

N°432 - December 16, 2020

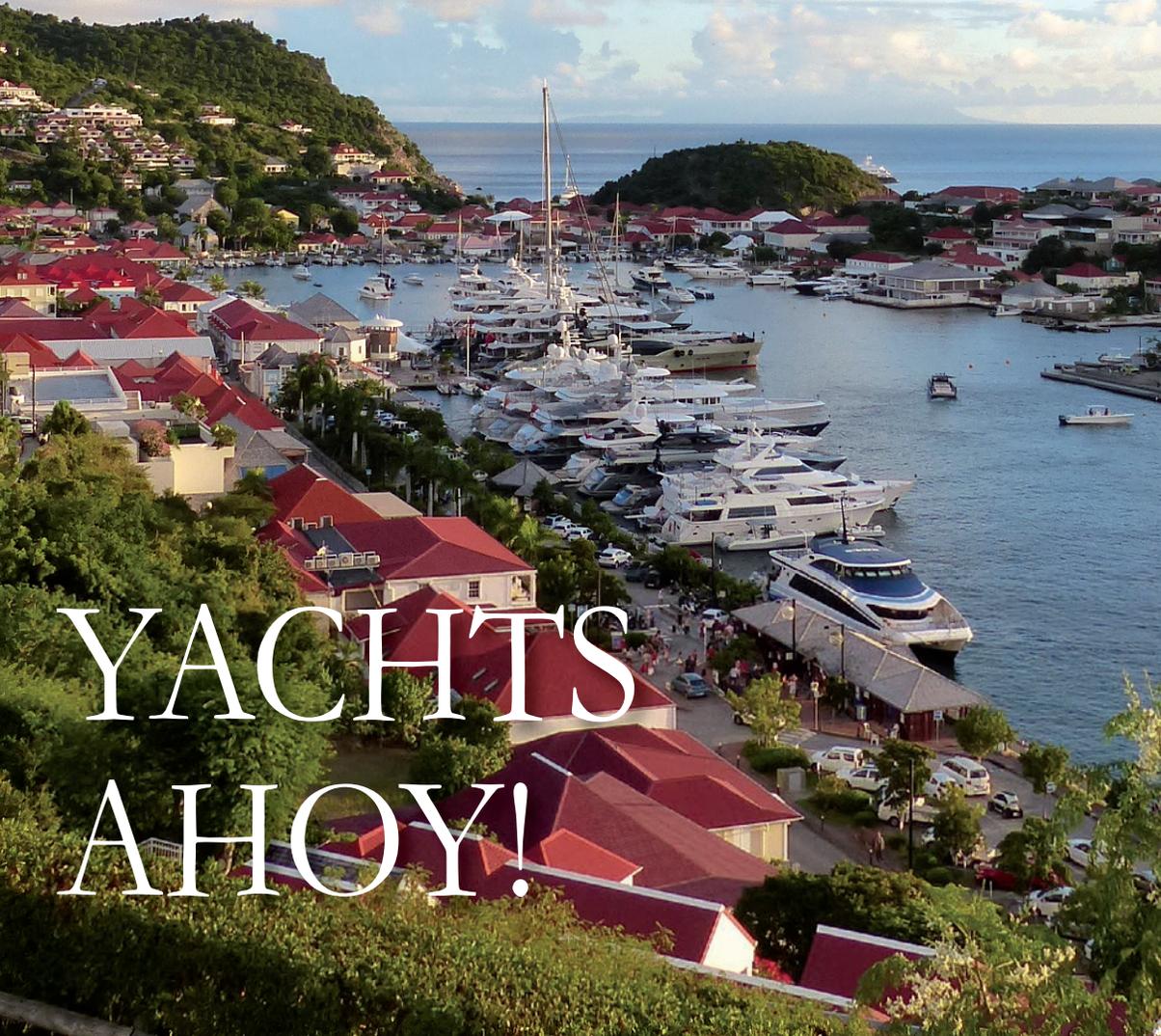


St-Barth WEEKLY

*Local News
in English*

FREE

Published by Le Journal de Saint-Barth
stbarthweekly@wanadoo.fr



YACHTS AHOY!



GYPSIES ALL

I guess many of us have a gypsy streak, especially those of us who have wandered the world, and settled down on a small tropical island far from home, traveling by Cessna Caravan rather than the beautiful wooden gypsy caravans of yore. And many of us are also bohemian by nature, that is to say unconventional and artsy. Here is Saint Barth, the gypsy theme and bohemian devil-may-care ambiance are the new chic, in an upscale setting.

In time for the holidays, a new restaurant called Gyp Sea is opening on the beach in Saint Jean, near a place that used to be called 'the camp,' before it was Camp David, and when bohemian was a real lifestyle. Gyp Sea, with its bbq-based menu and laidback vibe hopes to capture that special feeling, redefining the jet set as the gypset. Also into this vibe is Manapany with its Gypset parties on Friday nights, with live music in a boho-beach environment. Even with today's social distancing rules, wearing of masks, and sitting only six at a table, Saint Barth is indeed a world apart, providing a backdrop for the tribe to meet on a sun-dappled afternoon or a moonlight evening.

Also opening this week is Le Sereno, a luxury hotel on the lagoon in Grand-Cul-de-Sac with a bigger spa and two new pool suites among recent improvements. Its waterfront locale is molto bene for its Al Mare Italian restaurant.

And fingers crossed that the Rockefeller property in Colombier will be properly restored, not destroyed, with details on that in this issue of the weekly, along with some covid updates, a look at the local art scene, and other island news.

Enjoy the holidays, find your gypsy vibe, and above all, respect the rules and stay safe!

Ellen Lampert-Gréaux

Eight New Cases Of Covid Last Week

Eleven residents of Saint Barthélemy discovered they were positive for coronavirus last week (November 30 to December 6), but only eight of them were tested on the island. The rate of positivity is 3.6%, compared to 4.8% the preceding week, which saw 13 new cases (including one off island). "The epidemiological

surveillance indicators confirm a decrease in the circulation of the virus as previously registered," comments Santé Publique France. Since August 3, two patients from Saint Barthélemy were medically evacuated and hospitalized. The island has registered one death due to the pandemic since it began last February.

USA Considers Saint Martin High Risk; Saint Barth Moderate Risk

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has put Saint Martin and Sint Maarten at risk level 4, the highest level. Saint Barthélemy has gone down to level 2, or moderate risk. Surprising changes based on the evolution of the epidemic in the islands.

On November 21, the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) reviewed their classification for the Northern Islands. Until that date, the islands of Saint Barth and Saint Martin were both considered high-risk, or level 3, in terms of the presence of the coronavirus Covid-19.

The CDC has lowered the island of Saint Barthélemy to risk level 2, or moderate. Yet on November 21, the presence of the virus, while low, had never been as high on this island. Both Sint-Maarten and Saint Martin were raised to

level 4, or "very high" risk. "All travel to Saint Martin and Sint Maarten should be avoided," notes the CDC, while for Saint Barth, the advice is to avoid "non-essential travel."

These modifications are surprising as of November 21 there were 33 active cases in Saint Barthélemy, 78 active cases in Saint Martin, and 81 in Sint Maarten. Proportionally to the size of the population, the virus was more active on our island than on the neighboring island...

These levels of risk are important since according to where they are returning from, American residents face varying regulations (tests, quarantine...) that differ from state to state. Not to mention the status of the islands as far as tourists are concerned. As of December 12, the risk levels remained the same.

News Briefs

**Christmas Village Open,
New Year's Eve A Question Mark**

There are fewer special events than in past years due to the pandemic, but the Christmas Village is set up on the main dock in Gustavia with lots of gifts for the holidays, with shopping possible the weekend of December 18-20, opening at 5pm. As for New Year's Eve, it has not yet been announced if the Collectivity, concerned about the spread of coronavirus, has decided to organize a concert on the dock or not.

Hanukah On The Dock

The Jewish community of Saint Barth celebrates Hanukah 2020 on the main dock in Gustavia with the traditional menorah lighting on Thursday, December 17 at 6pm. Rabbi Yitzchock Gurewitsch from the Chabad of St Barth leads the celebration with holiday refreshments.

**Gyp Sea Beach Opened
December 15**

The new restaurant in Saint Jean, Gyp Sea Beach, opened its doors on Tuesday, December 15. Designed by Villa Marie, the mood is relaxed and bohemian. Start with a cold drink and codfish fritters, while main courses range from lobster, local fish, and meat on the grill to pasta dishes. The menu includes classic island cuisine (at typical island prices) for a feet-in-the-sand meal on the popular beach in Saint Jean. The bar evokes a "festive without being overwhelming" ambiance with a DJ, delicious rum specialties, and a selection of cigars. There is also a boutique, plus chaise lounges, pillows, and beach beds for rent. Additional information at www.gypsea-beach.com

**St Barth On Condé Nast Traveler
2021 Gold List**

Condé Nast Traveler editors have created their annual list of their favorite places from around the globe, with an eye on where to go considering current restrictions. St Barth made the list with editor Rebecca Misner citing "its hike-in private coves and low-lit restaurants tucked into an alley in Gustavia or facing a silver-pink sea on Saline Beach at sunset," as "beyond romantic."

Gypset Soirees at Manapany



For those who are nostalgic for the "old" Saint Barth and those seeking a sophisticated ambiance right on the sand, Manapany organizes a Gypset soiree every Friday evening, around braziers for a "campfire" feeling. The party gets started with a Ti-punch & accras, followed by a barbecue prepared by chef Anthony accompanied by a musical or artistic interlude. And a peek at the clothes from the Wild Side St Barth boutique modeled by the "Gypset girls."

PRIVATE HOLIDAY SHOPPING
Space Gallery St Barth

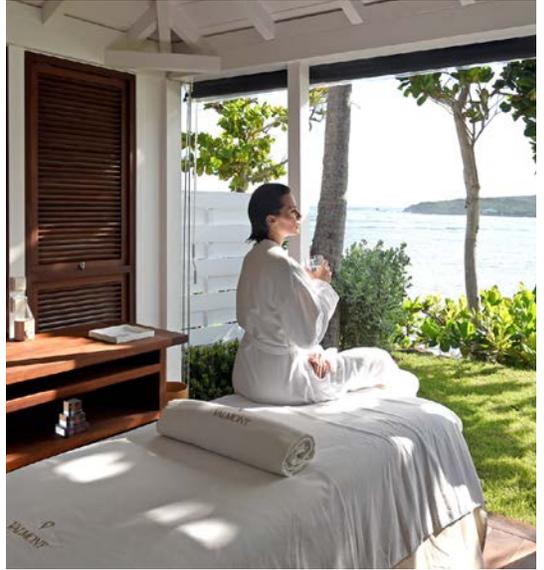
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CHOOSE A MORNING COFFEE APPOINTMENT OR AN AFTERNOON
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space ST BARTH
SOHO
contemporary art gallery

Le Sereno Opens Fully Booked on December 17



This hotel on the lagoon in Grand-Cul-de-Sac took advantage of being closed since March due to the pandemic to do a few renovations. The spa has been enlarged and there are two new “pool suites.” The hotel opens fully booked.

After being closed for over nine months, Le Sereno welcomes its first guests on December 17 to its 40 rooms, suites, and luxury villas. “We could have opened earlier,” notes Luis Contreras, owner of the hotel, “but we decided to make a few modifications.” There is a big change at the spa, which is now larger on the interior as well as the exterior, and there are improvements in terms of treatments. “Our new spa is bigger with an incredible view of the sea. We also took this time to better adapt some of our treatments to Saint Barth in collaboration with Valmont, the Swiss brand that specializes in body care. We work with them at our hotel on Lake Como, but the two are very different. One is tropical, the other is at a higher alti-

tude,” Contreras points out. Return clients will feel right at home, as the owner says with a playful smile, quipping a French axiom: “The more things change, the more they stay the same!” He feels that regular guests will not mind as the changes are in keeping with the spirit of Le Sereno, that is to say, understated.

Also added to the hotel in Grand-Cul-de-Sac, which is already fully booked for the 2020/2021 holiday season, are the two new suites with heated pools and unobstructed views of the lagoon. At the Ristorante Al Mare, starred chef Raffaele Lenzi, who also runs the kitchens at Lake Como, has created a lovely menu like the one in Italy but adapted to Saint Barth, where he uses local ingredients as much as possible.

The past few years have not been easy for Le Sereno, which, like the other luxury hotels on the island, was almost destroyed by hurricane Irma, causing them to rebuild from the ground up. “With my family,

we decided to demolish it all and rebuild almost identically,” recalls Contreras, with an air of melancholy. Then after all that careful work, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the entire world and slowed down the global economy. But Contreras, who bought the hotel in 2002 and opened it in 2006, is ready to face the situation: “We have no problem respecting sanitary protocols and in particular the measures of social distancing. The tables in our restaurant are spaced farther than one meter apart. We will use all the space at our disposition to best adapt.” The entire staff is ready to make this reopening a big success. 2020 was “a terrible year for the entire tourism industry, but we are happy to be able to once again welcome our clients to Le Sereno now that we are ready to open our doors, and we look forward to 2021, which promises to be full of new experiences,” adds Samy Ghachem, general director of the Sereno hotels.

Text : Antoine C.-R.

Photos : Le Sereno / JP Piter

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Swimming pool | Nature | Vegetable garden



Private Villa | Marigot

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Saint Barth, A Springboard For Talented Artists

The painters, sculptors, and photographers that belong to the association, Artists of Saint Barth, are selling well, in spite of the current health and economic crisis. Their success is due to the upscale décor trend on the island as well as discerning visitors interested in art.

Stainless steel sculptures by Jean Martin, palm trees by Michael Doudeau, paintings by Dominique Le Grand Philouze, ceramics by Igor Couston, or photographs of shells by Laurent Benoit. Artwork made in Saint Barth is selling, Covid or not. “We are selling one piece per day at the moment,” confides Emmanuel Leprince, director of the association Artists of Saint Barth. He links this success to two factors: “The quality of the workmanship and thus the art created here, as well as the large number of villas in Saint Barth.” To present a work of art on the white wall of a fabulous villa is much better than in the reception area of a cultural center or at a traffic circle, for example... Most of the buyers are owners of villas, in Saint Barth or in the United States, who want to adorn their beautiful homes with local art.

The largest exporter on the island? “Today, along with Ligne St Barth, we are perhaps the largest exporter on the island. Thanks to the villas, but also the hotels, which allowed us through Art Parties and Art Week, to showcase the work of our artists. Without forgetting Pati in Saint Jean! This springboard is indispensable as this visibility makes it possible for us to sell art,” says Leprince. Saint



Ceramics by Igor Couston

Barth is in the process of creating its own artistic trend: the works that sell best are simple, with clean lines. The accent is put on texture and materials, as well as simplicity. “We thought a lot about this during the lockdown, and can quality the Saint Barth style as brute elegance.”

Emmanuel Leprince sees this success as “a new string in the bow of Saint Barth.” As Nils Dufau, president of the Tourism Committee stated last year, “other than the beaches and the restaurants, art



Stainless steel sculptures by Jean Martin

can be another point of attraction for upscale visitors.”

The goal of the association, Artists of Saint Barth, is to help artists develop and hopefully earn their living through their art. The association has one employee, but is non-profit. This year the Art Parties, which attract as many as 300 people, are most likely not feasible. But the third edition of Art Week, a week of exhibits in island hotels, could be held in 2021 based on the evolution of the pandemic situation.



Pool photos by Sabrina Bruhwiler

News Briefs

Perfection at Space Gallery with Giorgio Pasqualetti

Precision and perfection are definitely words that could be used to describe the colourful canvases of Giorgio Pasqualetti. This Italian artist is a new addition to the gallery's main line-up, and he has quickly become a hot and popular fixture. His paintings have gained a host of international collectors and press alike. Known for his geometric interpretations of landscapes and architecture, the artist communicates his

Art Hunter: A True Ali Baba's Cave



Art Hunter, the gallery run by collector Philippe Bosio, has moved to the far side of the port. Located on Rue Jeanne d'Arc in the Entrepont building, Art Hunter has a new collection featuring works by Lucio Fontana, Picasso, Braque, and Chagall and Andy Warhol, tapestries by Fernand Leger, as well as works Aztec, Mayan, and Asian antiques, and modern Art Deco. In addition, this year Art Hunter represents a prime range of wines from Argentina. Galerie Modernisme, Bosio's original gallery at the bottom of the hill in Camaruche, with its life-size white bull at the entrance, remains open with collections of important pieces by major artists as well as antique maps and antiques.

Art Hunter, Rue Jeanne d'Arc - Gustavia (next to Kunigawa restaurant).



visions through precisely constructed forms and shapes. An understanding and mastery of color is another signature trait of the artist. His paintings are exquisite studies and variations of color to translate the world he sees around him. Meticulously executed, his paintings have a deceptive simplicity. They are understated and ooze elegance and pure European sophistication. His work is on view at the gallery now as part of a group exhibition including some of his petite pieces perfect for those wishing to start discovering the artist as well as pieces from his St Barth-inspired collection. Giorgio Pasqualetti is definitely an artist to watch.

*Space Gallery
Carre d'Or - Gustavia just behind Hermes.
Visit daily from 10am-7pm*



St Bartholomew's Anglican Church
Gustavia

Christmas Services

Thursday 24th December 2020

We are sorry to announce that this year, due to Covid-19, we have cancelled our Christmas Eve Carol Service. Instead, you can watch our 'virtual' Carol Service on the Church's YouTube Channel (uploaded on the 24th).



Friday 25th December 2020
Christmas Day Family Service in the Church : 9am - 10am

Sunday 27th December 2020
Morning Prayer in the Church : 9am - 10am

www.stbartholmewsanglicanchurch.com

MASTHEAD

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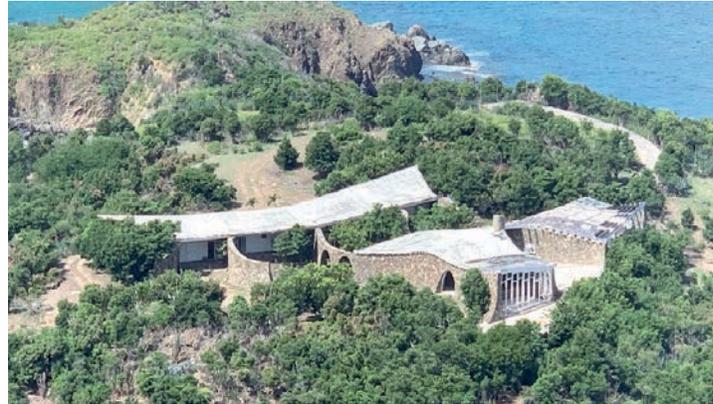
The Rockefeller Property In Colombier: Individual Consideration On The New Planning Map

This remarkable property is steeped in island history. The house once belonging to David Rockefeller, that overlooks the bay of Colombier and sits in the middle of a large undeveloped property, is the object of individual consideration when it comes to the new planning map that was recently adopted.

The Rockefeller property, with its special relationship to Saint Barthélemy, will be treated as a separate item on the new planning map, addressing the current situation: the house has historic and architectural elements worth preserving. But it has been abandoned and become dilapidated over the years as well as damaged by hurricanes.

Avoid Total Ruin

“The Collectivity puts great importance on the maintenance and restoration of the former Rockefeller villa, and plans to do the maximum to avoid its total ruin,” as is written in the presentational report for the planning map. It will be necessary to “allow a limited augmentation of the possibilities to build, without which, it is difficult



A buyer for the property will be obliged to renovate the villa and can only modify the interior. In exchange, it will be possible to add a building and a pool, but with specific architectural constraints.

to envision, from a financial point of view, the renovation of the main building.” With this in mind, the Collectivity requested that the Territorial Environmental Agency provide a more precise analysis of the site where the Rockefeller villa was built.

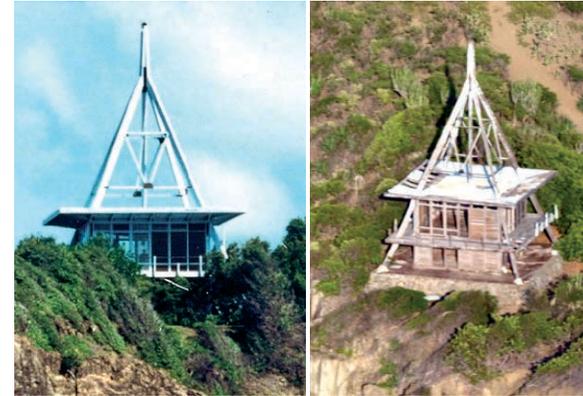
The specialists at the ATE found that around the house and what is left of the tipi there are large examples of local species of trees, such as gommiers, amarres creoles, and gaïacs, but the overall property looks “more like an abandoned

garden than what one would find in a natural setting.” Only a few special specimens, such as a Turk’s Head cactus, cannot be moved. As far as fauna is concerned, nothing to be concerned about: just some goats and colonies of chickens that peck at the ground, but no indigenous animals from Saint Barth live specifically on the site. Pailles-en-queue (tropicbirds) are visible as they nest on the cliffs below. All of this opens the door for limited development of the property. The northern point (across from the villa on the other side of the beach in Colombier) remains in a green zone with the highest level of protection.

The restoration of the villa designed by architect Nelson W. Aldrich will be particularly scrutinized. The exterior, the courtyard, and the terrace must remain identical, with the only change being the possibility to add openings on the northern facade of the building. The interior can be redesigned. Any new construction must respect the spirit and style of the existing building. A wonderful challenge for an architect!



The northern façade of the building designed by architect Nelson W. Aldrich, its terrace with an unparalleled view over the bay of Colombier, and the interior. The house has been damaged over time, and hurricanes Luis and Irma accelerated its deterioration.



The original tipi, and its condition after Luis; Irma completed the destruction of this curious structure built by Rockefeller for his guests.

A LITTLE HISTORY

David Rockefeller, who was chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank (now JP Morgan Chase) built his villa in Saint Barth in the late 1950s. If wealthy Americans liked to reside on Caribbean islands, this financier was the first to unpack his bags in Saint Barth. He bought three properties on the island for very little money, including the land in Colombier for \$32,000 from the Gréaux family; a second piece of land in Marigot, and a third in Gouverneur for \$25,000 dollars from the Brin family, which today is the property belonging to Roman Abramovich. In 1957, when the world-renowned banker bought the point of Colombier, there was no electricity, and no road. The first electric plant was built in 1962. Most of the local men left to earn their living elsewhere. The entire population numbered about 2,000 people who lived in poor conditions. The construction of the villa in Colombier provided work for many on the island. Rockefeller brought his guests and his materials by boat, from the Quai Rockefeller in Gustavia, recently bought by the Collectivity, right to the dock behind his villa in the little bay of Gros Jean.

David Rockefeller was appreciated for his simplicity and ease of contact with the locals. He only visited for about two weeks every year with his wife, but in his wake came other wealthy Americans in search of the sun, then the first hotel opened on the island—Eden Rock built by Remy de Haenen—and the island slowly developed into the luxury destination it is today.

In 1983, Rockefeller sold his property to a businessman who planned to build a hotel, but without success. It was then sold to the Horn family, who still own it today. David Rockefeller passed away in 2017.

Sports For Kids On Vacation

During the Christmas holidays, there are a lot of local sports clubs that organize activities for kids.

Nautical Activities

The Nautical Center of Saint Barth and Carib-Waterplay offer various nautical activities. From 8:30am to noon, they host kids starting at age 7 in the bay of Saint Jean for a wide choice of nautical sports: windsurfing, kayak, paddle board, surfing, etc. Four days starting at 130€: Session 1, Monday December 21 to Thursday, December 24; Session 2, Monday, December 28 to Thursday, December 31. Places are limited. Information and registration at 06.65.95.43.52 or via email at contact@caribwaterplay.com

Swimming

The swimming instructors at the territorial pool offer two one-week sessions over the holidays for kids four years and older: Monday December 21 to Thursday, December 24 and Monday, December 28 to Thursday, December 31. Schedule: 8:30am kids arrive; 9am–10am classes from beginner to expert; snacks; 10:15–11:30am free play; 11:45am end of session. Information and registration at 0590.27.60.96

Sailing

The Saint-Barth Yacht Club organizes two sailing programs during Christmas vacation: Monday, December 21 to Thursday, December 24 (120€), and Monday, December 28 to Wednesday, December 30 (110€). ‘Jardin des mers’ for 5 to 6 year olds, mornings and afternoons; Optimist for 7 to 11 year olds, mornings; and RS Féva for 11 years and older in the afternoons. The registration form can be downloaded from the SBYC website (stbarthyachtclub.com) and submitted via email to moniteurs.sbyc@gmail.com

Tennis

The Saint-Barth Tennis Club offers two kids programs during the holidays, from Monday, December 21 to Friday, December 25 from 2pm–5pm, or Monday, December 28 to Friday, January 1st from 2pm–5pm. The fee is 125€ for 5 half-days or 30€ per half-day session. Advance registration required at the tennis club before the first day.

GASTRONOMY

Gustavia

Bagatelle	05.90.27.51.51
Bar de l'Oubli	05.90.27.70.06
Bête à Z' Ailes (BAZ Bar)	05 90 29 74 09
Black Ginger	05.90.29.21.03
Bonito	05.90.27.96.96
Café Gloriette	05.90.27.13.71
Casa	05.90.27.63.77
Eddy's Restaurant	05.90.27 54 17
Fouquet's Saint-Barth (Carl Gustaf)	05.90.29 79 35
Fish Corner	05.90.51.36.33
Kinugawa	05 90.51.13.55
L'Entracte	05.90.27.70.11
L'Isola Ristorante	05.90.51.00.05
L'Isoletta	05.90.52.02.02
La Crêperie	05 90 27 84 07
La Cantina	05.90.27.55.66
La Guerite	05.90.27.71.83
Le Repaire	05.90.27 72 48
Orega	05.90.52.45.31
QG	05.90.87.41.36
Quarter Kitchen & Cocktail Lab	05.90.27.51.82
Shellona	05.90.29 06 66
Victoria	05.90.27.73.00

Flamand

La Case (Cheval Blanc)	05.90 27 61 81
La Cabane (Cheval Blanc)	05.90 27 61 81
La Langouste	05.90.27.63.61
Shatira	05.90.27.68.67
Chez Rolande	05.90.27.51.42

Corssol

Le Régal	05.90.27 85 26
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Colombier

Les Bananiers	05.90.27.93.48
François Plantation (Villa Marie)	05.90.77.52.52

Anse des Cayes

Chez Yvon	05.90.29 86 81
Le Manapany	05.90.27.66.55

Saline

Esprit Jean-Claude Dufour	05.90.52.46.10
Grain de Sel	05.90.52 46 05
Tamarin (Le)	05.90.29.27.74

Lorient

Jojo Burger	05 90 27 50 33
Le Bouchon	05 90 27 79 39
La Bohème	05 90 27 52 52
La Licorne	05 90 87 37 93
Le Portugal à St Barth	05 90 27 68 59

Pointe Milou

Mango Bar Restaurant (Lunch)	05.90.27.63.63
Christo (Diner & Lounge)	05.90.27.63.63

Toiny

Jarad (Le Toiny)	05.90 27.88.88
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Grand Cul de Sac

Aux Amis (Le Barthélemy)	05.90.77.48.48
Yo Sushi Mania	06.90.62.69.83

Public

Maya's	05.90.27.75.73
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Saint-Jean

Chez Joe (Airport)	05.90.27.71.40
Kiki e Mo	05.90.27.90.65
Gyp Sea Beach	05.90.77.53.01
L'Ardoise	05.90.77.41.97
La Terrasse	05.90.27.52.21
Le Glacier	05 90 27 71 30
Le Jardin	05 90 27 73 62
Le Piment	05.90 27.53.88
Lil'Rock	06.90.40.56.62
Nikki Beach	05.90.27.64.64
Pearl Beach	05.90.52.81.33
Zion (ex Hideaway)	05.90.27.63.62

Lurin

Santa Fé	05.90.27.61.04
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EVERY THURSDAY

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TIME OUT

Where to go dancing? See an art exhibit?
Listen to live music?

Time Out keeps you up to date on local happenings.
Let's party !

Live Music

- ▶ **Every day**
from 17th December
- DJ Set for lunch @ Le Barthélemy
- ▶ **from 18th December**
- Lunch at Al Mare Restaurant (Le Sereno) with DJ Maxine
- ▶ **Every Saturday**
- Mojito Party, DJ Guest
From 3:30pm to 5:30pm
@ Lil' Rock Saint-Jean

▶ Thursday, December 17

Chanukah

Let's celebrate Chanukah on the dock in Gustavia at 6pm with holiday refreshments.

▶ Friday, December 18

Christmas Village
from 5:00 pm

- Gypset Soirees from 7pm @ Le Manapany
- For Her. Champagne for Ladies 8-10pm @ Le Bagatelle
- ▶ **Saturday, December 19**

Christmas Village
from 5:00 pm

- Nuit Blanche Party. White dress code & Joie de vivre @ Le Bagatelle
- ▶ **Sunday, December 20**

Christmas Village
from 5:00 pm

- ▶ **Monday, December 21**
- Monday aperitivo with live music at Al Mare Restaurant (Le Sereno)
- Tropical Twist Evening

with Live music, starting at 7pm at Le Christopher

Exhibitions

- Space Gallery St Barth (in Carre D'Or just behind Hermès) Group exhibition presenting many new artists incl. Charles Moreau, Sophie-Alexia Joly de Lotbinière, Giorgio Pasqualetti, Gabriella Imperatori Penn, Hugh Arnold, Jean-Philippe Piter and more.
- Group exhibition : Alain Le Chatelier paintings, Gery Langlais paintings et giclée, Stanislas Defize paintings , David Wegman giclée & mermaid sculptures, Lindy Shuttleworth pottery, Dave Stevenson sculpture @ Les Artisans Gustavia
- Bronze Sculptures at The Collectivity Garden
- ▶ **Art Galleries**
- Clic Gallery, Gustavia
- Les Artisans, Gustavia
- Art Hunter, Gustavia
- Camaruche Gallery
- SpaceSBH Gallery
- Pipiri Palace, Gustavia
- Pati's Gallery, St Jean
- ▶ **Artist's Collection**
- Hannah Moser,
- Kay Quattrocchi, Salines
- Antoine Heckly

Fashion Show

- ▶ **Every lunch**
@ Pearl Beach
@ Nikki Beach
@ Le Barthelemy
- ▶ **Every Tuesday**
- 6:30 pm at La Case with DJ set, Cheval Blanc
- ▶ **Every Friday**
- 7pm at Le Manapany



La Langouste
HÔTEL BAIE DES ANGES

Michel and his staff are happy to welcome you to their pool-side restaurant for lunch & dinner.

Holiday special, in addition to our regular menu.

Lobsters Fresh From The Tank
100 g for 8,00 euros

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