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St-Barth WEEKLY

*Local News
in English*

FREE

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The background of the entire page is a photograph of a beach. In the foreground, several white lounge chairs are lined up on a wooden deck. In the middle ground, a row of closed, white beach umbrellas stands on the sand. The background shows a clear blue sky and a lush green forest on a hillside overlooking the ocean.

**Saint Barth
Is Open!**



Welcome Back!

As you know, 2017 and 2018 were extremely challenging, following the massive destruction caused by hurricane Irma. But Saint Barth had bounced back in full force by for the 2019-2020 season, which got off to a great start. Little did we know that Saint Barth would be abruptly shuttered in mid-March, closing almost every business on the island!

We were extremely lucky that we only had six cases of Covid-19, and all six recovered rapidly. This led to the island opening internally as of mid-May, and the eventual decision to open the island to visitors as of June 22. Even though many of the large luxury hotels will not open until next fall, there are enough hotels, villas, and restaurants to plan for a great tropical vacation.

Sadly, the good news about the island opening was tempered by the death of Marius Stakelborough, the much-loved 97 year-old founder of Le Select, the oldest bar on the island. He was also a great champion of the island's ties with Sweden, and this issue of The Weekly is dedicated to his memory, including photos and comments from many of his friends and colleagues.

So whether you are coming back next week, next month, or next year, Saint Barth looks forward to sharing its little slice of the Caribbean with you!

Ellen Lampert-Gréaux

Saint Barth Is Open!

If travel between Europe and the United States is not yet possible, Saint Barthélemy officially opened its doors to visitors as of June 22. The island is not part of the Schengen zone.



©ER/J. LE MENN

The island is ready to welcome tourists, and while many of the large hotels remain closed, others are open: Le Toiny, Manapany, Le Village, Les Îlets, Pearl Beach, Ti Morne, Baie des Anges... and clients can also opt for a rental villa.

In terms of restaurants, most are open including some big names: Shellona and Eden Rock's beach bar are already serving their clients; Bonito and Bagatelle reopen on July 2, Nikki Beach follows on July 4, and La Guérite on July 8... Only the two nightclubs on the island, Casa and Modjo, remain closed by a French governmental decree. Le Ti Saint-Barth has decided to reopen in November.

Juliana Airport in Sint Maarten will open its runways for commercial flights on July 1, but visitors to Saint Barth are already arriving via Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe, or Antigua.

Health precautions prevail, and the Collectivity of Saint Barthélemy has established strict recommendations: travelers must present negative PCR test results for Covid-19, with a test taken less than 72 hours before arriving on the island. For those who cannot take the test at home, a "drive-in" facility is set up in Gustavia, by appointment only (the appointment must be made two days in advance), for a test within 24 hours of arriving on the island, and people must remain in quarantine until the results are provided, generally the

same day or the next morning. A second test is required seven days later. This does not apply to children under the age of 10. Once on the island, social distancing is recommended, but masks are not required in public spaces.

Saint Barth suddenly closed its doors suddenly last March 15, forcing some tourists who were present at the time to head home in a hurry, while others decided to spend the two months of confinement in their villas. The Bucket Regatta and Les Voiles de Saint-Barth were both cancelled. Since the end of February, Saint Barth has seen only six confirmed cases of Covid-19, none of which were life threatening. The most recent was in April.

BONITO
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t. (+590) 590 27 96 96 | www.bonitosbh.com | Reservation recommended | Valet Service | Closed Tuesday Wednesday

Le Guanahani Joins The Rosewood Portfolio

Another luxury hotel group is coming to the island: Le Guanahani, the 66-room property on the lagoon in Grand Cul-de-Sac, is now managed by Rosewood Hotels & Resorts

The international Rosewood Hotels & Resorts group will add its flag to Saint Barthélemy by taking over the management of Le Guanahani in Grand Cul-de-Sac, which has been closed since Irma and is still under reconstruction. The hotel will reopen in Spring 2021 under the name Rosewood Le Guanahani St. Barth. “Upon opening, Rosewood Le Guanahani St. Barth will debut with the complete renovation of all 66 guestrooms, suites, and villas, many with new private pools,” notes the press release. “As the only full-service resort on St. Barth, the property will offer a range of updated amenities including a distinct beachfront dining concept and new pool, a Rosewood Explorers children’s club, fitness center, tennis court, Sense—A Rosewood Spa, and dedicated event spaces.”

One of the oldest hotels on the island, Le Guanahani opened in 1986 and sits on seven hectares between Marigot Bay and



the lagoon in Grand Cul-de-Sac. It’s back to his roots for hotel director Martein van Wagenberg, who has managed Le Guanahani for the past six years, and formerly worked for the American hotel collection.

Rosewood Hotels & Resorts manages 28

one-of-a-kind luxury hotels, resorts, and residences in 16 countries, with 19 new properties under development. In the Caribbean, their flag flies in the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, and in 2023 they will open Rosewood Half Moon Bay in Antigua.

Controversy Over Hotel Building Permit



Emeraude Plage, a former hotel badly damaged by hurricane Irma in 2017, was located on a large sandy piece of land right on the beach in Saint Jean. The new owner, Le Barthélemy, has plans to build a new luxury property on the site, featuring 50 rooms, several swimming pools, a spa, etc. The project has met with criticism on the

island due to its size, as well as increased traffic on the already crowded roads, a lack of housing for staff, and major environmental consequences for the bay, especially in terms of a 5,000 sq meter underground parking lot on the plans. As a result, 2,600 people have signed a petition requesting that the project be reconsidered, and the building permit has been contested in the administrative court.

CTTSB New Offices

The CTTSB, Territorial Tourism Committee of Saint Barthélemy, has been more or less homeless since hurricane Irma did serious damage to their offices on the dock in Gustavia. For some time they were in a small building that was formerly an art gallery, but it was much too small, so they have moved to the former CEM space upstairs from the Territorial Police Station (which back in the day was the main post office). The CTTSB hopes to eventually move back to its old home along the waterfront, which is now used for the Territorial Environmental Agency (ATE). This space will be renovated in due time, comprising an expanded ground floor slated for the CTTSB and upstairs offices renovated and made larger for the ATE. As part of this project, the fish market would move to the far side of the harbor and the building currently housing the fish market would become restrooms reserved for boaters with vessels at the dock and in the harbor, as the current restrooms would become part of the expanded building for the CTTSB and ATE.

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Ocean view and spectacular sunsets | Unique opportunity to renovate



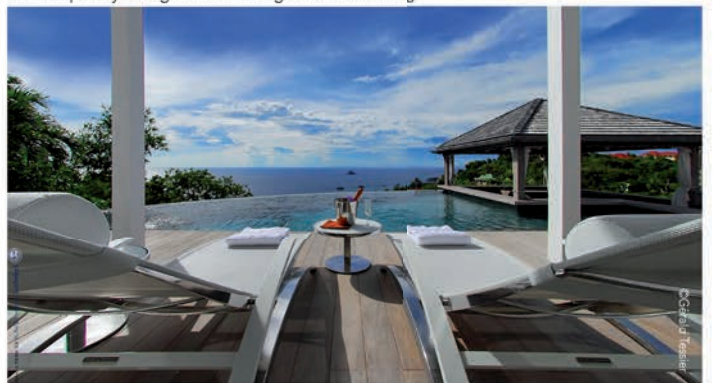
Private Villa | Pointe Milou

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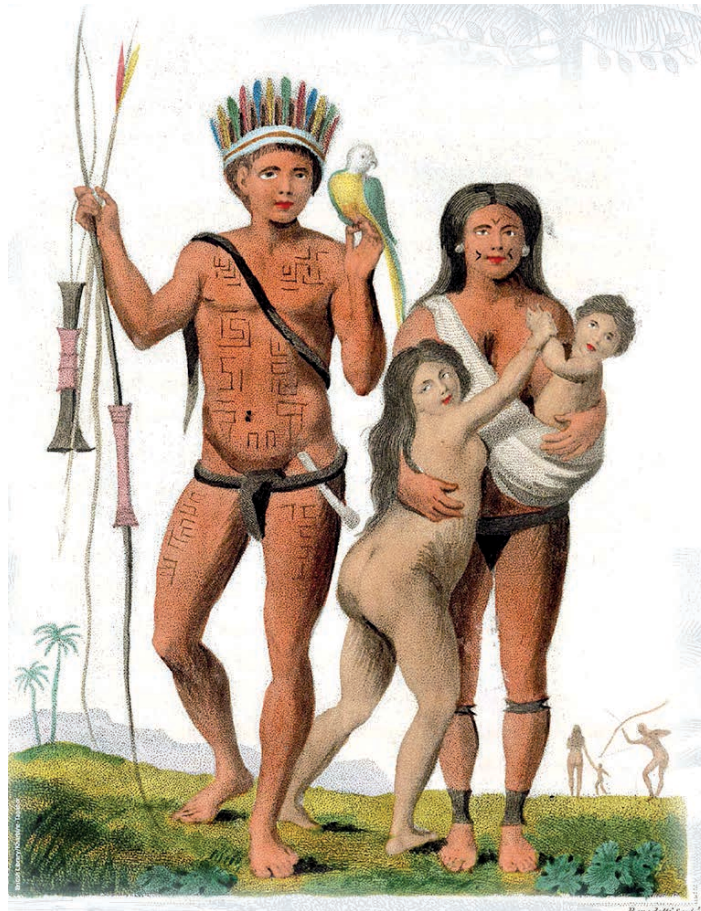
Big Crowd For Myths And Legends At Museum

The exhibit “Origins: Between Myth and History,” opened at the territorial Wall House Museum last Friday night with a large crowd of appreciative visitors. The exhibit runs through November 15.

Perhaps people wanted a little culture after being confined for two months, or maybe they were attracted by the native tribes and pirates that frequented the island hundreds of years ago, but the museum has not seen so many people in quite a while.

On Friday, June 19, the Wall House opened a new exhibit “Origins: Between Myth and History,” which was organized by the island’s cultural commission. A large crowd, including many families, took the time to read the texts that tell the story of the first inhabitants of Ouanalao, the Arawaks, and their conflicts with neighboring peoples; then the arrival of Europeans in the Antilles, who came to conquer these islands on the far side of the globe. In 1625, the Kalinagos were estimated at 15,000 individuals in the Caribbean; 50 years later there were but 2,500. And today there are just a few of their descendants on the island if Dominica, where they live on a reservation on the eastern side of the island. Other than massacres between indigenous tribes, the settlers landing in the Caribbean brought European wars with them, forcing certain islands to change hands rather frequently.

In the middle of these military ships filled with Europeans, pirates and profiteers made their fortunes. The second part of the exhibit presents some of the most famous of them and the bloody legends they evoke: Blackbeard, François L’Olonnais known as “the cruel,” Anne Bonny... Most of the stories come from Georges Bourdin’s



“History of Saint Barthélemy.”

The final section of the museum, along the back wall, covers a more recent time

period, with popular stories about Saint Barthélemy, or legends that were told to children not all that long ago. “A chicken was released at the top of Vitet

where there is a crater, and it was found the next day floating in the lagoon in Grand Cul-de-Sac;” or the tale of the Soucougnans, women who abandoned their skin and sat on large trees like the fromager to scare the population with their lights and their shrieks; stories that varied from one family to another, from one neighborhood to another, but are familiar to island natives. Another chart illustrates the virtues attributed to local medicinal plants, many of which are still used today.

After thanking the public for participating in this “voyage into our past,” Elodie Laplace, territorial council member in charge of cultural affairs, extended condolences to the Stakelborough family, and congratulated Bruno Magras on his 25 years as head of the island, first as mayor then president of the territorial council. Magras invited the guests to “enrich their culture, as I will do, and learn about what happened in Saint Barthélemy when we weren’t here.”



News Briefs

Five Months Of Road Work Between La Tourmente And Public

Before a large number of tourists return next season, the Collectivité is going all out on roadwork. Having obtained the final square meters of land from the owners, work to improve the twisty road between La Tourmente (traffic circle near the airport) and Public got underway on June 8. The goal is to increase safety along this road by widening the curves by two meters. There will not be a sidewalk, but a path for pedestrians will be provided. New water pipes will also be put in while the road is dug up. In terms of traffic, it is one way into town, you cannot drive from Public toward La Tourmente; it is necessary to leave via Gustavia, where to help the flow of traffic, the Rue de la Suède (between Isoletta and Tom Shop), temporarily leads out of town. To get into Gustavia, traffic can take the road from the dispensary down to Public, while the road between the traffic circle and Public remains open one-way for trucks and those desiring to go to the industrial zone. Those who want to go to Gustavia Colombier or Flamands, for example, can take the road that runs from Colombier to Corossol. The work is expected to be completed by the end of October.

Road Widened And Sidewalk Added Between St Jean and Saline

The road between the traffic circle near Villa Creole and Saline was in bad shape but will be brand new very soon! After the first phase as far as Sayolita was completed, BatiVRD and Getelec are working on the second section. The project includes construction of a retaining wall for the road, which will be widened with a sidewalk. The electric wires will be put underground with a new transformer, and public lighting will be added. New water pipes are on the menu as well as nodes awaiting fiber optic cables. Total cost 1.55 million €. Work expected to be completed late November, with the third part of the roadwork from the top of the hill to the intersection in Saline.

Detour In St Jean

Work continues on the bridge near Eden Rock, with a new traffic pattern as of this week: cars coming from the direction of Villa Creole toward the airport will be able to take the main road without going behind the salt pond. In the other direction, however, the road is completely closed. Vehicles coming from the direction of the stadium, or the airport for example, desiring to go to Villa Creole, will have to detour via Saline for at least the next month.




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The Legend Of Marius Stakelborough

97 years in Saint Barthélemy, including 70 as owner of Le Select, the legendary bar he opened on November 11, 1949. His life served as a link between our island and its history, primarily its Swedish past. An island legend, Marius Stakelborough passed away on June 18, surrounded by his children.

Born in 1923, Marius opened Le Select in 1949, but also served as librarian, photographer, weatherman, and sailor at various times. He crisscrossed the ocean for 10 years, on ships transporting merchandise between Caribbean islands.

In 2009, he told us about his return to dry land all those years ago: “There wasn’t any electricity on the island, but I couldn’t resign myself to go to bed at 7 o’clock in the evening! So I suggested that my sailor friends stop by my house. We read books, played dominos by the light of kerosene lamps, then Coleman lamps. That’s how we started Le Select, between friends.” Once it moved to a new location, it quickly became an island institution, attracting locals as well as travelers passing through and well-heeled tourists, but it never lost its comforting simplicity in spite of the luxury side of Saint Barthélemy. Birthday parties for Marius and anniversaries of Le Select took place every year, often attracting many friends from around the globe.

The patriarch of a large family, Marius was also the craftsman of renewing the bonds that still exist between his island and Sweden, and he was keenly interested in the history of Saint Barth, especially the Swedish era during which his two grandmothers were born. The King of Sweden, who Marius met on several occasions, awarded him the medal of the Royal Order of the Polar Star. As a young man, this son of a policeman, had the



Marius Stakelborough in 1969, celebrating the 20th anniversary of his bar, Le Select, and flashing his captivating smile. ©Lars Edlund

first camera on the island, and remained its only photographer for several decades. He also created the first postcards for Saint Barthélemy, some of which have been carefully saved to this day. He filled his little private museum with various objects, press clippings, posters, documents, record albums, photos, and other items that recall the past of Saint Barthélemy. The museum was open to the public on the anniversary of Le Select, every year in

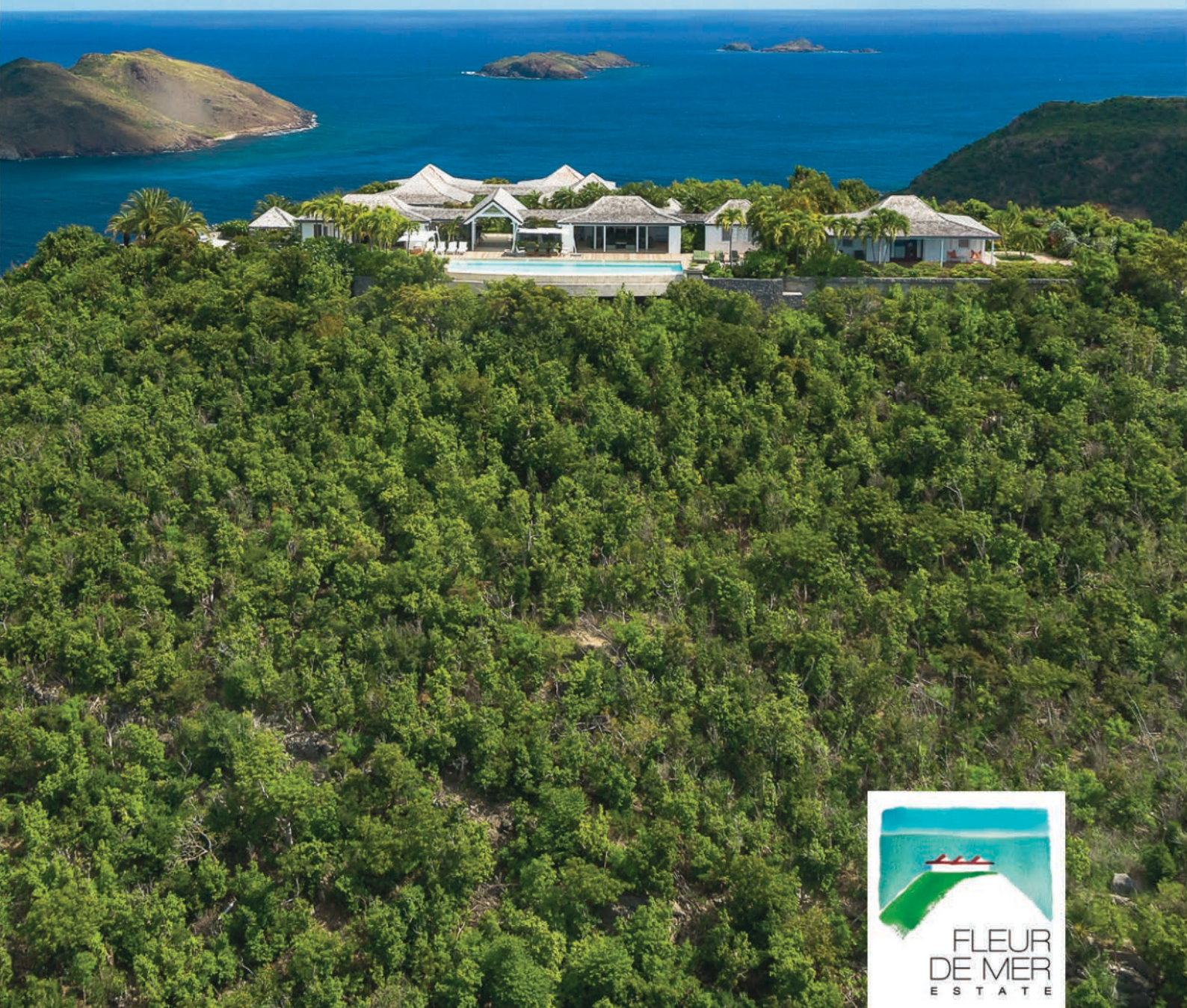
November.

A descendant of slaves, Marius became an authentic ambassador of Saint Barthélemy and the poet of his remarkable personal history. Adored by Swedes, as well as many of the Americans who visit the island, his charming personality and winning smile have been seen in several documentary films, notably “The Friends Of Marius,” in 2009.

The 60th anniversary of the bar was celebrated in a big way with a free Jimmy Buffett concert, but as Marius Stakelborough once told us, “Time passes too quickly. I drank my rum, I had my share of happiness, but one thing is sure, I worked really hard for that.... Le Select has welcomed people from five continents, of all races and all circumstances, and always with the same grace and the same respect. Le Select is my pride and joy.”

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The King and Queen of Sweden At Le Select



King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden during a private visit to Saint Barthélemy in 1987.

During the 1950's, a group of Swedes visited Saint Barthélemy and met Marius at Le Sélect. Former deputy mayor Yves Gréaux told this story when Marius Stakelborough got his distinguished citizen medal in 1998. "The Swedes were interested in his name, which was that of a former governor of the island: Stakelberg. When asked about the origin of his name, Marius said he didn't know, he hadn't tried to find out as he had other fish to fry. However it was of interest to the Swedes, as it was part of the history of the island. As of 1956, he was mentioned in Swedish newspapers. From year to year, the relationship with Sweden deepened."

Eventually ASBAS was founded (Saint Barth Friends Of Sweden Association) in Gustavia and St. Barthélemy-Sällskapet in Sweden, thanks to the motivation shown by Marius, as well as, among others, Charles Magras, Daniel Blanchard, and Jean Magras in Saint Barth, and Per Tingbrand, Olle Nyman, and Beril Larson on the Swedish side. Considered an honorary consul for Sweden in Saint Barthélemy, Marius enjoyed a visit by the Swedish King and Queen in December 1987, during a

private trip to the island. Carl XVI Gustaf and his wife Silvia won over the population with their easy manner. In 1980, Marius was honored as chevalier in Sweden's Royal Order Of The Polar Star. And in 2012, the Sweden crown elevated that status to Commander First Class, the highest grade.

"Since that day in September 1977, when Daniel Blanchard and I went to Sweden to look for a town that would agree to be twinned with our island, a lot of happy occasions have taken place, frequent trips produced fruitful cultural exchanges for our two communities," announced Marius Stakelborough, at the annual Piteå Day celebration in November 1997.

By his house in Gustavia, Marius created a small museum called "Back Street Gallery," where he has carefully saved and organized thousands of documents about the history of the island, hoping to be able to transmit this heritage to future generations, so that the past is not forgotten or glossed over: "They often say there were never any slaves in Saint Barthélemy. That is false. The last of them were freed between 1846 and 1847," Marius explained in 2009 "There will be many generations after us. They need to know the truth."

"A man, an island, a life"

Ingrid and Joachim Wall, respectively a Swedish journalist and photographer, published a biography of Marius Stakelborough in 1999 titled "A Man, An Island, A Life," with texts in French, English, and Swedish, telling the story of "one of the most celebrated people of the Caribbean." On the island 20 years ago for the 50th anniversary of Le Select, they confirmed their affection and friendship for Marius. The following is an interview with Ingrid Wall published at the time in Le Journal de St Barth:



JSB: Why was it so important for you to write this book?

IW: Marius has lived a truly extraordinary life. I really wanted people to know the fantastic story of his life better. He overcame lots of difficult circumstances in his life and went on to meet the King of Sweden. I don't think his life is a common one, and we were also interested by his link to Sweden. All of the ingredients were present to write a good book.

JSB: Why are the Swedes so fascinated with Marius?

IW: Because he is a very special person. He has always been interested in Sweden and in the Swedish people. His last name also resembles the name of one of the island's former Swedish governors—Stakelberg—so maybe Marius is a Swedish descendant! Saint Barth was the only colony that Sweden ever possessed. The Swedish people consider this fact to be interesting, even a little mysterious. There were pirates, contraband runners, and even slaves. Our country's only contact with slavery was here, in St. Barth. Today, we are lucky to have this man among us. Marius' ancestors were both slaves and Swedes.

JSB: What has struck you the most about Marius?

IW: His sense of democracy and his wisdom. He lives his life in a very good way, he respects people deeply, and he does many kind things for others, especially for the Swedish people who come here.

Jeff Garnder : eulogy for Marius, read at the funeral by Sue O'Donnell

It is with a heavy heart that I write these words today. The world has lost a dear friend. A man who touched nearly everyone he met, regardless of race, class, gender, national origin or life choice. Marius saw no color in a person. Some people would say that Marius had almost a spiritual effect on them. He was a great listener, always willing to sit and talk. He treated everyone with respect. Marius was a tough Father, not always the “warm and fuzzy” man that most visitors came to know. He admitted to me many times that his dear wife Helene raised their 10 children. He had great expectations for all of them, and they did not disappoint. Ramona, Michelle, Marie-Helene, Judith, Francoise, Vivienne, Vianny, Romeo, Gary, And Eddy all became successful upstanding members of the community. He didn't always show it, but I know down deep how much he loved you all. He wanted nothing but the best for all of you. St Barth has lost a true statesman. I don't know of anyone who had a deeper understanding of what the Island needed to survive and prosper. His cultural contributions were countless. Marius lived by the saying, “To get love, you need to give love.” I don't know of a man who gave more love than Marius. On a personal note, I cannot put into words how much I will miss my dear friend. I will always be eternally grateful to Michel Ledee for introducing me to Marius, which created a bond that will never be broken. I will always cherish the years we had together. His memory will live on in all of us. Rest in Peace, dear Marius.

*Jeff Garnder,
eulogy for Marius, read at the
funeral by Sue O'Donnell*



In front of the first version of Le Select. With his wife Hélène, they raised 10 children, who in turn also had children, making Marius the patriarch of a large tribe.

Bruno Magras: “An excellent ambassador for our island”

Marius was a well-known and celebrated figure on the island of Saint Barthélemy. He was a man who was loved and respected by the population. The relationships he built over the years with many international friends, especially from Sweden and the United States, made him an excellent “ambassador” for our island. With his friends Olle Nyman and Per Tingbrand, he actively worked to recreate the bonds with our former mother country. It was thanks to this work that he was honored with the Chevalier of the Royal Order of the Polar Star by the King of Sweden on May 3, 1980, and which led to his medal as a Distinguished Citizen of Saint Barthélemy on August 24, 1998. Sadly, one of our cherished friends has passed way and his disappearance is a loss for our island.

Bruno Magras

Arlette Magras: “An exceptional encyclopedia” Marius...



I often went to speak with Marius, and he always asked me to let him know in advance, so he would have time to prepare “his memo” of everything he wanted to show me in order not to forget anything. I listened to him for hours, and he was able to answer all of my questions. An exceptional encyclopedia!

Nothing could disrupt us... “We are discussing serious things,” he would say. Impossible to leave, he always had so much to tell me! Many different subjects were covered, his youth, the history of Saint Barth, his first contacts with the Swedes, and we often exchanged confidences about family and friends... When it was time to leave, he said, “no, no, you have to have a little drink... for Hélène,” which made me smile, so we'd clink our glasses in his living room, and our conversation picked up right where it had left off.

He often told me, “Now it's time for me to join my family and my friends, but there are still so many things to do!” Was he able to get it all done? We never have time to finish everything. Marius, I never thanked you enough for all that you gave me.

Arlette Magras

John King : “An unpretentious oasis where history can be shared and where time, on a very fast changing island, seems to stand still.”

It seems that nothing much goes on in Gustavia that does not pass by Le Select. Located at the crossroads of the village it has been an inviting and self-advertising landmark for over 70 years. Marius and his dear wife H el ene founded the bar in 1949 as a place for locals to congregate for a drink, a game of chance and lively conversation. An American, by the name of David Rockefeller, discovered the island of Saint Barth in the late 50s and immediately fell in love with the charm of Le Select— as a place for his children to perfect their French and for Mr. Rockefeller to develop a lifelong friendship with Marius. Nearly 50 years later, on the occasion of Marius’s 90th birthday, Mr. Rockefeller phoned in to wish Marius well and then sent a special birthday letter. Other interesting people would also come to adopt Le Select as their bar away from home. In the 80s, Jimmy Buffett came across the bar while on a sailing trip, saw a poster of himself next to a poster of Bob Marley and declared he was home. Le Select has made a few changes over the years, even moving a few feet from the place of inception in 1949. Son Eddy opened a snack bar on the property in 1979 and the name Cheeseburger in Paradise was willingly appropriated from Jimmy Buffett’s famous song. While a few changes have been made out of necessity or opportunity, a weathered outside wall displays a sign that reads: “Le Select avoiding change since 1949.” I think that is what we all love so much about the bar, Marius and his family— an unpretentious oasis where history can be shared and where time, on a very fast changing island, seems to stand still.

I’m not sure when I first met Marius, but I do distinctly remember attending his 80th birthday on June 5, 2003. On that August occasion I had become one of his many pho-

tographers in winter residence. I created a book of the event—rudimentary in the early consumer internet days— and shipped boxes of them to him by very slow mail.

What continued on was an appreciation of the man and his ethos of love and compassion for all he met. The years went on and there are more events of note, but most importantly the events between the two of us sitting in Le Select (Ti Punch, rhum blanc, sans glace) or in his self-appointed “crab shack” talking about his beginnings and the culture he nurtured on the island.

Le Select came to embody that culture.

A place of belonging for a drink, a book to read and a game of dominos. A place, on the Tuesday before Lent, to march, dance and sing. And always a place where everyone was welcome and loved without reservation. There were many more big events over the years, celebrations for Le Select anniversaries and for his major birthdays, the last being his 95th. Each were special, each were unique and none will ever be forgotten.

My last visit to the “crab shack” was in early March of this year. The pandemic was looming on the horizon, so for the first time, there was no kissing or touching as we met. He showed me photos of his father and other memorabilia that I had never seen —his archives were seemingly bottomless— and then I said my farewells.

As was his practice, he escorted me (at a social distance) to the door. He raised his hand and spoke: “A bient ot John” and I returned the phrase. It was the perfect goodbye and remembrance. Rest in Peace dear friend.

John King

Dant es Magras: “The island has lost a giant, a sage”



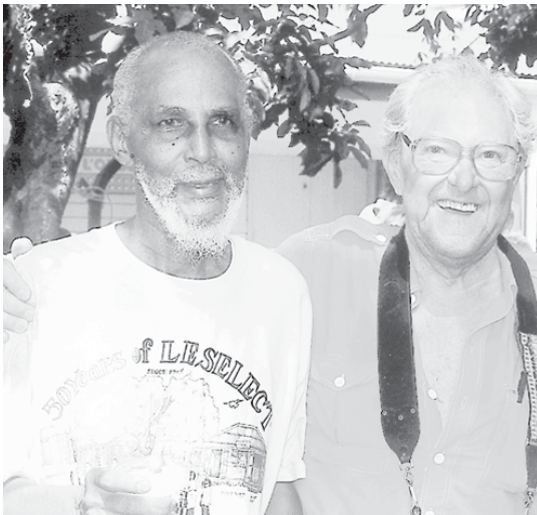
Marius was first of all a great friend of my father’s and I saw him often, ever since I was a kid. For me, it’s thanks to him that Sweden was not forgotten in the history of the island, which now benefits from a special tax status, and whether we admit it or not, it’s because of Sweden, and once again it was able to happen thanks to Marius and his relationships, that status was not forgotten. He was also a founder of the Saint Barth Friends Of Sweden Association.

He was called “the consul of Sweden” and before accepting my nomination to that post at the time, I went and asked his opinion. Marius frequently went to Sweden and was received by the King and Queen. He was on the cover of certain Swedish newspapers, and one time he was pictured with a small wolf in his arms. That photo was taken at the open-air history museum in Skansen. I met him there once and he told me a story with a sense of amusement: “When I left for Sweden the first time, the mayor back then told me jokingly to be careful, because in Sweden, they didn’t like blacks and I would be eaten by wolves. And there I was with a wolf in my arms in Sweden.”

During a meeting with the royal couple, not so long ago at the Royal Palace in Stockholm, the King immediately asked me for news about Marius. He knew him well, and during their family vacations in St Barth we all dined together at Le Brigantin.

Marius did not seek out praise, and his major work to maintain the historic relationship with Sweden was not for any personal gain. The island has lost a giant, a sage. I hope he will soon be honored again, this time with a square or street, for example, named “Marius Stakelborough.”

Dant es Magras



With Olle Nyman in 1995.

Sue O'Donnell : "A Legend in his Own Time"



We will no doubt echo the words of SO many others by saying that Marius is "A Legend in his Own Time" and has been an enormously positive influence on and for the island of St. Barth. We and our family have only known him for 35 years, but he has been a huge part of our lives and of our love of this island! What a Gentle-man, in every way: loving of his own children and ours, and my 99 year-old mother! We will cherish the many memories we made together with Marius, including the many years of polishing the "Office" sign on the tree! It is hard to fathom this island without him, and we are all diminished by his loss. We believe he knew that we loved him, and we love his family, so we all should hope to carry on his spirit and goodness together.
Sue and Larry O'Donnell and Family

Ed Gudenas : « The rules had to be followed »



From the diverse books he read since his youth and the experiences he sought, Marius Stakelborough became a very wise man. We know Marius as the person who started Le Select with his partner Helen in 1949, but that is just a part of what he accomplished.

Marius showed great respect and love to many. Being a good friend was very important. Until his eyesight made it impossible, Marius would write and call hundreds of friends all over the world to make sure they knew he was thinking of them.

Marius was the most spiritual person I knew. I believe his love of others came from his love of God. He prayed every day, including for his many friends, and still had the prayer book from his youth.

People were instantly drawn to him and that is what happened to me. My first visit to Le Select was in 1995 and so I had missed all of the important events before. I was told that it would

be good to be back in November 1999 for the 50th and so I was. I wanted to surprise Marius with a collection of photos that documented this anniversary. When I returned in January and presented the album, he was very grateful. And so, the friendship began. And my photography career.

I considered myself to be a special assistant to Marius and it became an education and relationship I cherish. Being a friend of Marius made you a friend to many other friends of Marius. Marius was also known to friends as "The Boss" because he knew what needed to be done and made sure it was accomplished. The rules had to be followed.

One order he made long ago was to make no changes to Le Select. Even this year he would make his inspections and ask why a photo was moved or missing. Everything had its' place. Marius will continue to be part of many lives. That will not change.

Ed Gudenas

Francine Levy : "The world was more fun when he was around"

My trips home to St Barth never really began until I got my hug from Marius. From our first lunch together he always treated me like family. His personality helped make St Barth what it became. We flew in several times for his birthday. He would tell us to do it and would light up in disbelief when he saw us. He was one of the most welcoming people I ever met. He seemed frail and complained about his eyesight in 2017. I danced once until 1am in the rain with him. Maybe his 91st birthday. I got my battle cry of "IM STILL HERE!" From him and it helped me when I was sick. The world was more fun when he was around.

Francine Levy



With Per Tingbrand in October 2010. ©Arlette Magras

Candice Miller : “We are thinking of his family”

We are thinking of his family. He was such an influence to so many of us, we became a part of a larger family. Sadness all around. But he brought so many of us together, friendships we would not have otherwise. He loved that—maybe his best legacy.

Candice Miller

Jamie Delaney: “An island treasure”

An island treasure. May we never forget his contribution to our beautiful St Barth.

Jamie Delaney

Amy Bettan : “I was a bit nervous”

I am remembering my first chat with Mr Marius..the St Barths living legend. We had some drinks in hand and sat down next to him in his office spot. I was a bit nervous, to tell the truth. He had a million questions. Where in America was I from? How did I meet Phil? How many anniversaries? How many children and grand children? Did I have a house or live in an apartment? And then “Why did you choose that house?”

He said take your time and tell me. So I told him how we fell in love with the Model house that we saw on Long Island because it had a huge formal dining room. We were Already at that time parents of two Small sons. But since We were the first marrieds to settle down in a house of our own and none of our other siblings had children yet we wanted to be sure we could have enough room for them at our table for holidays and celebrations for after the time they too had families. He was wide eyed and said, “Because you could have a big table?” When I answered YES, he clasped my hand and said, “Because I see family is so important to you I can tell you we will become friends.” And so we did.

I am really gonna miss that dear heart and those big hugs he gave as he welcomed me back each time we met.

Amy Bettan

Diana Deutsch : “I was hooked with all the stories ”

I met Marius in 1989. I had stopped into Le Select as it looked like a nice place to spend an afternoon. Marius was sitting outside speaking with some people. When I stopped by the bar area to get another planteur punch, Marius was walking in and sat down beside me. He said you



ordered a planteur, you should be ordering a ti punch, its the best drink on the menu. We sat there at the bar and he begins talking about the early days before all the tourists, I was hooked with all the stories coming from

this enigmatic man. He spoke so eloquently, and we became fast friends. The time went by so fast, when I looked at the clock we had been chatting for over two hours. I came back to the island a couple of times a year after that and I always could find Marius at the bar. I moved to St. Barth in 2003, an island that always made me feel at home as did my friendship with Marius. I will miss you dear friend.

Diana Deutsch



In 1978 with Jean Magras on the first Piteå Day, a celebration of the twinning of the Swedish town of Piteå and Saint Barth.

Dennis Carlton : “He always liked “pretty ladies”



Fondly recalling Marius is an easy thing to do, though there are so many memories. Knowing life for nearly a century and well traveled, despite roots as a descendant of slaves, Marius was exceptional in meeting people, making friends, and maintaining acquaintances. He eagerly embraced friendships offered by others as they visited St. Barth and invited him to visit them. All of this good will initially emanated from Marius' entrepreneurship in welcoming local friends and strangers to sit and talk— first at a room in the small Gustavia house shared with his wife and family, and later nearby in a few places... leading to “Le Select” of today. Food, conversation, refreshments, dominoes, and a library, with Marius as host, came together in a pure, unadulterated, authentic, island setting... becoming an enduring and welcoming scene of music, dancing, simple eats, cheap drinks, and International and local ethno-economic diversity.

It was in this setting that I first met Marius on a March morning in 1978. As I tentatively walked into the outdoor “garden” of Le Select, 54 year-old Marius— lean and with long legs—sprang across the space to greet me with outstretched hand. Never being one to encounter a stranger, he insisted that I sit and join him in enjoying his favorite drink, a Ti Punch. No ice and quite strong, I thought. Nonetheless, there soon was a second one... and conversation flowed. As I was leaving, Marius insisted that I return in the afternoon with my wife, Wendy. As he explained, he enjoyed meeting me, but always liked “pretty ladies.”

In this regard, as a “bookend” to my story of knowing Marius for many years, I'll conclude by sharing that he also came to know my mother when she visited on a number of occasions after my Dad died. Marius and Mom were born in the same year—1923— and, during her years of visiting on St. Barth, they developed a tradition of sharing birthday celebrations with each other. When I, thus, visited Marius this past March at his house, as we walked to sit in the small salon, Marius paused to point out to me a birthday card pinned to the wall that Mom sent to him just before she died, a little over a year ago. Speaking of their common birth year, he repeated the comment that he always made to her, “You know, we came over on the same boat together.” It was a typically thoughtful, generous gesture of a kind, gentle man.

Marius was honored & feted by royalty, millionaires, and everyday folk... while all the time modestly, indelibly, and indisputably making friends and marking St. Barth as a beacon of civility for local cultures and visitors.

Dennis Carlton

Nils Dufau: “The End Of An Era.”



Marius was one of the founders of the Saint Barth Friends Of Sweden Association (ASBAS) back in 1978. In the 1960's, he was already happily welcoming the many Swedes who came to visit St. Barth. Le Select, often informally called “The Swedish Embassy,” was, and remains, the meeting point for our friends from Scandinavia. In fact, I was happy to once again see Marius at Le Select on February 18, with a group from the town of Piteå, who came to the island to build a Swedish house. It was a very special moment filled with transatlantic Franco-Swedish friendship. During that visit, Marius remained standing, impossible to make him sit down so that he could rest!

The members of ASBAS add their condolences to all those sent from Sweden at this time: Helena Stenberg, mayor of Piteå, former mayor Peter Roslund, and all the Swedish friends of the association.

The passing of Marius is truly the end of an era, but he will remain in the hearts of all those who knew him well.

Nils Dufau

Jimmy Buffett : “Marius, my captain...”



Marius, my captain, teacher, friend, neighbor and sailor, farewell. You taught us to navigate life, with a smile for everyone, and occasionally a champagne cork to the butt of the bee, above the bar in Le Select. A cheeseburger and a Ti-Punch will always be on my menu. Sail on sailor. Your spirit will always be a part of mine.

Jimmy Buffett