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Local News
in English

FREE



St-Barth WEEKLY

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**New Limited-
Edition Sculptures
by Hunt Slonem**

Unwrap The Magic Of Fine Art
This Holiday at Space Gallery



WHAT'S COOKING IN GUSTAVIA!

Gustavia, the capital of Saint Barth, named after King Gustav III of Sweden, as the island was under Swedish rule from 1784 until 1878 when the French took over once again. Which explains the jaunty yellow and blue Swedish flags flying on the island; as well as the charming Swedish street signs. At this time of year, the town is decked out in holiday lights, the boutiques are abuzz with shoppers snapping up beads and baubles, pearls and pocketbooks, gifts and goodies. Friday and Saturday, December 22 & 23, final days for the Christmas Village on the dock with more gift ideas or perfect little stocking stuffers. Serious art buyers should visit Space Gallery in the Carré d'Or to choose from limited-edition books, prints, and sculptures—waiting to be unwrapped.

A full program of events unfolds at the Anglican Church: Christmas Eve Mass on Sunday, December 24 at 9:30am followed by a Christmas Eve Nine Lessons and Carols Service at 6:30pm; and a Christmas Day Mass on Monday, December 25 at 10am. It's a wonderful time of the year to visit this small, very elegant church.

Friday evening, take a walk down memory lane at the Wall House Museum, with the opening of an exhibit dedicated to Michael Zimmer and his "camp," which reigned on the beach in Saint Jean for close to 25 years and was a retreat for New Yorkers — including a few rather famous artists (see the article in this issue of The Weekly).

On Christmas Day, music fills the air at 5pm at the pif-paf kiosk, with Creole caroling by the Banda Nono, and don't forget to make a stop at The Pot Shop to see Jenny May's charming 'Happy Bears Go To Morocco' exhibit.

Merry Christmas!

Ellen Lampert-Gréaux

SPACE GALLERY CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

All decked out in red and green for the end-of-the-year festivities, Space Gallery in Gustavia's Carré d'Or presents the magic of fine art for the holidays. Choose amongst beautiful art books, delightful small paintings, photography, sculpture, and limited-edition or unique pieces that you can't resist, from a select list of gallery goodies.



Christophe Jacrot

These include: Christophe Jacrot's *Quiet Night*, a limited-edition photograph; two pieces by Hannah Polskin—her black undulating *Menorah Sculpture*;



Hannah Polskin

and *Home 15 - #2*, acrylic on an exposed wooden panel; Roger Moreau's charming limited-edition bronze heart sculpture; Hugh Arnold's *Pedestal #2*, a limited-edition photograph; Victor Matthews' abstract *Winter City Morning*, a limited-edition fine-art print; Ulf Saupe's *Golden Forest #20, Variation I*, a limited-edition photograph; two pieces by Hunt Slonem— *Chinesis*



Weeks End, oil on canvas; and the newly released, limited-edition sculptures, in powder-coated aluminum (red and green). Also, for photography aficionados, the perfect gift is 'Glaviano 50,' a handsome fine-art book celebrating Marco Glaviano's impressive 50-year career & one of his limited-edition prints.

These inspired gift ideas are part of the gallery's "Holiday Edit," a curated selection for collectors and first-time buyers alike. "Art always makes the best and most unique gift," says gallery director Natalie Clifford. "We have put together a list of highlights for the holiday season. Gifts everyone on your list would enjoy unwrapping for the holidays!"

Established in 2011, Space Gallery St Barth is a contemporary art gallery dedicated to showcasing painting, photography, and sculpture by established and emerging artists. The gallery specializes in working with living artists with a strong European flavor. Since its inception, Space Gallery St Barth has built an impressive roster of artists, curated international exhibitions, participated in major art fairs including the Venice Biennale, and organized museum exhibitions. Today, the gallery has locations in St Barth and New York City and regularly exhibits in Monaco and Miami.

You are all invited
to celebrate

Christmas

at the Anglican Church

✦ **Christmas Eve Mass**

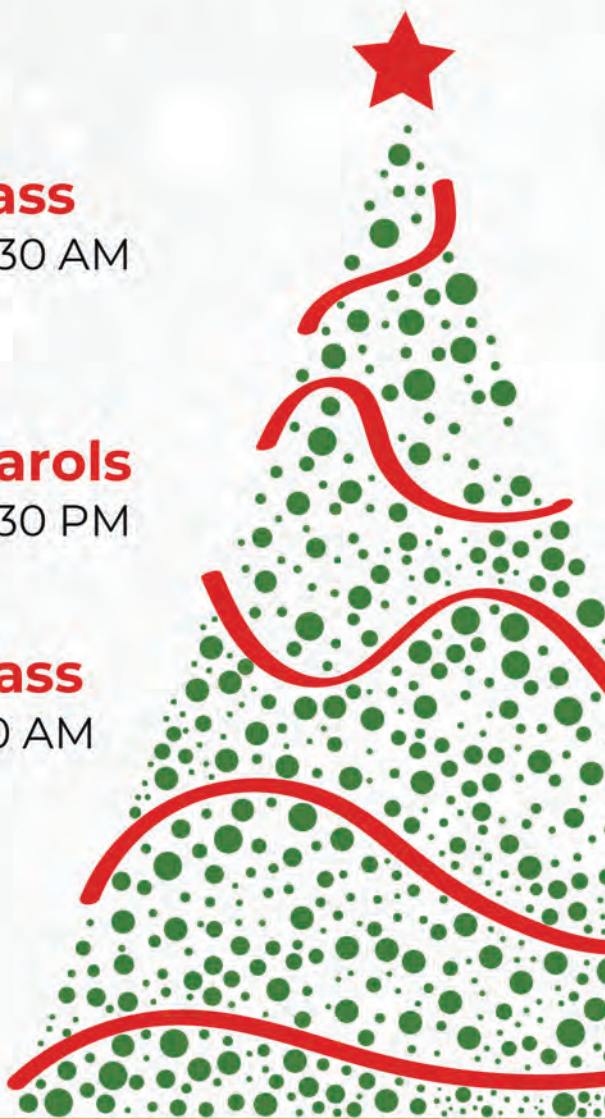
Sunday, Dec 24th at 9:30 AM

✦ **Christmas Eve,
Nine Lessons & Carols**

Sunday, Dec 24th at 6:30 PM

✦ **Christmas Day Mass**

Monday, Dec 25th at 10 AM



Les Voiles de St Barth 2024 Cancelled

On Friday, December 8, the organizers of Les Voiles de St Barth announced that the 2024 edition, scheduled for April 14-20, was indeed cancelled, for lack of a new title partner after the withdrawal of Richard Mille.

The news spread quickly on the island before it was officially confirmed on Friday, December 8. In a post on social media, the organizers of Les Voiles de St Barth, François Tolède and Luc Poupon, announced the cancellation of the 2024 regatta. "It is with profound regret that we announce the cancellation of the 2024 edition of Les Voiles de St Barth, scheduled for April 14-20," they wrote in an initial document. "Our numerous negotiations with a future title sponsor were unfortunately not fruitful, at least not for this year. We assure you that the decision to cancel was not taken lightly. We explored diverse options and alternative solutions to try and guarantee that this edition could be held."

No New Partner After Withdrawal Of Richard Mille

The search for a future title partner follows the withdrawal of Richard Mille, who had sponsored Les Voiles for 13 years. A main sponsor who has decided to "move on to other horizons," explains François Tolède, who prefers to focus attention on the cancellation of the 2024 edition. "We were in talks with a new title partner, but they made a pseudo defection," assures Les Voiles organizer. "He was looking to set up a commercial presence on the island, but couldn't find a site." This inability to set up a business in Saint Barth led to the late withdrawal of this new title partner, whose name has not been revealed.

As soon as the potential new part-



©Christophe Jouany/VDSB

ner withdrew, François Tolède indicated that he approached the Territorial Collectivity to explain the difficulties encountered by Les Voiles for financing the 2024 edition. "The president told me that there was no question of abandoning Les Voiles, but the whole thing dragged on and when we met again, no decision had been made," says François Tolède, who regrets a "political heavy-handedness," believing that certain elected officials "didn't realize the magnitude of a cancellation like this." In any case, with no solution in sight, François Tolède and Luc Poupon made their decision. "We have obligations towards the participants, the boats, and our other partners," stresses the former. All the more so as some of the participants had already made plans to travel to Saint Barthélemy for the regatta on April 14 to 20.

"Politico-Economic Difficulties"

In fact, some of the 2024 race participants had already rented accommodations, notably villas, to house

their crew. "These people find themselves in an impasse," notes François Tolède. "I hope they will be able to get their deposits back, or at least make an arrangement, hoping that they will return in 2025, which might not be the case, five months before the start of their reservations, if they are refused a refund for costs already incurred.. "We are facing politico-economic difficulties," notes François Tolède. "We even thought about organizing a partial edition, with a budget cut in half (approximately 300,000 euros), but we can't even do that, without a title sponsor. We need the support in order to organize the event."

Six Million Euros For The Island

The cancellation of Les Voiles 2024 is regrettable in many ways. Firstly, the organizers point out the 30 boats that were already registered. "We would have had a magnificent fleet," says François Tolède. "There was an incredible sense of excitement with this crazy line-up." What's more, Les

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Voiles de St Barth generates between six and seven million euros in revenue over the course of a week. "And that's not even counting the untold economic spinoffs," adds François Tolède.

As a result, when the regatta cancellation was announced, the island's merchants expressed their concerns. "We had heard there was a problem with Les Voiles, but this is catastrophic," confides one restaurateur. "We'll all be losing six or seven million euros in combined revenue. When we already have expenses that have

doubled, if not tripled, an electric bill that has gone up by 30%, without even mentioning the trash collection taxes... it's hard to tell what will happen. Clearly, one thing that is sure, is that the season will finish in late March." Since Les Voiles de St Barth was the last big event of the tourist season, so without it taking place in 2024, it is probable that visitors to the island will decrease during the month of March."

For the organizers, the goal is to ensure a regatta in 2025. "We understand the importance of this

event for the international sailing community and for all those who love this sport," wrote François Tolède and Luc Poupon in their announcement. "We are very disappointed that we have to forsake this edition, but we remain determined to ensure the longevity of the organization of Les Voiles de St Barth in the years to come. The entire team is already working in the 2025 edition of Les Voiles, April 13-19." Every year, more than 120 people are involved in the organizing and running of Les Voiles de St Barth.

Reactions

XAVIER LÉDÉE, PRESIDENT OF THE TERRITORIAL COLLECTIVITY

"It's obviously a disappointment. The organizer alerted us a few weeks ago to the difficulty of finding a new main sponsor. From what I understand, someone had more or less committed and left them at the last minute. We worked with them. I personally put them in touch with two main sponsors who were quite willing to take over. The local authorities were also keen to extend the subsidy (100,000 euros for the 2023 edition). All the elected representatives were on board. Despite all this, the organizer decided not to go ahead with the event this year. Most likely for timing reasons. They decided to put it on stand-by. Today, our job at the Collectivity is to ensure that the absence of this event has as little impact as possible on the island's tourist activity."

PASCALLE MINARRO BAUDOIN, PRESIDENT OF THE TOURISM COMMITTEE

"It's sad to not have Les Voiles this season. It's an event that helped promote the destination, which attracts veteran and new sailors, boat owners, and is a great event to close the season. Unfortunately, this is not happening, I think, for reasons due to late organization. Despite the financial participation of the Collectivity every year, they didn't manage to balance the budget. I hope they'll find a suitable sponsor for next year. I understand that the contract with Richard Mille has come to an end, and that other sponsors were on the list, but nothing came of it. It's really a shame. There was a proposal to do a smaller event with a smaller budget. I don't know if that would have been a good

idea. After all, it's a private event with a contribution from the local authorities. I hope Les Voiles will shine brightly next year."

DAVID BLANCHARD, TERRITORIAL COUNCIL MEMBER, SPORTS COMMISSION

"We held meetings, we tried to find solutions. This cancellation is a big disappointment. I always participated as a volunteer for Les Voiles de St Barth. My father also did for many years then I took his place. I thought we could find a solution; that we were on the right track by way of additional financial aid from the Collectivity, for example, by thinking about changing the level of funding for the next year. This means one less sports event, so of course I am disappointed. Also, Les Voiles helped prolong the tourist season every year, and today the season is much longer than in the past. Perhaps it won't have too much influence on the number of people that might be on the island. But it's a sporting event that had its place, that was well anchored. And unlike The Bucket, which is entirely private, Les Voiles allowed many different boats to participate. I sincerely hope they can be held again next year. Even if it's not a sure thing. What's certain is that we'll be there to support them."

OLIVIER LEROY, PRESIDENT OF THE HOTELS AND VILLAS ASSOCIATION

"We had heard there were issues surrounding the 2024 edition. It's an event we all appreciate. Clearly this is not good news. However, at that time of year, we're already pretty busy. In fact, we've always felt that Les Voiles de St Barth came a little too early in the season. We've always thought it would be preferable to move the event a little later in the off-season."

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VILLA UMA, TOINY

€ 8,480,000



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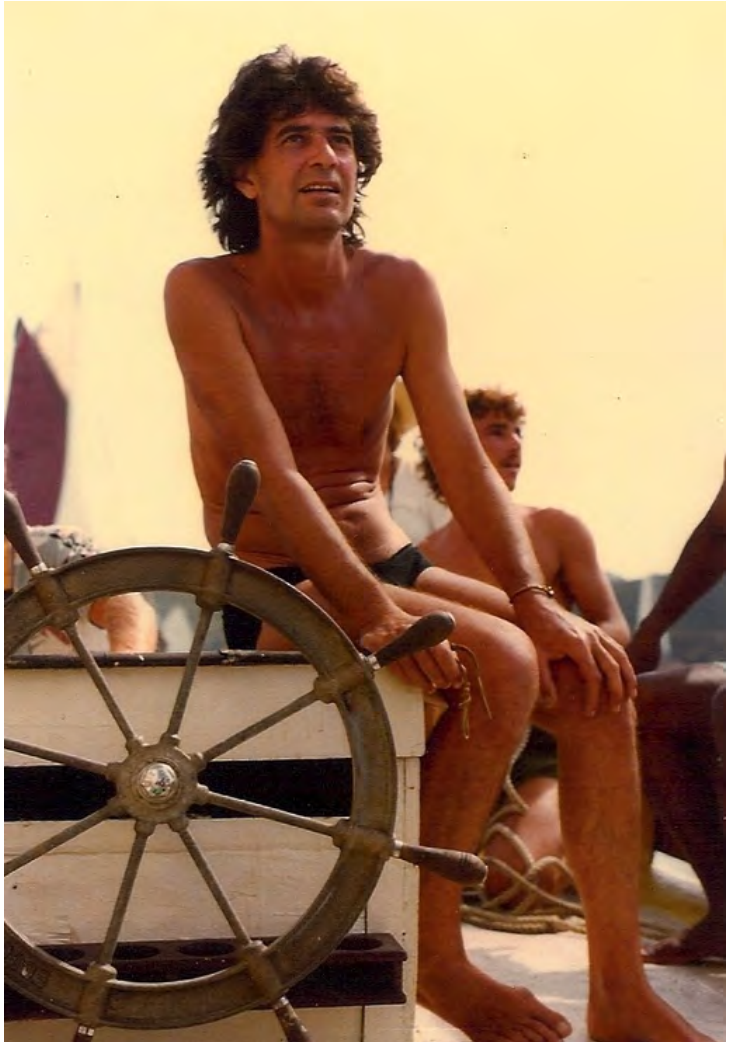
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MICHAEL ZIMMER, A SAINT BARTH STORY

The next exhibit at The Wall House Territorial Museum focuses on architect/world traveler Michael Zimmer from December 22-February 28. Previously unpublished documents, photographs, and videos reveal someone who fell in love with Saint Barth and who, in the 1970's, built Le Camp, by hand in Saint Jean. A simple, convivial gathering place for artists, friends, and local personalities.

His name might not ring a bell with the younger generation but those who were around in the old days certainly remember his face and a few memories. Like many before and after him, when Michael Zimmer first came to Saint Barth in 1968, he immediately fell in love with the island. To the point of moving to Saint Barth less than a year later. He went on to create Le Camp, a place by the beach in Saint Jean that definitely has a page in the history book of the island. By design, it's spirit of liberty, inventiveness, and conviviality, Le Camp attracted men and women from various horizons: artists, architects and free spirits, but also local personalities. This slice of Saint Barth history will be explored in an exhibit at the Wall House Territorial Museum from Friday, December 22 through February 28, comprising painting, drawings, calligraphy, and videos. Many original items, all created in Saint Barth in the 1970's.

"The goal of this exhibit is to pay tribute to a man who helped make Saint Barth a favorite haunt for New York's intellectual high society, and to retrace his career," explains Wall House director Charles Moreau. The exhibit was organized in partnership with the Saint-Barth île d'art association, Fergus McCaffrey, and Bill Katz. Michael Zimmer was born in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1934, the youngest son in a large family of Austrian intellectuals. His father,



Heinrich Zimmer, was a Sanskrit scholar and Indologist, and his mother Christiane was the daughter of poet and librettist Hugo von Hofmannsthal. Feeling the tide turning for several years, the Zimmer family managed to flee Nazi Germany in 1939 and settled in

New York. Michael grew up in the West Village and went on to study architecture at Harvard. When these studies were completed, he embarked on what was to be a brief career. He soon realized that the compromises involved in such a profession were not to his liking.

So, he decided to change his life.

In 1967, with his wife and infant son, Michael Zimmer left The Big Apple. Thanks to the sale of a family heirloom ('Yo Picasso,' a self-portrait of the famous Spanish artist), the Zimmer family has close to \$300,000 dollars. Enough for the foreseeable future... During their travels, they landed in Saint Martin in 1968. Naturally their curiosity led them to visit Saint Barthélemy. Love at first sight, and in 1970, Michael Zimmer bought a piece of land along the beach known as Ti Saint-Jean from Henri Gréaux. For a sum that seems unbelievable today: 20,000 francs.

In the "good old" days, those newly arrived on the island were seeking simplicity, fresh air, and friendship; not at all to build a villa in concrete with a swimming pool. Michael Zimmer built Le Camp, simple cottages built on the sand, several meters from the beach, under the palm trees, with an open-air kitchen and a tropical garden. An aesthetic true to the island, in keeping with a hippie-like desire to bask in nature and disturb the environment as little as possible.

A one-of-a-kind place where Michael Zimmer invited his friends from New York: artists, architects, and designers, to work, talk, think and most of all live happily. "It was a visionary example of a "green lifestyle," as well as "a cleverly choreographed piece of theatre that Michael directed, smoking, talking, always with a glass of rum in his hand, endlessly amusing, and usually surrounded by a bevy of awe-struck friends," as noted in the online bio for Michael Zimmer (<http://themichaelzimmerarchives.com>).



In the 1970s, Michael Zimmer built and ran Le Camp, a convivial artistic residence he built himself on the beachfront in Saint-Jean.

But Le Camp was not only a spot for visiting New Yorkers. The doors were always open and numerous Saint Barth islanders joined the ever-changing cast of characters. Marius Stakelborough and Loulou Magras, for example, mixed with the artists passing through: Elaine de Kooning, Walter di Maria, Brice Marden, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and Julian Schnabel. "The ambiance was very hippie, very relaxed, but also very intellectual," notes Charles Moreau. The adventure would last close to 25 years. Then the island began to change, little by little.

At Saint Barth became more of a

celebrity hangout, Michael Zimmer took his leave. In the early 1990's, he sold the land and Le Camp and flew off to the island of Grand Manan in Canada's Bay of Fundy. There he turned a former fish-smoking house into the Sardine Museum and Herring Hall of Fame, which today is a tourist attraction. Michael Zimmer passed away on October 12, 2008, at the age of 74.

The Wall House exhibit includes works on exceptional loan from two major artists: Brice Marden and Julian Schnabel. The opening takes place Friday, December 22 at 6:30pm. **T.F.**

MASTHEAD

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"Do I have to go to the yacht?"

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SLEEP UNDER A MOSQUITO BED NET

Dengue fever continues to persist in Saint Barthélemy. The virus, which was first detected in mid-September, became an epidemic over a month ago. An average of 90 new cases of dengue fever are reported each week (91 in week 49), with close to 30 emergency room visits at the De Bruyn hospital (29 in week 49, compared with 31 in the previous week). The number of people hospitalized is more variable. There were none in week 49, compared with four the previous week. Nevertheless, the situation remains constant, and the Regional Health Agency is maintaining the island at epidemic level 3. Since mid-September, over 700 clinical cases have been recorded by doctors, and more than 200 emergency room visits have been recorded. It should be noted that many people affected

by dengue fever do not consult their doctor. As a result, the unofficial toll is much higher than the official one.

In addition, four serious cases were diagnosed in the Northern Islands, including one in Saint Barthélemy, with the patient taken to the hospital in Guadeloupe. In addition, several confirmed cases of dengue fever have been reported among residents at the EHPAD (old-age home).

In the French territories of the Americas, more than 6,000 serious cases have been diagnosed since the start of the epidemic, resulting in over 2,000 deaths. This is significantly higher than in the previous two years (1,600 severe cases on average, or 1,200 deaths in 2022). In terms of com-

munication to the population (alerts, instructions, precautionary measures to be taken to avoid being stung and spreading the epidemic, etc.), the Regional Health Agency has decided to let the festive season pass before resuming the distribution of communiqués. However, ARS agents are continuing to visit areas where confirmed cases have been detected.

As for the Territorial Collectivity, while communications are being kept low-key, action is being taken. Insecticide spraying is carried out every Saturday around schools and public buildings. But the epidemic is still far from over. It is therefore advisable to take precautions to avoid being bitten. Particularly at sunrise and sunset, when mosquitoes are most active.

GIFTS FOR SENIORS

On two Saturdays, December 9 and December 16, residents of Saint Barth aged 80 and up got an unexpected visit. Not actual elves, but visitors whose arms were full of gifts as they spread holiday cheer. Inspired by the Collectivity, members of the territorial youth council and neighborhood representatives, with the support of the island's association of farmers and students, these gifts were taken to the homes of the most senior residents by kids and adults alike, who were greeted with a big smile. It must be said that the usual gift voucher sent out by the post office didn't generate the same warm, fuzzy feeling. One of the goals of the gift giving was to break the isolation experienced by some older people. Also participating were certain elected

officials and Marianne Laplace, president of APAG, as well as Jean-Michel Vial of La Main Verte, who distributed red currant and basil plants that were grown by students at the elementary schools in Gustavia and Colombier.

"TRADITION ST-BARTH" CULINARY CONTEST

Those who love to cook and enjoy local cuisine are invited to participate in the second edition of the culinary contest, Tradition Saint-Barth, which takes place on Saturday, December 23 at the Christmas Village in Gustavia. Each participant will cook a Christmas ham or a dessert, recipe of their choice. Sign up via email: dimitri.ledee@comstbarth.fr

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 !

Christmas Village On The Dock

Friday & Saturday, December 22 & 23 are the final weekend dates for the Christmas Village on the Quai Général de-Gaulle in Gustavia. Opening at 5pm, the market features 27 merchants with last-minute gift ideas, while the stage on the dock hosts local musicians from 8pm-11pm. On Friday, Double J. and on Saturday, Free UP Crew closes the 2023 Christmas Village. Happy Holidays!

Cabaret

• Dinner cabaret show at 9pm @ Ti St Barth

Live Music

► Thursday December 21
- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel
- Live Music with Soley from 7pm at Arawak
- Live Music with The Shamans Duo from 7:30 pm at restaurant Amis St. Barth
► Friday, December 22

Christmas Carols

An impromptu party in the streets of Gustavia on Friday night with the Christmas Carols truck.

- Dance to the rhythm of the sunset during our Sunsets Beats from 3 :30pm to 8pm at Gyp Sea Beach Club
- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel
- DJ Set "Apéro is French" at Arawak
- DJ Set by Laura de Shamans, 1pm - 3pm on the beach, at Amis St. Barth
- Live Music with The Shamans Duo from 7 :30pm

@Amis St Barth Restaurant
► Saturday, December 23
- Dance to the rhythm of the sunset during our Sunsets Beats from 3 :30pm to 8pm at Gyp Sea Beach Club
- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel
- Chess Hour, 3pm-6pm with Jeff Follner @ Arawak
- Live music by Stella & Laurent from 7pm
@Arawak Café

- Musical weekends with Jeremy Huot from 2pm to 5pm with Jeremy zouk music at Manapany Hotel
- DJ Set by Laura de Shamans, 1pm - 3pm on the beach, at Amis St. Barth
- Live Music with The Shamans Duo from 7 :30pm at Amis St. Barth
- 12pm-2pm: Christmas bauble decoration workshop for children at Christopher
- Christmas bauble decoration workshop for children at Christopher (12pm-2pm)
► Sunday, December 24

- Dance to the rhythm of the sunset during our Sunsets Beats from 3 :30pm to 8pm at Gyp Sea Beach Club
- Latino caribbean BBQ. Party with DJ Warlock from noon at Grain de Sel,
- Gourmet brunch with music with the artist Royalty from 10:30am to 1:30pm @ Cheval Blanc
- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel
- Amazing Sunday. A journey through the rhythm of live music under the sun! 12pm - 7pm @ Nikki Beach
- Musical weekends at Manapany Hotel from 2pm with Sweet Pan SXM.
- DJ Set by Laura de Shamans, 1pm - 3pm on the beach, at Amis St. Barth Le Barthélemy
- Live Music with The Shamans Duo from 7:30pm at Amis St. Barth Le Barthélemy
- Live Music with Caroline

A. Rivas from 7:30pm to 11pm at Le Sereno
► Monday, December 25
- Dance to the rhythm of the sunset during our Sunsets Beats from 3 :30pm to 8pm at Gyp Sea Beach Club
- Hora Feliz, come dance Salsa, Bachata, kizomba and other dances cubaines from 7:30pm @Arawak café
- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel
- For an Italian Aperitivo, Soley will be entertaining us with lyrics and guitar like. 07.30pm-10.30 pm at Al Mare Ristorante, Sereno
► Tuesday, December 26

- Dance to the rhythm of the sunset during our Sunsets Beats from 3 :30pm to 8pm at Gyp Sea Beach Club
- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, from 5 to 7pm at Christopher St Barth
- Live Music with The Shamans Duo from 7 :30pm at Amis St. Barth restaurant
► Wednesday, December 27
- Dance to the rhythm of the sunset during our Sunsets Beats from 3 :30pm to 8pm at Gyp Sea Beach Club
- Creative workshop for children aged 6 and over in collaboration from 3pm to 4:30pm @ Arawak café
- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel
- Live Music with The Shamans Duo from 7 :30pm at Amis St. Barth restaurant

Night Club

@ Modjo St-Jean
@ Casa Night Club

Exhibitions

- Preserve the Heritage and History of St-Barthélemy @ Le Brigantin, Gustavia.
- Winter Exhibition incl works by Hannah Polskin, Victor Matthews, Gilles Bensimon, Rizz Riz Rizz, Ulf Saupe and more at

The Happy Bears Go To Morocco

Holiday exhibit at the Pot Shop, Until December 24, 2023. Jenny May presents a new book with scenes from Morocco. Books and illustrations and cards for sales. Plus a 3D scene for children in which her bears are searching for the extinct Atlas bear in the mountains... the Pot Shop is the little blue house across from the Credit Agricole in Gustavia. Open 10am-12pm and 5pm-7pm.

Focuses on architect/world traveler Michael Zimmer at The Wall House Territorial Museum. From December 22-February 28. Opening Friday, December 22 at 6:30pm.

Space Gallery in Gustavia:
- Underwater photography by Hugh Arnold and painting by Remy de Haenen at La Kala by Space Gallery
- A selection of painting and photography by Nadia Fanelli, Marco Glaviano, Giorgio Pasqualetti and Isabelle Lindbergh at Jacques Zolty boutique & Le Sereno by Space Gallery
- Paintings : Alain Le Chate-lier, Karoline Arcana, Gery Langlais, Tony Caramanico, at Les Artisans
- Bronze Sculptures @ The Collectivity
► Art Galleries
- Antoine Heckly ArtGallery
- Camaruche Gallery
- Clic Gallery, Gustavia
- Eden Fine Art St Barts
- Fergus McCaffrey
- Galerie Asie, Gustavia
- Les Artisans, Gustavia
- Space Gallery St Barth
- Spirit Space Gallery



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