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St-Barth WEEKLY

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It's that time of year again!

Time for Mardi Gras, generally referred to as Carnival in Saint Barth. Everyone gets in the act, from the school kids, who have their own parade, to groups of adults who go crazy for the day. But there is a lot of effort – and financing – that goes into this event. A massive amount of work for months to create the costumes, and I hear that the young women in one group won't know what the design is until the day of the event, as a few of their colleagues are sewing their fingers to the bone in private in order to maintain secrecy and avoid anyone copying them. Throughout the year, many of these groups, which represent non-profit associations, raise money by running the bar at cultural and sports events, while other floats are sponsored by restaurants or just groups of friends. Anyone who has been around long enough will never forget the sight of Andy Hall of Hideaway fame dressed as various rock and roll singers – both male and female – as his float did everyone from the Rolling Stones to Lady Gaga, with local celebrities such as the late Jimmy Buffett hoping aboard for a song or two.

The next day, Ash Wednesday, the celebration continues with the burning of Vaval, the Carnival king, in a huge bonfire to the pounding of Carnival drums on Shell Beach. Vaval is portrayed as an evil person of some note – who will it be this year? All fun aside, it would be great if these festivities are celebrated without any serious accidents, so please don't drink and get behind the wheel. Even your designated driver can don a fabulous costume with beads and baubles, and dance their way through the streets for Mardi Gras!

Ellen Lampert-Gréaux

MASTHEAD

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A Carnival Parade For Kids

The kids have their own carnival in Saint Barth! On Friday, February 21, three groups of elementary school students will parade through the streets of Gustavia. First up are kids from the nursery school in Gustavia who will perform their choreography in front of their school before joining the older kids in front of the elementary school in Gustavia, who will then join the groups from the two private schools. They will parade through town to the sounds of Carnival music, from Rue Samuel Fahlberg as far as the Quai Général de Gaulle. This year, the schools plan a voyage through time and space: the students from Lorient chose Asia as their theme, while those from Colombier will create a timeline, as Gustavia travels "between space and the sea. Traffic will be rerouted from 2pm to 5pm. To get to The Point in Gustavia, it is obligatory to go by way of Lurin.

It's Time For Carnival!

Everyone in Saint Barth is anxiously awaiting the annual Carnival celebration! On Mardi Gras, March 4, it's time to put on your costumes and dance through the streets of Gustavia. Local associations have been working on their feathers and their choreography for months to create great-looking performances. At 2pm, 12 floats in the parade will start marching from Public through the streets of Gustavia to the sound of Carnival music. Traffic is prohibited in Gustavia as of 12:30pm, until the end of the parade. The Collectivity recommends that all those who would like to participate should park their cars on the Quai Jeanne d'Arc in Public or in St Jean, where there will be a shuttle starting at 1pm to take people back and forth to Gustavia, as access will be blocked as of the Dispensary as well as in Lurin. Carnival celebrations conclude on Wednesday, March 5, with the traditional burning of Vaval. The cortege will leave from Le Select and eventually reach Shell Beach to the sound of Carnival drums.

Cyrille Le Vély:

A New Prefect For St Barth

At a solemn ceremony on Tuesday, February 11, Cyrille Le Vély, the new prefect for Saint Barthélemy and Saint Martin, officially stepped into his new role for the island. He placed a wreath at the War Memorial at the Collectivity in Gustavia, accompanied by territorial council members and other political figures on the island. At a reception on the terrace of the Collectivity, he noted he is honored to have been named the first fully fledged prefect for Saint Barthélemy and Saint Martin. Without going into detail about the many projects he will be working on, the prefect confirmed his commitment to the island's safety, especially the fight against delinquency, road accidents, drug traffic, and border control.

Cap Saint-Barth To Sail In Transat Paprec

Cap Saint-Barth, the duo of Cindy Brin, an instructor at the St Barth Yacht Club, and Thomas André, will cross the Atlantic aboard a Figaro Beneteau3 sailboat for the 17th edition of the Transat Paprec. Their team, working with local politicians, finally decided on the name of the boat that will sail from Concarneau in France to Saint Barth, departing on April 20. "It's a new name for a project that's here to stay," explains Eric Péron, project coordinator. For those who want to closely follow Cindy and Thomas' adventure, there is a Facebook paged titled Cap Saint-Barth, which shows the major events in the crew's preparation. Next step: decorating the boat.

Saint Barth: A Future Digital Hub

In late December, the Territorial Collectivity of Saint Barthélemy agreed in principle to be connected to Orange's "Célia," a future underwater cable. In 2027, this international connection will be added to the GCN and SSCS cables, which date respectively from 2006 and 2013.

For Saint Barthélemy, the challenges of high-speed digital connectivity are enormous, due to the island's relative geographic isolation, as well its desire to provide its residents and visitors the most efficient tools possible. As a result, through the local resilience plan, adopted by the Territorial Council on December 20, the Collectivity has continued to think about and take action to strengthen the island's connectivity. To this end, discussions have been held with the Orange international group to enable Saint Barthélemy to connect to the future "Celia" cable that will link Martinique to Florida (USA).

"Célia:" Not a Digital Omnibus

At this time, two underwater cables provide digital access for Saint Barthélemy. These are the GCN cable (Guadeloupe Câble Numérique), since 2006, and the SSCS cable (Saba Statia Cable System), since 2013. Two structures that connect the island to the rest of the world via Saint Martin. Pascal Peuchot, director of the "energy innovation transition" for the Collectivity, explains the challenges. "Our weak spot is that the two cables arrive at the same place. However, the local resilience plan encourages the installation of a third cable, which would arrive on the north coast. Which is precisely what a connection to Orange's "Célia" project offers. Unlike most submarine cables, "Célia" will not be an "omnibus." Pascal Peuchot explains: "It will run directly from Martinique to Florida, and will enable us to help operators reach French Guiana, which has a connectivity project with Portugal. The idea is to create a route from Saint Barthélemy to French Guiana and the European Union, without necessarily passing through the United States. This is also a question of data protection. The Collectivity would like to make the underwater cables accessible to all service providers and to improve the quality of service. As the market does not do this, the Collectivity positions itself as a neutral player in order to offer the same price to everyone.

Ready For 2027

However, the Collectivity cannot follow just one path, which is why they are working in conjunction with other Caribbean islands and French Guiana. "This is an issue that concerns all the islands," insist Pascal Peuchot. "Having a data center on our islands implies high costs, but if we join forces with the French and Dutch islands, we'll increase the size of our markets, and we'll find it easier to attract content providers. The whole thing could not be more technical. But the idea is simple: to increase the performance and resilience of the digital network. Coupled with a third new underwater cable, with both regional and international connectivity, this system would make Saint Barth a digital hub.

As for the timetable, 2025 will be devoted to studies by a cable ship, 2026 to cable construction and 2027 to connection.

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Parking Garage and Cultural Center Delayed

A project combining a 139-space underground parking garage and a cultural center in Gustavia has been a point of dissension among local politicians, and is once again in the crosshairs. The reason: unexpected challenges at the construction site that could cause additional delays.

The issue has been simmering since the plans for the garage and cultural center were modified by the new majority on the territorial council. The opposition from the Saint-Barth d'Abord group has displayed its frustration at the delays encountered by this project. Two years ago, in February 2023, Romaric Magras wrote about the subject in Le Journal de Saint Barth: "After a marked willingness on the part of president Xavier Lédée and his majority to put the project on hold to give themselves additional time for reflection, the overall cost now stands at nearly 32,000,000 euros, while it was estimated at 22,695,000 in March 2022."

The president of the Collectivity insists that the work has not come to a halt. It was in fact stopped for a month over the Christmas holidays when all loud noise is prohibited in Gustavia, according to council member Bettina Cointre. The work has started again as per Xavier Lédée. Yet, on Wednesday, February 12, at 8:45am there was no activity at the site.

Concerns About Runoff

The Collectivity has confirmed that this project has run into numerous delays. Firstly, archaeological studies took several months, with structural work not getting underway until September 2024. Then, once at the construction site, workers noticed landslides along the rock wall, requiring general reinforcement. At the same time, the island experienced extremely heavy rainfall, causing landslides in Vitet and Gustavia. The construction site in Gustavia is very sensitive to water runoff, and the drain that had been installed was not properly sized. A hydrologi-

cal study is underway to improve the rainwater recovery system.

Administrative Difficulties

Another obstacle, this time administrative in nature, concerns the technical services department. A company that was designated to do some of the work ran into trouble delivering the services for which they were hired. This situation has hampered progress on the foundations, expected to be laid in March. In addition, if the company withdraws, the Collectivity will be forced to reissue contracts and award this work to another company. This is bound to cause new delays. For the time being, the overall cost is estimated at 31 million euros, with delivery scheduled for 2029. One thing is certain: the parking garage and cultural center project is likely to be the subject of more heated debate.

March 13-16, 2025

The Bucket Sails Into St Barth

In mid-March, Saint Barth will once again host the iconic Bucket regatta, welcoming some the world's most elegant super sailing yachts to the Port of Gustavia, along with passionate owners, captains, and crew. Both modern and classic sailboats will enjoy friendly competition and superb racing in St Barthélemy's ideal conditions.

Three races are planned on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 13, 14, and 15, 2025. Starts are at 11:30am if the weather cooperates. Fort Karl in Gustavia will be open daily 10am–Noon for viewing and is an ideal place to view the starts.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening parties will be held at the Bucket Marquee on the Quay. The popular Evan Goodrow will entertain on Thursday. Friday will be special with the St Barth Salsa group, and the Saturday Bucket Bash will again feature the Tanya M. Quintet.

The website has the full schedule and the entry list: BucketRegatta.com

Limited edition 2025 St Barth Bucket posters are available for purchase at Space St Barth Contemporary Art Gallery in Gustavia's Carré D'Or (between Hermès and Ralph Lauren). The gallery is open daily 9am-1pm and 4pm-7pm.

Surrealists Take Over The Wall House

A new photography exhibit opened at the Wall House Museum last Saturday. Through June 14, the museum hosts the work two leading artists from the Belgian surrealism movement: René Magritte (1898-1967) and Marcel Mariën (1920-1993). The exhibit comprises 60 original images taken by the two artists and loaned to the Wall House by the Retelé and Brachot collections. In addition, Marie Godet, a doctor of art history specializing in surrealism, served as an advisor for the exhibit She will be in Saint Barthélemy in March to present the photographs to the island's schoolchildren.

SIDEM Inaugurates A New Water Plant

Last September, SIDEM received a new water production plant for St Barthélemy. On Tuesday, February 4, it was officially inaugurated in Public, where the first such drinking water plant exists. “This infrastructure is designed to increase the capacity of water production for the island and improve the management of this essential resource,” notes the Collectivity’s communication department in an online publication: “It illustrates our commitment to making sure there is a constant water supply, an essential issue for our island.“

In reality, the new plant has been operational since January 13. Its operation marks an important step for SIDEM and all those who use city water on the island. The Barrel, a new generation of reverse osmosis (industrial desalination process) has a production capacity of between 3,000 and 4,700 cubic meters per day. This will be added to the first plant's current maximum capacity of 4,200 cubic meters per day. As a result, SIDEM will soon be able to double its production of drinking water. Soon? Yes, but for the time being, the plant's other unit has been taken offline for overhaul.

The Barrel, fabricated by SIDEM in Oman (United Arab Emirates), consumes 0.05 kWh less per cubic meter of water produced than the conventional version. This new-generation Barrel is a pressure vessel combining several reverse-osmosis or nanofiltration elements, designed as a ready-to-operate system. It guarantees the production of fresh water that complies with all quality standards for desalinated water. It is also suitable for wastewater reuse and low-pressure reverse osmosis applications.

However, it is important to remember that the future increase in water production does not mean that city water can be pumped freely. As noted in Le Journal de Saint-Barth last September, even if the production capacity is going to be increased in a considerable manner, SIDEM will still face the same constraints in collecting seawater.

In addition, the distribution network managed by SAUR, remains the same for the time being. Which means that conserving water is still the rule in Saint Barthélemy.

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Ulf Saupe:
On Craftsmanship and the Natural World

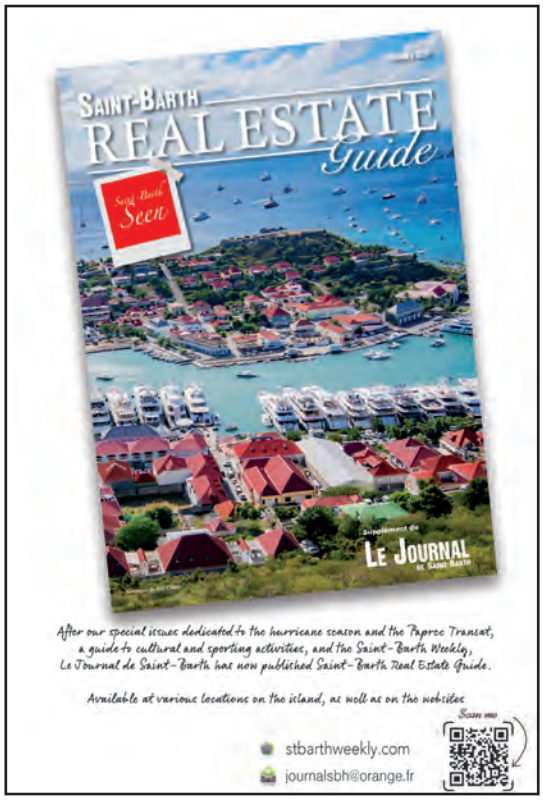
Ulf Saupe doesn't always know what his final pieces will look like. Each time a new work is born, Saupe engages in a beautiful dance with the elements he uses, the photographs he takes, and the alchemy that occurs when the two come together. Known for his meticulous approach to photography and innovative use of analog processes, Saupe's artistry invites viewers to explore the complex relationship between society and the natural world.

For Saupe, the process of crafting each artwork is as significant as the elements captured within it. Everything is considered and carefully selected. The artist chooses the subject matter, the materials and the creative method intentionally, making sure all are intricately linked to the message and theme of the work. Drawing inspiration from 19th-century photographic techniques, Saupe explores unconventional processes that allow him to incorporate unusual materials and reimagine the possibilities of photography. The exploration of our contemporary environment and its complex relationship with nature is central to his work, while shedding light on the themes of environmental concern and the transformation of natural landscapes.

Saupe's exhibit opens in late February at Space Gallery in the Carré D'Or in Gustavia, where you can experience his thought-provoking works, which are visually stunning and simultaneously seek to remind us to be environmentally conscious. The art not only challenges perceptions but also sparks dialogue about our relationship with the natural world.

About Ulf Saupe: Born in 1979 in Halle (Saale) Germany, Saupe studied fine arts with a focus on experimental photography. His work has been showcased globally, including a solo museum exhibition at CAAM in 2023, and is part of numerous private and institutional collections.

Opening cocktail Vernissage February 27 from 6-8pm
Contact the gallery for more information: info@spacestbarth



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 !

Cabaret

• Dinner cabaret show at 9pm @ Ti St Barth

Live Music

◗ Every Evening
- Live Music at restaurant Abyss of Barthélemy Hotel from 7:30pm to 10pm.

◗ Every week-end
Enjoy live music every weekend at The Rooftop, creating the perfect ambiance for your evenings at Le Barthélemy.

◗ Every Sunday
- Amazing Sunday. A journey through the rhythm of live music under the sun! 11am - 7pm @ Nikki Beach

◗ Thursday February 20
- Live music from 7pm at l'Arawak, Gustavia
- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5pm - 7pm at Christopher Hotel, Pointe Milou
- Wine, Champagne, and Spirits Tasting from 6pm to 8pm at 19 52 la Cave du Port Franc, Gustavia.
- Live music from 7pm at Bagatelle

◗ Friday February 21
Elementary School Parade in Gustavia P.2
- Apero is French at Arawak
- Tasting of Champagne from 5pm to 7pm at Segeco, Gustavia
- Live music from 7pm at Bagatelle

◗ Saturday, February 22
- Live Music with Ti Lina Violin from 7pm at Arawak,
- Chess Hour, 3pm-6pm with Jeff Follner @Arawak
- White evening from 7pm at Bagatelle
- Saturday Live from 11am to 7pm with the tunes of the resident DJ and Saxophonist, at Nikki Beach
- White evening from 7pm at Bagatelle

Carnival Parades
This Saturday, February 22, the theme is «put on your mask». Rendez vous in Gustavia (by the Post Office) at 8pm.

◗ Monday, February 24
- Hora Feliz, come dance Salsa, Bachata, kizomba and other dances cubaines from 7pm @Arawak café.
- For an Italian Aperitivo, Soley will be entertaining us with lyrics and guitar like. 07.30pm-10.30 pm at Al Mare Ristorante, Sereno
- Secret Monday (with live music & dj) at Bagatelle

◗ Tuesday February 25
- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5-7pm at Christopher Hotel

◗ Thursday, February 27
- Live music from 7pm at l'Arawak, Gustavia
- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5pm - 7pm at Christopher Hotel, Pointe Milou
- « Beach Extravaganza » from 7:30pm at Le Toiny.
- Wine, Champagne, and Spirits Tasting from 6pm to 8pm at 19 52 la Cave du Port Franc, Gustavia.
- Live music from 7pm at Bagatelle

◗ Friday, February 28
- Apero is French with DJ Set at Arawak café
- Tasting from 5pm to 7pm at Segeco, Gustavia
- Live music from 7pm at Bagatelle

◗ Saturday, March 1st
Carnival For Pre-Schoolers 4-5pm
- White evening from 7pm at Bagatelle
- Live Music from 7pm at Arawak, Gustavia
- Chess Hour, 3pm-6pm with Jeff Follner @Arawak
- White evening from 7pm at Bagatelle
- Saturday Live from 11am to 7pm with the tunes of the resident DJ and Saxophonist, at Nikki Beach
- White evening from 7pm at Bagatelle

◗ Sunday, March 2
Monthly Market in Gustavia
Rue Général-de-Gaulle . Open from 8am to 12pm.

◗ Monday March 3
Carnival Parades
This Monday, March 3, the theme is «pyjamas». Rendez vous in Gustavia (by the Post Office) at 8pm.

◗ Tuesday March 4
Carnival Time P.2

◗ Wednesday March 5
Burning Vaval P.2

Exhibitions

◗ Through June 14,
Two Generations Of Surrealists At The Wall House .

◗ Through March 31,
An exhibit of photographs by Mehdy Maxor, at Le Barthélemy.

◗ Through March 5,
- Kay Quattrocchi: The Magic of Pointillism Le Barthélemy Hotel & Spa
- Preserve the Heritage and History of St-Barthélemy @ Le Brigantin, Gustavia.

- Isabelle Lindbergh photograph exhibition: Between Realms at Spirit Art Space.

- Group show - featuring painting, photography and sculpture by leading international artists, at Space Gallery, Gustavia

- Soap Bubble Paintings by Georg Dokoupil at Space Gallery

-Paintings by Alain Le Chatelier at Les Artisans Gustavia.

-Paintings by Alain Le Chatelier, Stanislas Defize, Jérémy Kraft, Gery Langlais, Karoline Arcana and Lorraine Mahot de la Querantonnais & Sculptures by Dave Stevenson and Rosamond Field at Les Artisans Gustavia

◗ Art Galleries
- Almosnino Fine Art Gallery
- Camaruche Gallery
- Clic Gallery, Gustavia
- Eden Fine Art St Barts
- Fergus McCaffrey
- Galerie Asie, Gustavia
- Les Artisans, Gustavia
- Space Gallery St Barth
- Spirit Art Space
- Summum Gallery

◗ Artist's Collection
- Hannah Moser, Cul de Sac
- Kay Quattrocchi, Pointe Milou

Night Club

@ Modjo St-Jean
@ Casa Night Club

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