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St Barth WEEKLY

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Magic On The Dock





2021 Off To A Wild Start

Easy to say, as people have been, that hindsight is 20/20 and they are happy to see last year in the rearview mirror. But 2021 has been fraught and wrought already and we are only two weeks in. With what's going on in the US, it's no wonder tourists are fleeing to the safer shores of Saint Barthélemy, but with a spike in the number of cases of Covid-19 on the island, it seems as if our impenetrable bubble has been popped wide open. As a result, residents and tourists alike should be careful. It doesn't mean hying thyself to a nunnery, but it might amount to the same thing should we be locked down again.

In the meantime, this issue of The Weekly gives you a little rundown on the number of tourists, flights at our little airport, and boats in the port over the holidays. Slightly down from last year, but busy enough to get the island off to a good start financially. The local economy has been fragile since hurricane Irma hit, and does not need another setback.

The Christopher Hotel is also in the news, having officially reopened with the French overseas minister on hand. Luckily, he was here on an official visit and will not lose his job as did the Canadian politician who was caught on a Saint Barth vacation while the rest of his country was sheltering in place. Not that I blame him, as Saint Barth is certainly appealing at this time of year, but his timing was off.

As for the rest of 2021, all I can say for now, is wait and see!

Ellen Lampert-Gréaux

Covid-19: Number Of Cases Continues To Increase



Epidemiological reports show an increase in the circulation of the coronavirus on the island over the past two weeks. For the first week of 2021, French Public Health counted 19 new patients, and there were 15 new cases in the last week of December, compared to an average of seven per week earlier in December. That brings the total to 224 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in St Barthélemy since March 2020. Six clusters, two of which are moderately critical, have been identified.

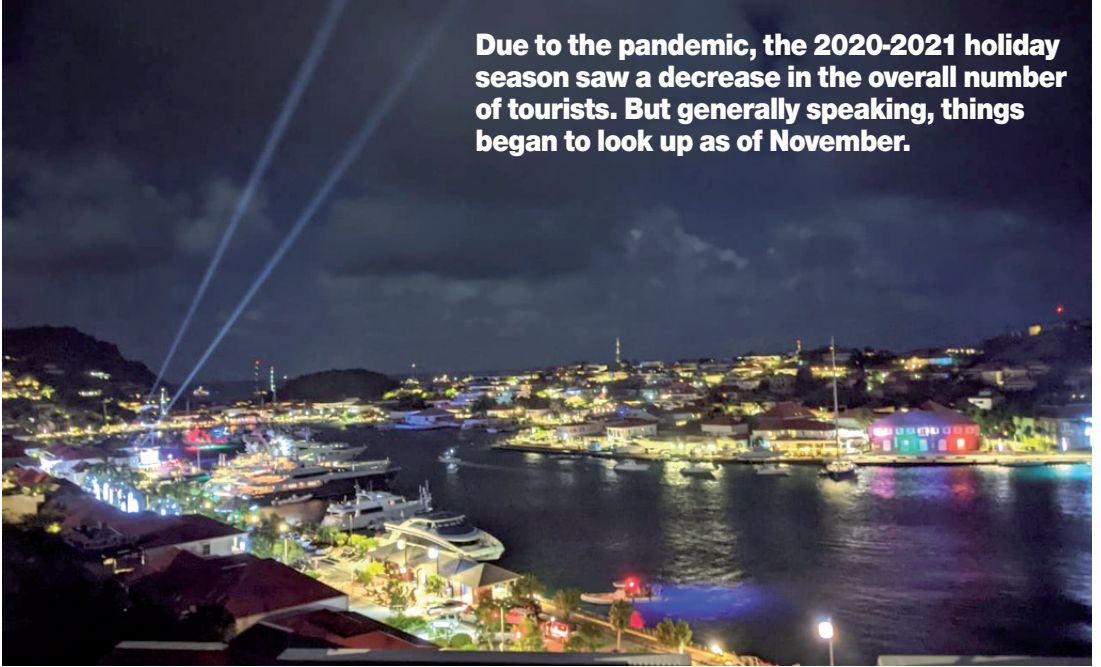
A new testing center opened on December 29 on the public parking lot in Saint Jean, offering antigen tests only, which are free. These tests are available to residents and tourists alike who just need

to present an official piece of identification. These tests are intended for travelers going to France by way of Juliana Airport (SXM), French or foreign travelers who need an antigen test before going to another country (notably the United States), anyone visiting St Barthélemy who arrives by error with a test that was taken more than 72 hours before their arrival on the island, and visitors who have been on the island over seven days and want to make sure they are not positive.

However, anyone showing symptoms, or for contact tracing, should get a PCR test at the Biopole Lab in Gustavia. The lab does Covid-19 testing from 12pm-1pm Monday-Friday and 9am-10am on Saturday.

Strong Numbers In Spite Of Covid-19

Due to the pandemic, the 2020-2021 holiday season saw a decrease in the overall number of tourists. But generally speaking, things began to look up as of November.



Paul McCartney, Robbie Williams, John Legend, Chrissy Teigen, Jean-Claude Van Damme, and Sofia Richie were among the celebrities who decided to spend the holidays in Saint Barth. The week of December 24-31, 198 boats arrived in the port, with a total of 2,371 people aboard.

The night of December 31, a total of 277 yachts were anchored in the harbor, including six that were over 100 meters in length, such as Roman Abramovich’s Eclipse, the third longest afloat at 162.5 meters (533 ft) and Le Grand Bleu, which measures 113.14 m. (371 ft). Ulysses (116m), Symphony (101.04m), Kaos (110m), and IJE (108m) were also there, along with eight others longer than 70 meters.

At Rémy de Haenen Airport, 4,355 passengers on commercial

flights arrived between December 19 and 31, with 3,347 of them international passengers. There were more than 200 take-offs and landings on December 26 and 27 and on January 2 and 3, with a peak of 247 flights coming or going on January 3, with 199 on December 19.

A Decrease Compared To 2019

The end result is lower than during the same time period last year, which had broken all records. As 2019 segued into 2020, Saint Barthélemy registered 217 yachts in the Port of Gustavia and there were eight days which saw more than 200 takeoffs and landings at the airport, which experienced a 17.2% dip in arrivals compared to the same time last year. This decrease can be verified in the annual report for the airport, which confirms a 35.6% chute

compared to 2019. A total of 118,813 passengers arrived on commercial flights in 2020.

At the island’s restaurants, Nicolas Gicquel of the restaurateurs’ association estimates that the post-confinement recovery is still underway. “It is true that certain regular clients have not come back, and there are fewer people in each restaurant since we cannot host as many people as usual,” he admits. “But we have the impression that people are enjoying themselves, and are perhaps spending a little more than before.” For the restaurateurs, it is still too early to report on the holidays, but “the month of December was excellent,” and in December, certain overcrowded places had to refuse dozens of clients.

A Windy New Year's Eve

2020 proved an especially difficult year, right to the very last day. The winds whipped up and caused holiday events to be cancelled or postponed, such as the New Year's Eve Parade of sailboats around the island. With winds blowing at 30 knots and swells over three meters, it was not a good idea to set out for a sail.

While there was not excessive rain in Saint Barth or Saint Martin, the wind was strong enough to interfere with air traffic at Rémy de Haenen Airport on Thursday, December 31 when 60% of all flights were cancelled. The next day, all of the airlines reduced their number of flights, except Air Antilles.

The Port of Gustavia was also impacted, as almost all of the yacht captains feared remaining at the



©Ed Guéhenas

dock due to large swells and high winds, so they moved to safer moorings as of December 30.

And that's not all: high gusts also made New Year's Eve a little less

festive, as some of the fireworks planned at midnight were postponed for two days. Those in Gustavia and Eden Rock lit up the skies on January 2 at 6:30pm and 8pm respectively.

The Christopher Reopens With New Environmental Standards

After suffering a succession of setbacks, from hurricane Irma in September 2017 to a fire in February 2018 that destroyed the restaurant, the owners of the Christopher Hotel, Mr. & Mrs. Terrassoux, took advantage of being closed due to the pandemic to do major work on its graywater system, in order to meet environmental requirements imposed by the Collectivity. The official reopening of the hotel coincided with a visit by French overseas minister Sébastien Lecornu,



In the presence of prefect Serge Gouteyron and president of the Collectivity Bruno Magras, overseas minister Sébastien Lecornu cut the inaugural ribbon at the Christopher.

who had lunch with local dignitaries at Mango. Located in Pointe Milou, the hotel has a state-of-the-art water treatment

system that allows the gardens to be irrigated using graywater. Its goal is to reduce its use of water and energy consumption by 2% and to make sure at least 40% of its cleaning products have an ecolabel. They are also hoping to earn the international Green Globe label, which recognizes tourist professionals that adopt environmentally responsible management activities. "Our first goal this year is to get certified. Then to make sure that certification is perpetuated," explains Yohan Adam, deputy director.

Two Magical Evenings of Love and Dance

Marie-Agnès Gillot, prima ballerina and choreographer, led a company of four dancers/performers and two musicians in a sensual premiere that opened the 37th edition of the St Barth Music Festival. Gillot, a former star dancer for the Paris Opera Ballet and a choreographer often referred to as “the contemporary dancer,” orchestrated this little troupe invited by the Festival organizers: Tamara Fernando, dancer and choreographer, Matthew Totaro, hip hop dancer and performer, David Dain, whose many talents include juggler and chef, and Tom Duquesnoy, martial arts specialist.



Dancers and Transdisciplinary Artists

The five performers barely had five days to rehearse the new piece based on the theme of love. After Carmen as the leitmotif last year, Frances DeBroff, Festival founder, chose love as the theme for 2021. Violinist Tessa Lark and bassist Michael Thurber created a scenario for the dancers to discover when they arrived on the island. In spite of limited rehearsal time, they rapidly found and shared myriad variations on the theme: genres of love, the love between a mother and child, passionate love, unconditional love... “We have lost physical contact with one another,” says Tamara Fernando softly, “but that is only temporary and we hope it was good for the audience to see bodies that touch and are interlaced.” Like an embrace, as important in the heart of these dancers/performers as unity, harmony, and physical contact in general.

How did they manage to create the new piece? The artists seemed calm

as they rose to the occasion: “It was easy,” explains Gillot with a note of humor. “We discussed it in the car. I’d say, ‘I see myself as a piece of beef on a table!’ And David acted like he was cooking me. From there, everybody reacted.”

“I am always seeking that magic...”

In spite of complications caused by the global pandemic, Frances DeBroff stayed the course. The Festival can always count on her determination and grit. For her, when artists are invited, such as Marie-Agnès Gillot, it is essential to encourage them to do something that they haven’t done before. “Stretching the limits of creativity is more interesting for the artists,” says DeBroff. “And when a soloist, a dancer, or an orchestra says ‘I can do that,’ and they do it their own way, it becomes magic.” The creative process always involves something inexplicable: “Once I am given a theme or a framework, it’s the music that changes the way I

move,” points out Gillot. “I react viscerally in function to what I feel.” The new piece for St Barth was inspired by a patchwork of influences, including texts, assembled and remixed into a powerful presentation.

The Festival continues

The Festival continues this week with classical music, opera, and jazz. The orchestra is smaller this year to allow more space between the musicians, and between the orchestra and the audience by not filling the first rows of seats in the island’s churches that serve as performance venues, especially for the opera. “The singers will not wear masks, but won’t move around very much,” explains Jill DeBroff, general manager and production director. Audiences are limited to 100 people per concert, which led the festival to present two concerts per evening, an early show at 7pm and a later show at 9pm for the music and opera, and at 5pm and 7pm for the closing jazz concert on Sunday, January 17.

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 !

2021 St Barth Music Festival

Stop by and you'll be amazed at the quality of the musicians and dancers...

- January 14: Piano recital / Catholic Church, Gustavia
- January 15: Opera night Arias / Catholic Church, Lorient
- January 17: Jazz night / Anglican Church

For additional information and complete programs:
stbartsmusicfestival.org

Live Music

- ▶ Every day
- 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
- ▶ Friday, January 15
- Gypset Soirees from 7pm @ Le Manapany
- For Her. Champagne for Ladies 8-10pm @ Le Bagatelle
- ▶ Saturday, January 16
- Nuit Blanche Party. White dress code & Joie de vivre @ Le Bagatelle
- ▶ Sunday, January 17

- Live musical entertainment for brunch at Manapany
- ▶ Monday, January 11
- Monday aperitivo with live music at Al Mare Restaurant (Le Sereno)
- Tropical Twist Evening with Live music, from 7pm at Le Christopher

- 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
- Galerie Asie

Exhibitions

- Space Gallery St Barth Group exhibition presenting many new artists incl. Charles Moreau, Jean-Philippe Piter and more.
- Group exhibition : Alain Le Chatelier, Gery Langlais Stanislas Defize, David Wegman, Lindy Shuttleworth, Dave Stevenson @ Les Artisans

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



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Stay forever..



Villa TWH - 4 Bedrooms - Toiny

6,750,000 €

Beautifully renovated, 4 bedroom villa with pool with lot size of 1060m2. Located just a stone's throw from the Toiny beach club.



Villa JOY - 5 Bedrooms - Marigot

12,800,000 €

PRICE NEGOTIABLE

Beautiful view of Marigot bay. Modern design is accentuated with clean lines. Gourmet kitchen, pool, air-conditioned bedrooms.



Villa MCL - 4 Bedrooms - Marigot

6,500,000 €

Designed and decorated by famed interior architect Christian Liaigre, this waterfront villa has direct access to Marigot Beach. The villa consists of two separate bungalows. Three private parking spaces.



Land HAZ - St Jean - 1338m²

2,862,000 € each

Two lots that are awaiting permitting with views of the St. Jean bay and ocean.



Villa CBI - 4 Bedrooms - Grand Cul de Sac

4,900,000 €

Newly built, turnkey, 4 bedroom villa at walking distance to the beach.



Land TO1 - Lot size 1590m² - Toiny

3,500,000 €

Land with permit for 253m² close to the beach of Toiny with panoramic views.



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St. Barth
Properties

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Close to shops and St. Jean beach | View on the bay | Terrace with Jacuzzi



Condo | St. Jean

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Within walking distance to the beach and the 5* Hotel Le Barthélemy | Swimming pool



Private Villa | Grand Cul de Sac

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Within walking distance to the beach and the 5* Hotel Le Barthélemy | Pool and jacuzzi



Per Tingrand en compagnie of son ami Marius Stakelborough

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Swimming pool | Nature | Vegetable garden



Private Villa | Marigot

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