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N°397 - December 7, 2018

St-Barth WEEKLY

*Local News
in English*

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

Marigot Bay, A Lost Beach?

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© Rosemond Gréaux



Have Art, Let's Party!

Saint Barth has long appealed to artists, from locals to those sailing in from foreign shores. For the past few years, in addition to gallery shows, the island's artists have had a new outlet for their work. A non-profit association, Artists Of St Barth, began hosting one-night pop-up art parties, primarily at various hotels. Currently representing 50 artists, the association has spread its wings, with a gallery in St Jean (just moved from Villa Créole to Pati de Saint Barth's new store around the corner), and by bringing in artists from other islands, as is the case on December 13 when three artists from Puerto Rico will join 14 local artists for an Art Party at the Christopher Hotel (details in this issue of The Weekly).

Often in a waterfront location, illuminated for the occasion, with food and drink available, the Art Parties create a kind of happening, a change of pace, a chance to see interesting art, meet interesting people, and relax.

This issue of The Weekly also reveals a serious environmental problem in Marigot Bay, which may not be so easy to repair. Sadly, the waters of this charming bay were still pristine just a decade ago, but with overdevelopment, runoff of wastewater, and debris from Irma, the bay is now off limits for swimmers and all nautical activities.

I'd say Saint Barth is at a tipping point, and just hope that someone has what it takes to tip it back in the right direction!

See you at the Art Party!

Ellen Lampert-Gréaux

Marigot Bay, A Lost Beach

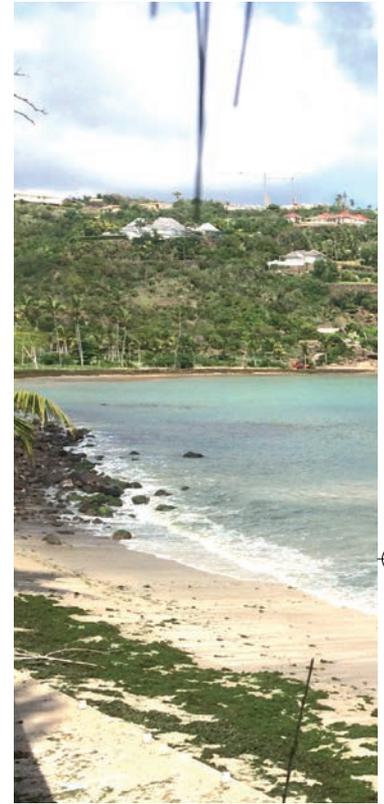
With the island's first environmental and energy code where swimming and nautical activities have been Magras recently noted.

Last Thursday, a swimmer was seen in the troubled waters of Marigot Bay, late in the afternoon. A rare sight, as this small sheltered beach attracts very few swimmers. On a narrow stretch of sand, the surf swirls with brown algae. Actually, Marigot Bay has been off limits for swimming for several months by order of the president of the Collectivity.

Water Good For Swimming

It is not pollution that is the cause of the swimming ban: the analyses done every month show no risk of staphylococcus or other issues with the water quality. But since hurricane Irma, the opacity of the water—or turbidity—has limited any attempts to clean the ocean floor. Which means that there could still be pieces of metal roofing or other debris deposited by Irma hiding under the waves and dangerous for swimmers.

Marigot Bay did not always have such problems. Ten years ago, the Territorial Environmental Agency (ATE) did a study on the quality of the underwater plant beds. In 2008, the results of this study were good. With healthy plants and sea turtles, Marigot Bay was a refuge for juvenile marine species. Classified as a red zone when the Réserve Naturelle (marine park) was created, this bay was noted for



“our most beautiful seagrass beds,” recalls Sébastien Gréaux, the new director of the ATE. In 2011, the health of the plant beds was considered “good,” but had declined to “mediocre” by 2015.

This state of affairs was caused by the “*natural configuration of Marigot Bay*,” adds Sébastien Gréaux. “*It is very sheltered and the flow of renewed water is limited. In addition, the catchment area is very extended. Marigot receives all the water from Vitet and Pointe Milou.*” Every time it rains, the runoff

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ogy conference taking place December 3-8, The Weekly takes a look at Marigot Bay, been forbidden for months. *"It is considered lost from an environmental point of view,"* Bruno



flows onto the beach and into the sea. The roads transform into torrents of water, carrying dirt and other pollutants that cause the marine milieu to suffer greatly.

Then comes the sargassum problem. If Bruno Magras, in a regional seminar on the subject in early October, blamed the deterioration of the bay on this seaweed, Sébastien Gréaux counters, *"it is not solely responsible."* The president of the Collectivity of Saint Barthélemy explained before his Caribbean counterparts that Marigot *"is considered lost from an environmental point of view. It would take several years without sargassum for the*

ecosystem to rebuild itself."

The turbidity of the water, augmented by the influx of brown algae, creates *"a vicious circle for the natural milieu,"* explains Sébastien Gréaux. *"The plant beds need light to develop. They deteriorate due to the turbidity, and are replaced by algae."* When the sargassum arrives, the situation gets even worse, as it blocks the passage of light and absorbs oxygen as it decomposes. However, there are still *"a fair number of turtles, conch and rays"* in this zone of the marine park.

How to fight against the degrada-

tion of Marigot Bay? *"It's complicated due to the sargassum, the runoff from hillsides, and other sources of pollution are possible: fertilizer from surrounding gardens, wastewater... we cannot pinpoint a single cause,"* admits Sébastien Gréaux. As it is difficult to imagine a water treatment plants or retention basin along the road on the waterfront, the range of solutions is limited.

The New Owner Girasol Is Happy

In any case, this beach admired by locals just a few years ago, is sad to see today. Yet in front of the large Girasol property, purchased for \$67,000,000 in late 2017, the new owner has set up a small area with chaise lounges and parasols. You'd think that the turbidity of the water would deter the interest of potential buyers in the area. This is not the case, according to Zarek Honneysett, from SiBarth Real Estate, who worked on this record sale. *"For the moment, this is no influence on the price of real estate in the neighborhood,"* he notes. *"The buyer of Girasol has been here several times and has never indicated that he is unhappy. On the contrary, he is very pleased with his new property."*

The Collectivity recently launched a study on the degradation of the coastal zones in Marigot, as well as Grand and Petit-Cul-de-Sac.

Happy Ending For Horses That Survived Irma

Traumatized and injured when hurricane Irma devastated Saint Barth in September 2017, nine horses from the equestrian center in Gouverneur, Galops des îles, were sent back to France for a well-deserved retirement. It was a long process for the association, due to the special status of Saint Barth: the island is French but not part of the European Union. So the horses, considered foreigners, had to go through a battery of tests and were put in quarantine for a month before setting a hoof in France. They arrived in Dunkirk in late November, after spending ten days at sea, and were welcomed by volunteers who used to ride with Galops des îles.



In Saint Barth, the association has been heartbroken since the hurricane hit, as six of their horses died the night of the storm, in what must have been terrible condi-

tions. Before Irma, 70 people took riding lessons, giving the association financial stability. But for the last year, water and caring for the horses has been funded exclusively by grants and donations.

But the story is not over, as there are still 10 horses and ponies in Gouverneur. The project for the future of this site has already been decided: The Collectivity and the association are going to create a pedagogical center for kids, including pony rides. While waiting for the work to be completed, the equines of Saint Barth depend on the generosity of the population. Money can be donated to Galops des îles online at www.Leetchi.com, and the club is open to visitors every day from 4pm to 6pm.

Art Party December 13:

Artists From Puerto Rico and St Barthélemy

Bobby Cruz, Naimar Ramirez, and Carlos Davila Rinaldi, three artists from Puerto Rico, will show their work at the Art Party on Thursday, December 13 at the Christopher Hotel in Pointe Milou from 7pm. These artists, identified through Gallery Petrus in San Juan, will exhibit alongside 14 local artists.

While Saint Barthélemy and Puerto Rico are different in many ways but they share one thing in common: creative vitality. Their survival of traumatic hurricanes last year, Irma for one island and Maria for the other, is another shared experience, as well as a network of local artists with enough quality and quantity to nourish a healthy and stimulating sense of competition, all in proximity to the sophisticated American art market.

Created by the non-profit association, Artists of St Barth, in 2015,



Puerto Rican painter Bobby Cruz will exhibit at the Art Party

the “Art Party” quickly became one of the most popular soirées on the island of St Barthélemy. The Tourism Committee of St Barthélemy and the Hotel Christopher, co-organizers of the event on December 13, will cover the cost of transporting the artwork and the housing

for the artists. Tradewind Aviation will bridge the two islands by flying the artists over.

For additional information:

Artists of St Barth
Emmanuel Leprince
06 90 73 45 73

www.artistsofstbarth.org

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

- Diner Cabaret with show girls Show at 9:30pm @ Ti St Barth (Closed on Sunday & Monday)
- DJ Sebastien Roche @ Bonito St Barth.

► Thursday December 6

- Sunset Lounge, from 5pm with DJ Set and Fashion show @ Christopher
- Le Ti Before: happy hour & tapas menu from 7pm to 9pm (exclusively on the outdoor terrace) @ Ti St Barth
- Fashion Fashion party! and complimentary champagne for Le Ti's Pirate Ladies from 7pm to 9pm @ Ti St Barth

- Baga Boom ! Forever young . Music by Fabien Lanciano @ Bagatelle
- Lunch with Music by Laurent Perrier @ Pearl Beach

► Friday December 7

- Lunch with music by Laurent Perrier @ Pearl Beach
- The Friday Night Live with Soley @ Pearl Beach
- Ladies Night with Champagne for her. from 8pm to 10pm @ Bagatelle

- Le Ti Before: happy hour & tapas menu from 7pm to 9pm (exclusively on the outdoor terrace) @ Ti St Barth
- The Ti in Live! Dinner & Tribute show to the best international singers by Le Ti's dancers! @ Ti St Barth

► Saturday December 8

- Lunch with Music by Gabin Nogueira @ Pearl Restaurant
- Le Ti Before: happy hour & tapas menu from 7pm to 9pm (exclusively on the outdoor terrace) @ Ti St Barth

- Burning Pirate Party! Dinner & surprise theme for Le Ti fancy dresses room's lovers! @ Ti St Barth

► Sunday December 9

- Amazing Sunday, Music by Patris Gero & Philippe Paris @ Nikki Beach
- Lunch with Music by

The Jewish community in Saint Barth celebrates the last night of Hanukkah, the festival of lights, on the main dock in Gustavia on Sunday, December 9, at 6:15pm.

Gabin Nogueira @ Pearl Beach

- Mixologist show, DJ music by Sir Yll until 1pm. Flair bartending @ fire show by our mixologist Sly. Cocktail & Mezze to share from 7pm @ Ociela, Gustavia

► Sunday December 9 from 6:30pm

"Chanté Noël," an evening of Christmas carols on Sunday, December 9, starting at 6:30pm in front of the Wall House Museum. A local group, La Bande A Nono, performs first, followed Cactus Cho from Guadeloupe. Food and Christmas treats available for purchase on site.

► Monday December 10

- Sunset Lounge, from 5pm with DJ Set and Fashion show @ Christopher
- Lunch with live music by Gabin Nogueira @ Pearl Beach

► Tuesday December 11

- Le Ti Before: happy hour & tapas menu from 7pm to 9pm (exclusively on the outdoor terrace) @ Ti St Barth
- Le Grand Cinéma! : The grand dinner-cabaret show evening! @ Ti St Barth

- Lunch with music by Gabin Nogueira @ Pearl Beach

► Wednesday December 12

- Le Ti Before : happy hour & tapas menu from 7pm to 9pm (exclusively on the outdoor terrace) @ Ti St Barth
- Chef Party & Ti for two! Dinner & sexy sounds by Franck N. @ Ti St Barth
- Lunch with music by

Jérôme Barthélémy @ Pearl Beach

► Thursday December 13

- Art Party, Artists From Puerto Rico and St Barthélémy @ Christopher

Night Club

► Thursday December 6

- "Balearic Cafe" Music by Jerome Barthélémy @ Modjo St-Jean

► Friday December 7

- Deluxe House Friday music by Patris Gero and Guest @Modjo, Saint-Jean
- Dexterlove NYC Rose Bar Resident DJ , Black Friday @ Casa Night Club

► Saturday December 8

- Le Samedi c'est permis" Music by DJ Outkast @Modjo, Saint-Jean
- The love Boat @ Casa Night Club

Fashion Show

► Daily Fashion Shows

- Fashion Show every lunch @ Pearl Beach, St Jean
- Fashion Show every night (except on Sunday & Monday) @ Ti St Barth
- Fashion Show every lunch @ Nikki Beach

Exhibitions

- Solo photography exhibition - The Spirit of St Barth by Sebastien Martinon. Space SBH, Gustavia
- David Kracov, Natan Elkanovich, Yoel Benharrouche, Calman Shemi, Dorit Levinstein, @Eden Fine Art Gallery, Gustavia
- Bronze Sculptures by Bjorn Olkholm Skaarup @ The Collectivity



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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News Briefs

A Website For Saint Barth Taxis

The Collectivity has launched a new website for the geo-location of taxis in Saint Barthélemy. On a digital map, one can see which taxis are available, or not, in real time, and where they are located on the island. Just click on the closest icon and the driver's name, telephone number, and type of vehicle appears... This service, suggested by the island's hotels, should facilitate reserving a taxi and simplify contact between clients and taxis. There is a full list of the island's 43 taxis with contact info, but not all of them appear on the digital map yet. The site also features a chart with taxi rates: <https://taxis.eservices-comstbarth.fr>.

Hanukkah On The Dock, December 9



The Jewish community in Saint Barth celebrates the last night of Hanukkah, the festival of lights, on the main dock in Gustavia on Sunday, December 9, at 6:15pm. The celebration in Saint Barth, led by rabbi Yitzchok Gurewitch, includes the lighting of the large Hanukah menorah, with homemade donuts and latkes. The holiday marks the miracle of one day's worth of lamp oil lasting for eight days after the recovery of the temple in Jerusalem from the Greeks in the year 166 BC. The word Hanukkah means rededication.

Saint Barth In The New York Times

The prestigious American daily newspaper dedicated an article to post-Irma reconstruction in the Caribbean, island by island. At the end, the article cites Saint Barthélemy, and in particular, two hotels: Le Toiny, with eight new villas and a swimming pool on the beach, and the Christopher, with its new fitness center.

Classified ads

Real Estate

realestate@wimco.com

Villa - Grand Fond : Charming villa with private pool, in the peaceful Grand Fond area. 2 Bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, well equipped kitchen, living room, parking, terrace.
 Price : € 1 790 000.
 WIMCOsbh Real Estate + 590-590-51-07- 51 or realestate@wimco.com

Villa in Flamands, in perfect condition, three bedrooms, three bathrooms, terrace, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, ocean view, parking spaces, and garage.
 3,200,000 €
 WIMCOsbh Real Estate + 590-590-51-07- 51 or realestate@wimco.com

Villa - Petit cul de Sac : On a 6000+ m2 property, with a beautiful view on Petit Cul de Sac bay, into a private residence. Possible extension of the actual 3 bedrooms villa.
 Price : USD 4 800 000
 WIMCOsbh Real Estate + 590-590-51-07- 51 or

For sale, this stylish contemporary three bedroom villa located in Toiny is an ideal tropical getaway and would have great appeal for those who look to relax – and to entertain. The villa's location offers some nice options for surfing as well as for walking or



RENTAL: Villa Dasha is a 3-bedroom, 3-bath contemporary-style residence located at the top of Gouverneur. Dasha is only a few minutes from Gouverneur Beach, restaurants, shops, and Gustavia. The villa has a large living room, equipped with home cinema, large white sofas, and a gourmet kitchen. Each bedroom offers views of the ocean, and is furnished with a queen-size bed, air-conditioning, Wi-Fi, TV, US satellite, DVD, bathroom with shower.

For additional information contact your rental agency.

Classified ads

jogging from Toiny to Grand Fond, including to Hotel Le Toiny and its acclaimed restaurant.
 Price : 2 200 000 €
 St. Barth Properties Sotheby's International Realty –
 0590 29 90 10

For sale, this privately ensconced two bedroom villa, located in dramatic Toiny hillside, leverages its location and captures the gentle trade winds, the sounds of the surf and a gorgeous seascape. The owners will enjoy watching surfers in the distance, trying to capture that perfect wave. The pool terrace

offers ample space for sunning, relaxing in the shade, and al fresco dining. Price : 2 500 000 €
 St. Barth Properties Sotheby's International Realty –
 0590 29 90 10

For sale, this plot of land of 1311 m² is located in Petit Cul-de-Sac within a buildable zone. It does not have a sea view but enjoys being walking distance to the beach. Come build your dream villa today!!! Price : 1 376 550 €
 St. Barth Properties Sotheby's International Realty –
 0590 29 90 10

MASTHEAD

Published by
 "Le Journal de Saint-Barth"
 issn-1766-9278
 Les Mangliers, St-Jean
 BP 602 - 97133 St Barth

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Print Worker : Prim Services



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Villa AOM - 5 Bedrooms - Mont Jean
9,900,000 €

Contemporary 5 bedroom villa on large lot. Stunning views of Tortue Island and Marigot Bay, in the luxury private gated community of Mont Jean.



Villa ATP - 4 Bedrooms - Lurin
9,800,000 €

On top of Lurin overlooking St Jean Bay, manicured 4 bedroom villa in the newly built private Domaine.



Property CHA - Lurin
Price upon request

2990m² of buildable land with 180° panoramic views of Saline and St Jean Bay. Renovate or rebuild. Lot division possible to allow two new villas.



Apt LJA - 2 Bedrooms - Gustavia
2,700,000 €

High in Gustavia, contemporary 2 bedroom apartment offering beautiful views over the harbour. Close to town center.



Villa ETY - 5 Bedrooms - Flamands
7,500,000 €

Hillside villa offering lovely views in desirable Flamands area. 5 bedrooms, gym, Jacuzzi, 2 pools, fully renovated.



Apt FCC - 1 Bedroom - Gustavia
1,950,000 €

One bedroom apartment, with harbor and sunset views, in the famous Colony Club. Walk to beach and shops.



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