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**FREE**

# St-Barth WEEKLY



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From March 9

# When Is A Palm Tree Not A Palm Tree?

Splendor Solis, an  
exhibit of work by  
Douglas White  
organized by  
Art St Barth  
at Eden Rock Gallery.

Frangipani  
Pointe à Pitre, Saint-Barthélemy

# FENCES ON THE BEACH IN ST JEAN?

Civil aviation has requested that the prolongation of the runway in St Jean be protected to avoid future accidents.

The bay of Saint Jean looks decidedly different, with a series of red balls popping up to delineate the prolongation of the runway at the airport. These two lines of bright red buoys, that extend almost 500 feet past the end of the runway, were installed by Collectivity on Saturday, February 22, to help meet Civil Aviation's demands for security. In the same way that metal fencing was placed to prevent climbing on the hillside behind La Tourmente following an accident there on January 24, when a photographer standing below the cross on the hillside fell to the ground when he was grazed by the wheel of a plane coming in for a landing. As required, that incident was reported to the Bureau of Inquiries

and Analyses (BEA), and recalled another incident in August 2008, in which an American tourist taking pictures on the beach at the end of the runway was hit by the wheel of a plane taking off. Seriously injured, he was evacuated for medical treatment. The BEA had already formulated recommendations concerning securing the extension of the runway in Saint Barth.

Recently, the Civil Aviation security office wrote a letter requesting that Gustave III Airport in St Jean immediately put security measures into place for the protection surveillance of the zone, to prohibit intrusions. And in the meantime, temporary, but urgent and effective measures have put into place.

Among the measures instituted by the Collectivity include the lines of buoys that run 500' in the bay, to meet a prefectural decree concerning dating from 1982.

Concerning security on the beach, the Collectivity envisions the installation of two fences, one-meter high, running right into the water on either side of the runway to ensure that people do not penetrate that zone. "Will these fences serve as sustainable measures of security? Is it possible to protect the site with surveillance cameras and motion detectors," asks Fabrice Danet, the director of the airport. Good questions as someone had already taken the red buoys out of the water and put them on the beach.



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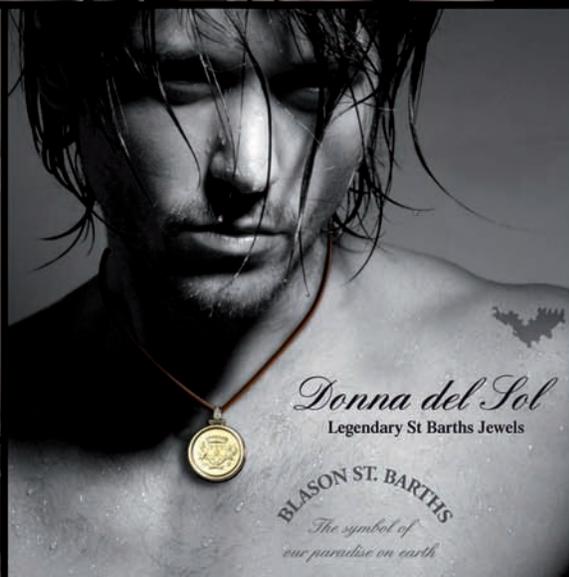
## 38 BOATS IN BUCKET SO FAR

**T**he Saint Barth Bucket will once again take place the last weekend of March, with races on Friday, March 28 through Sunday, March 31. To date, 38 boats have registered for this exceptional event reserved for sailboats over 100' in length. Among these, Adela, a 182' Dykstra-designed schooner, built by Pendennis, winner of last year's Bucket. At 216', the largest yacht in the fleet so far is Hetairos, followed by the 190' Perini Navi Seahawk. The Bucket boats are divided into four classes: Les Gazelles des Mers, Les Elégantes des Mers, Les Mademoiselles des Mers, and Les Grandes Dames des Mers, but none of the fabulous



J-Class boats are returning. Each year, the Bucket organizers make a major donation to a worthy project or association in Saint Barth.

In 2014 the beneficiary will be the Ecole Saint-Joseph in Lorient, for their building project of improving facilities for students.



# 3 SWEDISH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DISCOVER SAINT BARTH

**E**ma, Charlotte, and Linus are 18 year-old high school students from Trelleborg, Sweden, the hometown of Bertil Larsson, president of the Marius Stakelborough Foundation. Invited by the Foundation, these three students came to Saint Barth for the first time during the last week of February with an eye toward discovering the former overseas possession of the

Swedish crown. As part of their studies, they will make a report on their trip when they return to Trelleborg. While on the island, Charlotte, Ema, and Linus met with various Nils Dufau, vice president of the Collectivity and president of the Saint Barth Friends of Sweden Association, Dantes Magras, honorary consul of Sweden for the Northern Islands, the teachers at Mireille



*The Marius Stakelborough Foundation invited Ema, Charlotte, and Linus, high school students from Trelleborg, Sweden, to Saint Barth. Seen here at Le Select, with Marius Stakelborough, Bertil Larsson, and Tom Magnusson*

Choisy Junior High, and of course they paid a visit to Marius at Le Select. By the end of the week, our three explorers had cheeks tinted by the sun and heads full of lessons about the history of the island, from the days of King Gustave III to the modern era, by way of the economic boom that was spurred by luxury tourism. But the other edge of the sword is that the attractiveness of Saint Barth provoked an increase in prices across the board, on an island where prices were already high due to the difficulties of transportation. Not to mention rents, which increase faster than salaries, as our students learned. Other difficulties for families include sending their children off island for high school and university, even if that departure allows them to “discover the outside world,” as was noted. These visitors

from Sweden also were made aware of the environmental issues on the island, and the threats to nature caused by economic development and the proliferation of vehicles on the island, as well as the choice of burning diesel fuel to create electricity for the island, and that solar energy is not economically viable due to the cost per square meter, and the future of wind turbines on islet Coco is not confirmed. In a certain way, “Trelleborg is similar to Saint Barth,” remarks, Tom Magnusson, who accompanied them to the island. “It’s a small town that the young people have to leave to continue their studies in the North of Sweden,” he explains. The three students finally understood that “if Saint Barth is at risk, it’s because it is a victim of its own success. A considerable risk,” observes Magnusson.

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*La Plage.*

## SAINT-BARTH ESSENTIEL PHOTO COMPETITION

**F**or the 4th consecutive year, the non-profit organization Saint-Barth Essentiel is holding a photo competition open to everyone. The theme this year: “Cultural Heritage and Natural Heritage of Saint-Barthélemy: Intertwined Relationships.” This is a variation of the theme “Cultural Heritage, Natural Heritage,” as announced for the 2014 European Heritage Days, scheduled for next September. The goal of the competition is to illustrate “how our natural and cultural heritage interact to form a cultural landscape, consisting of the combined efforts of man and nature, expressing a long and intimate relationship of the population with its environment.” The participants are also invited to look into traditional techniques and knowledge “that reflect this her-

itage in a natural environment.”

To participate, send an email to [stbarthessentiel@yahoo.fr](mailto:stbarthessentiel@yahoo.fr) to receive the rules of the competition as well as the registration form, which should be completed, signed, and returned. Each participant should submit one or more photos (three maximum) accompanied by a caption that explains each image (the association can help you edit your images if need be). NOTE: The captions are obligatory and photos will not be considered without them. The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2014. To send by email send to: [stbarthessentiel@yahoo.fr](mailto:stbarthessentiel@yahoo.fr); via the post office: Association St Barth Essentiel, BP 1032, 97012 Saint-Barthélemy cedex. Submissions can also be dropped off at the tourist office in Gustavia.



*The winner of last year's St Barth Essentiel photo competition was Bruno Dreyer whose magnificent image of a tropicbird unaniously wowed the jury called upon to judge 37 photos evoking the "wild fauna of Saint-Barthélemy.»*

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Alain Le Chatelier



# When Is A Palm Tree Not A Palm Tree?



In a sense, Douglas White—an artist born in 1977—is an alchemist. And the title of his exhibit at Eden Rock Gallery through March 9, *Splendor Solis* (The Splendor of the Sun), is a reference to a book used by 16th-century alchemists who tried to turn lead into gold. The association Art St Barth, run by Jenny Mannerheim and Philippe Combres, invited this British

artist, who changes society's discarded materials into art, to enjoy a residency on the island. His work includes a deceptive palm tree made of old truck tires that has taken root in the garden at the Eden Rock hotel. "This is not a tree," one might say in paraphrasing the surrealist painter René Magritte. Yet a few pigeons have built a nest there for their cute little fledglings...and the mother is doing just fine. These nestlings charm Douglas White, whose work embraces the intersection of nature and man. His other work at Eden Rock Gallery includes a series of ink drawings made with... squid. The artist soaked the squid in its own ink to perme-

ate the canvas, with nature providing all the elements to create beautiful arabesques. Another of his techniques is to imprint veins and ribs in pieces of wood by using an electrical charge with an extremely high voltage. Art St Barth has also published a book about the artist in conjunction with his exhibit at Eden Rock.

*Splendor Solis: an exhibit of work by Douglas White organized by Art St Barth at Eden Rock Gallery in Saint Jean. Opening reception, Sunday, March 9 at 6pm. The exhibit runs through the end of April.*



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# GENE ROBINSON: A VOICE OF REASON

By Ellen Lampert-Gréaux  
Photo: Rosemond Gréaux

**A** man of conviction, Gene Robinson was the Episcopal bishop for the diocese of New Hampshire from 2004 to 2013, but his tenure was not without controversy. Known as the first priest in an openly gay relationship to be consecrated a bishop in a major Christian denomination, Robinson sparked a split in the Episcopal Church that caused 100,000 of its more than 2 million members to leave and form an Anglican branch in the US. “They had issues with the ordaining of women as Episcopal clergy as well as a gay bishop,” says Robinson, on vacation in Saint Barth for the 32nd consecutive year. “Those who left are not really Anglicans as they are not in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury,

and many of them have already come back,” he adds. And even the Anglican Church in the UK has embraced change, as Robinson will be going to Washington DC at the end of the month to join the UK ambassador in a celebration of marriage equality in England and Wales, while the Episcopal Church in the States now has a second openly gay bishop in Los Angeles and the clergy is now open to transgender people as well.

Robinson first came to Saint Barth in 1983. At that time, a priest from the diocese of New Hampshire, which encompasses 47 congregations across the entire state, served the island’s Anglican parish. “He was here from December through April each year,” notes Robinson. “When he stopped com-



ing he called upon a number of us, and I came for three weeks around Lent, and never stopped coming on vacation.” Robinson has found, even all these years later, that “the essence of the island endures. There has always been a casual acceptance of everyone, which is unusual in the Caribbean. And the beauty of the island remains of course,” he adds. “It appears that everyone has benefitted from the economic boom, and while some people may still live modestly, there is not a great disparity between great wealth and poverty. It’s a pretty wonderful place that feels more European than Caribbean.”

Although officially

retired as bishop, Robinson maintains a voice and vote in the House of Bishops and is a senior fellow at the Center For American Progress, a think tank in Washington, DC. “We think about national security, genocide, poverty, LGBT issues, questions of faith. I am ostensibly a religious person working for a liberal think tank, providing a moral voice to the issues facing mankind,” says Robinson, who is on the forefront of progressive thinking. It makes great sense, then, that one of his inspirations and role models is Mahatma Gandhi. “There is a life-size statue of Gandhi in Washington DC,” Robinson notes. “I like to meditate with him.”

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# Carnival 2014

**MASTHEAD**

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*For additional information contact your rental agency.*






## Classified ads

complex set above Gustavia with amazing views over the harbor and beyond to St Martin and the sunset. The complex offers a community pool and is within walking distance to restaurants, boutiques and Shell Beach. Offered at € 1,990,000. St. Barth Properties Sotheby's International Realty: 0590 29 75 05

For sale, property situated on the hillside in Vitet is set in a lush tropical garden. It features three bedrooms, three baths with pool and gazebo. Two additional bedrooms and one bath are located on

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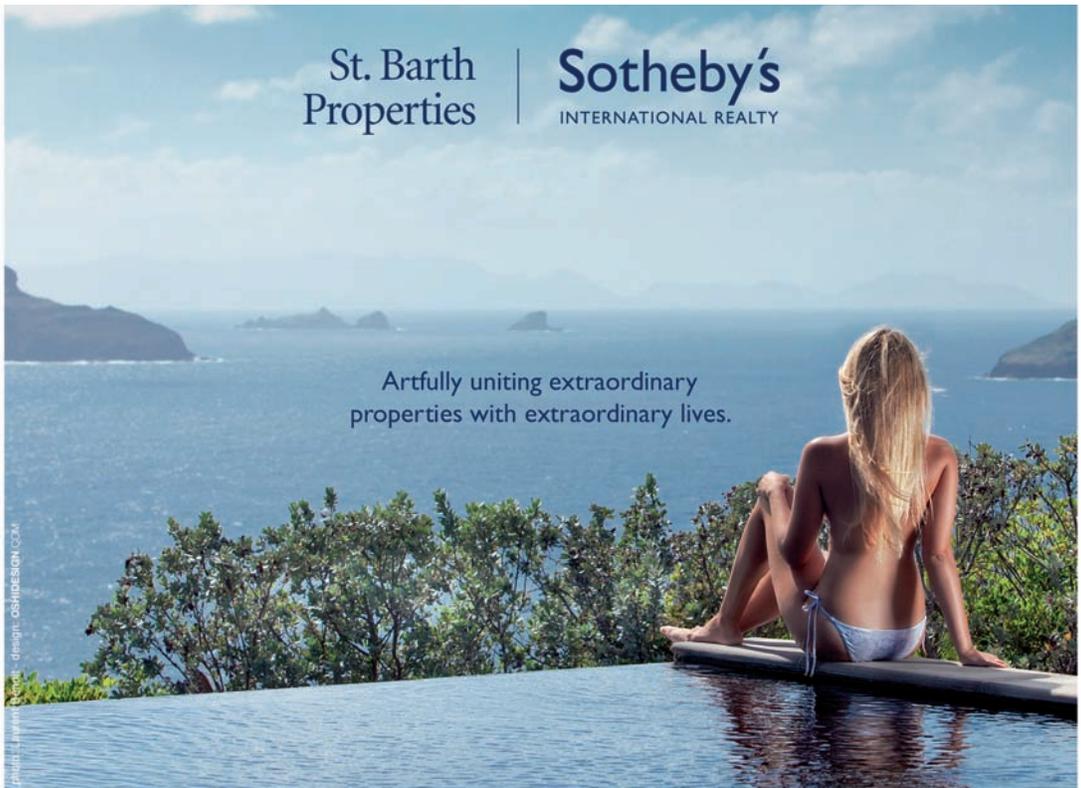
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