rejoice: inside this food mecca it is smoke-free.
Ital Festival in Emilio Wilson Park Sunday

Food consciousness, eating for health while safeguarding the earth, are foundational points of the clean food movement around the world.

One group that has been living by honoring the earth’s bounty and not taking the lives of her creatures for many moons are the Rastafarians. This group of conscious thinkers have built their lives around taking care of the environment and planting their own food using ancient method rather than chemicals and other additives.

On St. Maarten, leaders of the movement such as Roland “Ras Bushman” Joe, has been farming the hillside overlooking Bush Road for quite some time now. He has been sharing the Rasta principles of living in his talks, through the music of the Freedom Fighters Band and at the Ital Shack, the island’s main Ital restaurant.

Ras Bushman and the Freedom Fighters Foundation are taking yet another step in their drive to raise the consciousness in the community about good food with the first ever Ital Festival set for Emilio Wilson Historical and Cultural Park on Sunday, February 24, from 11 AM to 6 PM. Entrance is free!

What to expect at the festival? Wholesome clean food of numerous varieties. The goal is to present plant-based food dishes that are delicious, nutritious and pleasing to both the palate and the eyes. Often the thought of a meal without meat suggests tasteless or not flavorful. This is far from the truth as the Freedom Fighters Ital Shack has proven.

The festival will have vendors offering 100 percent Ital/vegan foods and drinks. Local gardeners and farmers will have their vegetables, herbs and fruits as well as other plants on sale at the festival. They will also happily give tips on growing your own kitchen gardens.

Ras Bushman said the festival is “all about positive-ness and sharing knowledge. If knowledge is not shared the people cannot prosper and there will be no consciousness in the people about what we are eating.”

Rastas have been talking about Ital for years now, he said. “Now, they make it vegan, but for me it’s the same thing.”

More than food, the Ital Festival will feature insights from activists in the field of farming, natural remedies, culture and heritage. Retired Police Major John Roumou is the first speaker on the program. He will share about island life in the olden days, how people lived and grow their food.

Tasheena Maccow Thomas of local company Tee-Zan is also a speaker. She will share how she select local herbs and leaves for her tea blends.

Joining the speakers’ line-up are Mervyn Butcher of the Livestock and Agriculture Inspection Department, and Ras Elijah, who is a farmer on Anguilla.

The speakers’ presentations will start at 1 PM and each will last about 20 minutes.
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

ACROSS
2 Buccaneer
6 From what island is Red Stripe beer?
7 Weed on beach
11 Single mast sailboat
16 Hurricane of 2014
17 Religious cult originating in Jamaica
18 What to create at Tijon?
19 Music of Dominican Republic
21 BBQ stand for which island’s airport?
23 Large sea snail
24 What is NAF?
25 Short for Royal Bank of Canada

DOWN
1 Moon changes sea level
2 To what country does St. Martin’s belong?
3 What to watch on Maho Beach?
4 Stops traffic in Simpson Bay
5 KLM flies from SXM to which airport?
8 Shrub in shallow salt water
9 Secondary boat on yacht
10 Local rum
11 Name of island chain
12 End of hurricane season
13 Bluewater fish
14 Cutting tool
15 Keeps a boat in place

Careful! This week’s crossword puzzle has a couple trick questions. 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 18
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
A Life Lived in Color Instead of Darkness
An Interview with ArtPark Artist: Christiane Lédon

Continued from Page 1

and backgrounds, communicating through a single language.”

She loved the vibe of our paradise and decided it needed to become her home; now calling it her “little paradise.” I echo her sentiment.

Christiane suffers from the disease, endometriosis. Wanting to give advice to fellow sufferers and provide hope, she wrote a book entitled ‘L’ Endométriose de l’Ombre à la Lumière’, or in English, ‘Endometriosis from Darkness to Brightness’.

“The painting is therapy,” she says. She uses her time with paintbrush to paper, to control and forget the pain she was experiencing; putting Christiane in her own universe filled with colors, water and the calming affect it has on her. Like most artists, she finds refuge when painting and can express her emotions, feelings and thoughts.

When she starts to paint, Christiane is a woman on a mission. She has a vision in mind that she wants to create; then plays with colors and whatever the subject is to fulfill her vision. Christiane draws inspiration from observing people walking and talking, and of course as majority of island dwellers- from water and nature.

Christiane is thrilled to be exhibiting her masterpieces at ArtPark, having done an exhibit just a few months ago at St-Martin’s West Indies Mall. She has created twenty-five special edition Heineken paintings to sell, ranging from $19 to $500 USD.

Watercolor is notoriously a difficult medium to work with, as it is hard to control. But for her, she found the opportunity to take control of something in her life when her illness hasn’t allowed that.

When the aquarelles dry, it is transformed and completely different than when she was painting on her canvas.

“I can create my own colors and do what I want to do. For example, a blue and pink sky- I can have five different colors between the two chosen colors, so I play until I get it right.” She also enjoys water-colors because this technique allows her to utilize different types of papers and canvases to paint on.

For you all in the service industry, we have our ‘Indistree Monday’ with 50 Eur off on our regular and VIP cabanas. This offer does not include a discount for daybeds or cabanillas.

www.trashetefarm.com

Every last Saturday of the month we have our famous, Treeshub Pool Party here from noon until 8 pm. For cabana/cabana and table reservations, please contact Samantha at sam@loteriefarm.com

Every last Saturday of the month, noon to 8 pm

C EST DANS NOTRE NATURE
POOL PARTY

21st

22nd

On June 22 at St. Thomas’s, the Deauville Derby

ART PARK

With a French and American clay pot, both Art Park’s special edition Heineken paintings will be sold.

Christiane wanted people to have a souvenir from the Regatta that could easily fit in their suitcase, so she specifically painted smaller pieces to accommodate travelers.

Of course, she has a studio filled with treasures, and will happily show you her larger collection. To purchase one of her special edition pieces or chat with her about other paintings, please visit the ArtPark next weekend at the Heineken Regatta Village.
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    - Lunch 12pm - 3pm
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    - Mondays CLOSED!
First Annual Caribbean Multihull Challenge
Continued from Page 1
By Leslie Hickerson

The first annual Caribbean Multihull Challenge (CMC), hosted by the St. Maarten Yacht Club, has been marked as a great success by it’s organizers, competitors, and spectators.

This regatta will now be a yearly race for sailing vessels with 2 or more hulls (catamarans and trimarans) held in St. Maarten/St-Martin at the beginning of February, just prior to the very popular Heineken Regatta.

Those that took part were enthusiastic about this first edition and very hopeful about the future of the CMC. Sailors and spectators spent February 8-10th, racing during the day and enjoying the evening parties hosted by Buccaneer Beach Bar, St. Maarten Yacht Club and Mount Gay Rum.

A combination of competitive racing for like-minded sailors and relaxing evenings with daily prize giving has already made next year’s Challenge a much-anticipated event.

“(The CMC) was long overdue and the right thing to do. Hopefully it’s the first of many and it attracts other multihulls to future editions.

We hope that the fleet grows and to continue to promote multihull sailing in St. Maarten, which is the perfect place for them to sail,” said Rodney Williams, captain of The Arawak, who competed in the first CMC.

With the Heineken Regatta so near, those that are not avid sailors might not understand the desire for a competition geared towards multihulls.

There are several things that separate these style boats from traditional monohulls. Racing them is simply different and having their own event made it possible to design the race to accommodate these distinctions.

Tailoring the CMC for multihulls involved several small changes that aren’t standard for regattas that include monohull boats. Things like the start of the race being a reaching or running start as well as a difference in the course route.

For those that sail multihull boats, these changes make the racing more competitive than in other events where sailboats have slight advantages.

Within the regatta itself the competition was broken down into classes (A, B, and C). These categories aim to group similar boats together to maintain an even playing field.

“In the classes they try as best possible to allocate similar boats into different classes to give everyone a fair chance. You are still sailing with handicaps within your class, so you are sailing with theoretical numbers behind you,” explained Williams.

These handicaps come from scientific calculations that include measurements from your boat and the weight, making the race as fair as possible. Each day these formulas are taken into account when naming the top performers.

The St. Maarten Yacht Club has produced an amazing event that will undoubtedly become a staple regatta for those competitive sailors looking for a multihull challenge. Several local groups participated in this year’s event and are grateful that it originated here, on our island.

“The ability to race home is a great advantage. We know the waters and the winds. As a tour we go out three or more times a week to sail and on our boat our crew is very experienced. Our oldest crew member is 70 years old and has lived on St. Maarten for 40 years,” said Francois Nel, a crewmember on board Arawak.

This year’s Challenge had many highlights, but the performance of those below set them apart from the rest of the competitors.

Results:
Class A Winner: Fujin
Class B Winner: Arawak
Class C Winner: Kidz at Sea
Most Worthy Performance: Fujin
Most Worthy Performance Sunday: Arawak
Style and Grace: Tryst
Furthest Traveled: Ineffable (Home Port: Hong Kong)
Sigma Defence Returns to Axum Art Café

This Saturday, February 23rd, enter the enchanting musical world of award-nominated singer, producer and all around entertainer; Sigma Defence, who will be performing live at the esteemed Axum Art Café on Front Street, Philipsburg. Sigma Defence will be presenting new singles from his project entitled, “Abandon Ship”.

The show promises to take the audience on a voyage into a new genre of sound; fusing Reggae, R&B, Rap, Soca and Soul.

Sigma Defence explores the power of love and mysteries of St. Maarten contemporary culture, through a band formed by acclaimed veterans- drummer Fred York, bassist Roelof Matthew; as well as up and coming DJ sensation- DJ Double D.

The show will also feature guest performances by General P.Y.E., Solo Kween, Tha HotShot and frequent Sigma Defence collaborator, Simpletune.

This star-studded event begins promptly at 9 PM at Axum Art Café on Front Street- close to the Coffee Lounge. Tickets are from $10 with bottle service starting at $50. More information can be found at:

www.axumartcafe.com

Sigma Defence

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Adventures in Sex and Dating in St. Maarten
A Regular Column by Leslie Hickerson

Some people just can’t handle the island. Living on St. Maarten makes it easy to party all night, every night. It takes a certain type of person decide to skip a night out or to just suffer and go to work anyway. The people that cannot act like adults for extended periods often become the subjects of these stories. This week is no exception.

Peter was a big party guy; he never turned down a shot or any other party substance for that matter. He had some how managed to lock down a lovely girl as a long-term partner. Carman had her own company, a nice apartment, and great potential—unlike poor Peter.

On Carman’s 30th birthday she and a large group of friends went out for the night. They rented a nice car, booked a restaurant and set up for a (classy) bender.

Apparently, Peter’s emotions stopped developing VERY early on because throughout the night he became jealous of the attention Carman was receiving. He drank more and more, got loud and obnoxious, and turned to harder substances to keep him going.

Finally, Carman decided she had to call it a night and take Peter home. On the drive, she told him that it was crap that she was the sober driver on her own birthday and that was the trigger little Peter was waiting on to throw an adult-sized tantrum.

Totally losing his cool, Peter screamed at Carman and started kicking the windshield of their rental car. He carried on so long that he busted the window out of its frame.

That was the last straw Carman needed to see the truth about what and who Peter was.

She used his credit card to pay for the damages on the car and packed his things, setting them outside on the curb.

Now she is doing great and engaged to a real man. We aren’t sure what happened to Peter, last time we saw him he still had the limp that came on after his party substances wore off.
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 18. Good Luck!

Easy

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LUNCH & DINNER

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INFO OR RESERVATION: 721.544.2440
Ballerina Jewelers Sponsors Swimming Competition
Continued from Page 1

A company supporting a swimming competition is doing much more than sponsoring a given sport. Because swimming is unique; it also is a survival skill, and there should not be one single person on a tiny island such as St. Maarten who can't swim.

Unfortunately, there are many, and this needs to change. Water is always close by, and a lot of well paying tourism-related jobs require competent swimming skills.

It's humans nature to turn any activity into a competition, and this is why learning to swim to not only stay afloat but also to be faster than your friends might motivate youngsters to really pick it up.

As a competitive sport, swimming takes considerable technique and fitness to cover distance fast. It is also considered one of the healthiest forms of exercise around, by providing an all-around workout.

It is vital that non-swimming parents provide access for their children to the courses available. Not taking advantage of the offerings, and not allowing children to acquire swimming skills, is almost as bad as not allowing them to learn to read and write.

Ballerina Jewelers sponsored the annual Ballerina Sweetheart Meet at the Carib Swim Team Pool in Cole Bay on Sunday, where 71 kids between the ages of 9 to 16 competed in four teams. The Super Splash team was the winner of the event. We salute our local entrepreneurs for making swimming more attractive and accessible to the broad population.

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Crossword Puzzle Solution

Sudoku Solutions:

Easy: 7 3 2 6 9 4 8 1 5 6 4 8 5 7 1 2 9 3 9 1 5 8 2 3 4 6 7 1 8 7 3 2 9 5 4 3 5 9 1 4 8 6 7 8 2 4 0 6 3 1 8 6 2 5 4 8 9 7 6 0 1 8 7 5 3 6 1 2 9 4 3 7 2 6 9 4 7 5 7 3

Medium: 4 8 3 7 5 9 6 8 1 2 6 9 1 7 2 8 4 2 1 9 3 8 5 6 7 5 7 2 8 3 9 6 1 4 8 4 6 1 9 1 5 3 8 7 2 5 1 4 9 6 8 3 7 1 3 8 4 5 2 6 9

Difficult: 8 6 4 1 3 5 2 7 9 2 1 7 9 4 2 8 6 5 9 2 8 7 1 4 3 5 3 9 6 5 4 2 7 8 1 4 7 2 9 8 7 5 4 6 4 5 8 7 6 9 2 3 1 6 3 2 1 8 0 5 9

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