

N°490 - February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Local News  
in English

FREE

# WWEEKLY

An American flag is waving and partially covers the first 'W' of the 'WEEKLY' text.

Published by Le Journal de Saint-Barth  
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## Evenings Under The Stars



The seventh edition of the Astronomy Evenings will take place on February 3 and 10 near the lighthouse in Gustavia, on the site of the old weather station, now occupied by the Territorial Environmental Agency. Open to the public, the program includes celestial observations via several telescopes from 7pm to 10pm; a creative table from 7:30pm to 9pm, and the projection of an astrophotography video. For additional information: 06.90.51.18.58.

## Shop At The Saint Barth Market On Sunday, February 4

Scheduled for the first Sunday of every month, the Saint Barth Market will take place on Sunday, February 4, and will be open from 8am-12pm on the Rue du Général-de-Gaulle in Gustavia. As usual, this monthly event includes island merchants and artisans who meet with visitors throughout the morning, selling clothing, jewelry, and food, among other things. A convivial event always anticipated by the island population. This week there will also be live music by Kameleon Beats.

## SBIPOA Fundraiser For FEMUR

Make your reservations today! The non-profit organization, Saint Barthélemy International Property Owners Association (SBIPOA), is holding a fund-raising luncheon on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 12 noon at the Sand Bar Restaurant at Eden Rock. Proceeds go to FEMUR, the Fund for Emergency Equipment for the De Bruyn Hospital in St Barth. Funds have helped fund big-ticket items for the hospital as well as equipment for the new health center (Maison de la Santé) in St Jean. Tickets for the luncheon are 175euros per person and include a three-course lunch with appetizer, main course, dessert, wine, water, and coffee. Please email [secretarysbipoa@gmail.com](mailto:secretarysbipoa@gmail.com) to make your reservations... members, non-members, and guests are welcome!



**Y**ou may have noticed a handsome German Shephard sniffing around certain restaurants on the island. The dog is of course attached to the lease held by a K-9 dog handler of the French military sort, attached to the local gendarmerie for the time being. Rumor has it one of its canine buddies is on the way to join in the sniffing activities. Sniffing for what, you might ask? Drugs! And their activity has been coupled with a recent drug bust, as reported in the local newspapers and online media sites. There is a movement afoot to curb one's appetite for illegal substances, as illustrated by the policies of the prefecture, which represents the French government here on the island. To avoid a K-9 confrontation, it might be a cool plan to leave the drugs out of the equation, and use the time in Saint Barth to breathe the fresh air, take up water sports, do yoga or Pilates, stroll the beaches, and do some sunbathing or stargazing. Wouldn't it be great for the island to be known as the wellness hub of the Caribbean rather than a drug dealer's paradise. Or a place where young seasonal workers and others drive scooters at insane speeds, careening around cars with wild abandon. The number of road accidents here is astounding and yes, you guessed it, many of the drivers are under the influence of one thing or another. So why take chances? Don't let the dog sniff you out!

*Ellen Lampert-Gréaux*

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# Port Activity Remained Constant In 2023

**Although 2023 was a slightly mixed year for the Port of Gustavia, activity at the recreational docks remained just as dynamic as in 2022. At the same time, business at the commercial port continues to testify to the island's sound economic health.**

**A**s it does every year, the management of the Port of Gustavia provides a detailed report on its activity over the past twelve months. This document examines trends in maritime traffic, both tourist and commercial, and also provides an analysis of the island's economic health, based on all the data contained in this exhaustive report.



## Yacht Update

For the recreational docks, despite a promising start in the first four months of the year, activity slowed down for the next six months before stabilizing in November (down 5.80%, with number of passengers down 14.23%) and picking up again in December 2023. Finally, the balance sheet is positive in the long run, with a 6.77% increase in the number of port calls in 2023, compared to 2022, and a 5.79% rise in the number of people registered aboard ships.

A look at passenger traffic between Saint Barthélemy and Saint Martin is also instructive. Although the number of port calls was lower than in 2022 in some months, the total number of passengers was

higher during the same periods. For ferries, the number of calls in 2023 was slightly down from 2022 (-1.63%), while the number of passengers increased from the previous year, with an increase of 11.44%. The number of passengers rose sharply in September (+21.36%), October (+14.77%), November (+16.68%) and above all in December (+44.39%, from 17,876 passengers in 2022 to 25,812 in 2023).

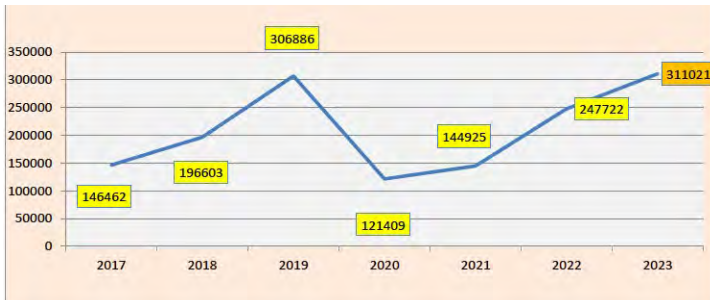
In terms of cruise ship passengers, the increase was spectacular in 2023, again compared to 2022, with an increase of 96.92%. In 2023, 80,532 people passed through the Port of Gustavia, compared with 40,894 in 2022. The

number of cruise ships rose from 107 in 2022 to 157 in 2023. The total number of passengers in transit by ferry and cruise ship in 2023 was 311,021, compared to 247,722 in 2022.

## Commercial Update

At the commercial port, as in previous years, business was brisk. However, 2023 was marked by a drop in the number of cargo ships (911 in 2023 versus 1,036 in 2022). Despite this, and "a considerable delay in the worldwide movement of certain goods by con-

**PASSENGER TRAFFIC AT THE FERRY TERMINAL**



**YACHTING - SHIP CALLS AND PAX**

Mois	Escales 2023	Pax 2023	E
Janvier	669	5 880	
Février	640	6 242	
Mars	783	5 912	
Avril	605	3 689	
Mai	331	1 743	
Juin	202	1 271	
Juillet	187	1 253	
Août	126	787	
Septembre	43	203	
Octobre	130	474	
Novembre	325	1 862	
Décembre	701	7 237	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4 742</b>	<b>36 551</b>	

tainer," notes the management of the Commercial Port, the latter remains a reflection of Saint Barthélemy's "strong economic health."

The number of imported containers decreased slightly (8,481 in 2023 vs. 8,646 in 2022). The port management states in its report that between 2013 (4,464 containers unloaded) and 2023, the number of containers imported almost doubled. "This figure could have been exceeded given that many containers have been left behind due to lack of space, particularly since the installation of SIDEM's mobile plant, which has taken up almost 200 square meters of space," notes the port management. Past years 2018 with 9,656 imports and 2019 (9,293) remain the busiest to date, following the devastating passage of Hurricane Irma and the rebuilding that followed. "For several years now, companies have been experiencing major difficulties in unloading due to a lack of storage, parking spaces for goods, linear unloading docks, and the ability to separate cold and dry containers," says management.

**Work To Be Done**

Port management points out the importance of looking toward the future, and points out the kind of work and studies to be carried out over the coming months and years. Primarily the complete renovation of the ferry terminal, the transformation of the old fish market into a passenger reception area, the reconstruction of the Quai de la République and Quai Gambier, etc.

*T.F.*

**PEOPLE ON BOARD. EVOLUTION AND VARIATION**

Escales 2022	Pax 2022	Var. Escales 2022	Var. Pax 2022
561	4 928	+ 19,25 %	+ 19,32 %
560	5 215	+ 14,28 %	+ 19,70 %
688	5 877	+ 13,81 %	+ 0,59 %
597	3 877	+ 1,34 %	-4,85 %
310	1 472	+ 6,77 %	+ 18,40 %
228	1 213	- 11,40%	+ 4,78%
189	1 291	- 1,06 %	-2,94%
130	700	-3,07%	+ 12,43 %
35	108	+ 22,85%	+ 87,96 %
137	525	- 5,10 %	- 9,71 %
345	2 171	- 5,80 %	-14,23 %
661	7 172	+ 6,55 %	+ 0,91 %
4 441	34 549	+ 6,77 %	+ 5,79%

SAINT BARTH AND ITS BIODIVERSITY

**Yellow Balsam, Versatility As A Virtue**

Each week, Le Journal de Saint-Barth, in partnership with the Territorial Environmental Agency (ATE), invites you to discover a local species (fauna or flora, terrestrial, or marine) that makes up the vast biodiversity of the island. This week, Yellow Balsam (Croton Flavens).



**Where it is found?**

Yellow Balsam, also known as Rock Sage, is native to the West Indies and the northern part of South America. It grows primarily along the coast in dry environments or meadows.

**What are its characteristics?**

Yellow Balsam can reach two meters in height. A shrub that can support wind and sea spray, its aromatic leaves have long been appreciated and found useful on the island. The leaves were once used as a cleaning product to wash dishes, and old timers also used them to scrub wooden floors. First they scrubbed the floor with the skin of a tilefish (rockfish), then they "waxed" them with a bundle of balsam leaves, which left a pleasant scent in the house. The shrub was also used for medicinal purposes, with the sap serving to clean and heal wounds as well as treat warts, for example. As a tisane, the flowers were brewed to fight against the flu. In addition, like all self-respecting wood, it was used in the construction of certain buildings.

**Did you know?**

The leaves are covered with hairs which reduce evapotranspiration, helping the shrub conserve its water reserves. The ATE advises against picking or cutting this vegetation

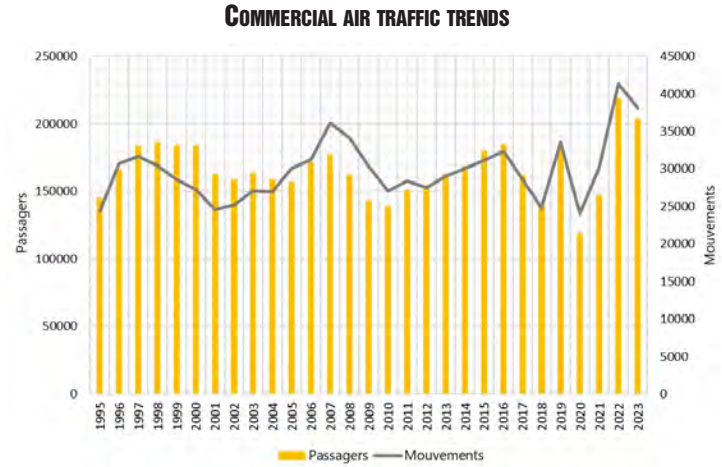
# Airport Traffic Flies High

**In spite of a slight decrease in 2023 compared to 2022, airport traffic remained higher than the past two record years of 2016 and 2019.**

“Overall, activity at the airport held its own in 2023,” notes the management of the Rémy-de-Haenen Airport in its annual report. The news is that 2023 saw increased activity compared to 2016 and 2019 (110% over 2019), yet slightly lower than 2022 with 203,841 commercial passengers (-6.9% compared to 2022) and 41,271 total flights of which 38,148 were commercial (-7.3% compared to 2022).

## Air Traffic Les Seasonal

The airport also noted that an increase in traffic continued through February 2023, "still driven by the post-covid recovery in international tourist activity" (+11.4% year-on-year in January-February 2023). It then increased more moderately between March and December 2023 (-11.4% dip each month). And the tendency for seasonality in terms of traffic has clearly decreased. In fact, results for July and August were lower (-14.6% year-on-year). Passenger numbers in November and December also fell short of the performance recorded in 2022. November was down 10% year-on-year (-2.5% over the week of Thanksgiving), and December fell by 12.6% (-6% over the festive Christmas and New Year period). The annual activity report shows a passenger flow of 161,547 international passengers (-4.5% year-



on-year) and 42,296 domestic passengers (-15%), including 99,442 arrivals and 104,399 departures.

## San Juan Increases Its Market Share

It should also be noted that connections with Sint Maarten's Princess Juliana Airport decreased by 6.9% (with 120,160 passengers), although they still account for almost 60% of the overall number of passengers. At the same time, connections with San Juan (Puerto Rico), whose market share has increased by 6% since 2019, remained stable in 2023 with 32,504 passengers (+1.8% year-on-year), but show a dip in November (-7%), as well as in December (-2.9%). Nationally, traffic to and from Pointe-à-Pitre (Guadeloupe) took a hit (-24.1%, 26,789 passengers), while connec-

tions with Grand Case airport continue to rise (+7.5%, 15,482 passengers).

For 2023, Rémy-de-Haenen's management stresses that "traffic peaks and congestion persisted, with 325 aircraft movements recorded on January 2, 2023, an all-time record for the number of round-trip flights for post-holiday season departures." The number of rotations regularly exceeded 200 daily movements over Thanksgiving (279 recorded on November 26) and Christmas/New Year (257 on December 27), reaching 290 movements on January 2, 2024.

Finally, freight traffic was down, with 345 tons handled in 2023, a year-on-year decrease of -9.2%.

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# A Digital Guide To The Biodiversity of Saint Barth

**Karl Questel, a project manager at the Territorial Environmental Agency (ATE), has created a digital guide to the biodiversity of Saint Barthélemy. A publication that comprises thousands of photographs taken by the author over the past 20 years.**

**K**arl Questel has completed a colossal task. To create his digital guide to the island's biodiversity, he was a keen observer of all he could see through his camera's lens. That means several thousand images that he sorted, classified, captioned. The result is a remarkable online publication—an e-book—published by the ATE, where Questel is one of the top project managers for terrestrial flora and fauna.

can be downloaded free of charge. "This represents all of the flora and fauna of Saint Barth that I was able to photograph for the past 20 years," says Questel with a smile. He also explains up front that this is but a first edition of the guide. "It will be updated whenever there are new additions," he notes. As a result, his work will be in a state of perpetual evolution.

### More than 2,200 Species, Families, Genuses...

The thousands of photographs represent more



ifying the unknown. On the homepage of the guide, visitors will find a questionnaire. Easy to fill out and which allows them, if they so desire, to be alerted as to the exact time of future updates to the guide, which can be downloaded on a computer but also on a smartphone. One must have the space for size of the guide, because, as the author points out: "There are 620 pages and there will be even more in the next edition!"

than 2,200 illustrated taxa (that is to say taxonomic unities: the family, the genus, the species), including 1,649 animals and 559 plants, mushrooms, algae, and other examples. "It's the kind of guide where you must look carefully," says the author with modesty, as he continues the battle to properly organize the many species. "I classified the plants by physical categories and visual characteristics, with sub categories," he explains, finding that provided the simplest clarity. However, in perusing the guide, it is easy to see how quickly one can go down a rabbit hole.

This guide with its scientific ambitions may still have room for improvement, such as adding more precise characteristics, for example. But in version 1.3, this photo-guide has already established itself as the bible for biodiversity in Saint Barthélemy. And it's great to know that new chapters will continue to be added to this sacred manuscript. Download the guide here:



The guide also allows room for species discovered in Saint Barth that have not yet been formally identified. This makes it a tool to learn about known species but also to advance in identi-



# Raymond Magras, A Sage Passes Away

**Raymond Magras passed away on January 20, 2024 at the age of 84. A discreet, well-esteemed figure born in Saint Barthélemy, his funeral took place on Wednesday, January 24. "He was a sage on the island," comments former president of the Collectivity, Bruno Magras.**

**R**aymond Magras passed away as quietly as brutally. On Saturday, January 20, news of his death unleashed a wave of emotion on the island, encompassing those who were closest to him as well as those who only knew him briefly. At the age of 84, Raymond Magras was an important figure in Saint Barthélemy; a personality whose kindness and humility were lauded by numerous witnesses. He was appreciated for his humane qualities as well as for his discreet commitments toward his island and its residents.

## A Successful Businessman And Discreet Benefactor

Raymond Magras also represents a slice of the island's history. A founding member of the Saint Barth Lions Club as well as FEMUR, he was instrumental in the development and structuration of the economic, business, and social life on the island. "He was a smart businessman and a discreet benefactor," sums up Bruno Magras. "It was with Raymond that I negotiated the acquisition of the two CT scanners, through FEMUR." But Raymond



Magras was also interested in the well-being of the island's youngest residents. "He was a great help to young people, especially those building their own homes," says Bruno Magras. "He made it easier for them to pay, and helped out a lot. But always with discretion."

## Passionate About Sailing And Music

In addition to his various business interests—Raymond Magras was active during the 1975 protests that followed the creation of

import duties in Saint-Barthélemy—he is also remembered for his passions for sailing and music. A pioneer in the world of non-profit cultural and sports events, he contributed to the range of activities available on the island. Starting with sailing: "He was passionate about sailing and music," recalls Bruno Magras. "He played the diatonic accordion, and was an excellent dancer who like the tango, the waltz, and the merengue, his favorite music. And let's not forget, he also created The Romantics and found the name of the band, which we still have. He's a man who lived well, who traveled a lot. But he never talked about himself. It's a shame he went so quickly..."

In spite of his interest in all that touched the island and its development, Raymond Magras never wanted to get involved in politics. "He was loved by the population and could have held an office, but wasn't interested," notes Bruno Magras. "We discussed politics on numerous occasions. The issue was that Raymond was certainly influenced by the political career of his father, who was mayor for 15 years after all."

After a wake held on January 23 in Saint Jean, Raymond Magras's funeral took place on Wednesday, January 24 in Gustavia, with a church overflowing with family and friends. And all those who had the privilege of knowing him. At sea, playing music, or as part of his numerous projects for Saint Barthélemy.

## MASTHEAD

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# WIMCO



## REAL ESTATE

### VILLA NEO, SAINT JEAN

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# The Camp: An Exhibit At The Wall House

**R**unning through February 28, the Territorial Wall House Museum has an exhibit about “The Camp,” and architect/traveler Michael Zimmer, who created it in the 1970s. Unpublished documents, photographs, and notebooks chronicle the days of this simple, welcoming spot where local residents and well-known visitors gathered, including contemporary painters such as Brice Marden and Julian Schnabel, whose works-on-loan are also part of this exhibit. “The goal of the exhibit is to pay tribute to a man who contributed to making Saint Barth a place appreciated by the intellectual society of New York, and to retrace his steps,” explains Charles Moreau, director of the Wall House Museum. The exhibit was organized in partnership with the Saint-Barth Ile d’Art Association, Fergus McCaffrey, and Bill Katz. “The ambiance at The Camp was very hippie and very relaxed, but also very intellectual,” notes Charles Moreau. An adventure that lasted close to 25 years.

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 had 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 in Saint-Jean.

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.

As Saint Barth became more of a celebrity hangout, Michael Zimmer took his leave. He moved to the island of Grand Manan in Canada’s Bay of Fundy where 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.

# TIME OUT

Where to go dancing? See an art exhibit? Listen to live music? Time Out keeps you up to date on local happenings. Let's party !

## Cabaret

• Dinner cabaret show at 9pm @ Ti St Barth

## Live Music

### ► Thursday February 1st

- Back to the 90', Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5pm - 7pm at Christopher Hotel  
 - Live Music by Colombiers from 7pm at Arawak, Gustavia  
 - Live Music with The Shamans Duo from 7:30 pm at restaurant Amis St. Barth  
 - Night under the stars by Maxime Cheval feat guest DJ from 9pm at Le Toiny Beach Club, Toiny  
 -After Work Monday to Friday 5pm-7pm at Modjo

### ► Friday, February 2

Celtic evening  
 Live Celtic music and dancing with "Maudit Triskel" at 7pm, Pif Paf kiosk, Gustavia

- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel  
 - Aperio is French with DJ Set Sebastien Roche at Arawak café, Gustavia  
 - Desiderata in live at Romi restaurant (Tropical Hotel) from 7:30pm to 9:30pm.  
 -After Work Monday to Friday 5pm-7pm at Modjo

### ► Saturday, February 3

- Saturday Live Music by Tiphanie Doucet from 7pm at Arawak café,  
 - Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel  
 - Chess Hour, 3pm-6pm with Jeff Follner @Arawak café, Gustavia  
 - Saturday Live from 11am to 7pm with the tunes of the resident DJ and Saxophonist, at Nikki Beach

- Musical weekends from 2pm with Jeremy zouk music at Manapany Hotel  
 -After Work Monday to Friday 5pm-7pm at Modjo

Solo Piano Concert At Anglican Church On Saturday, February 3 there will be a solo classical piano concert featuring internationally acclaimed Russian pianist Irina Kaufman, who lives in Sint Maarten. Organized by Om'Diffusion, the concert takes place at the Anglican Church in Gustavia at 8pm. Free entry, donations accepted

### ► Sunday, February 4

Monthly Market in Gustavia  
 As Sunday, February 4 is the first Sunday of the month, it means that the Saint Barth Street Market will take place in Rue Général-de-Gaulle from 8am-12pm. Merchants sell food, clothing, jewelry, and baked goods, etc. This week there will also be live music by Kameleon Beats

- 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 with Sweet Pan SXM from 2pm at Manapany Hotel  
 - 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  
 - Dreamy Pool Party by Dj Set by Luv from 2pm to 5pm at Tropical Hotel  
 - BBQ with DJ Tommy Glasses at Feet In The Sand, Beach House St. Barth at Guanahani Rosewood,  
 -After Work Monday to Friday 5pm-7pm at Modjo

### ► Monday, February 5

- Hora Feliz, come dance Salsa, Bachata, kizomba and other dances cubaines from 7pm @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, February 6

- Tacos Tuesday at Peter Mc Cool, Irish pub with live music by Soley from 6pm.  
 - 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, February 7

- 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

- Through February 28 : Focus on architect/world traveler Michael Zimmer and "Le Camp" at The Wall House Territorial Museum.

- Something About The Sea by Tony Caramanico at Summum Gallery  
 - "Magnetic" by Kay Quattrocchi at Almosnino Fine Art, Gustavia  
 - Preserve the Heritage and History of St-Barthélemy @ Le Brigantin, Gustavia.  
 - Winter Exhibition featuring major works by Simeti. Takis and Tony Cragg along with a selection of photography and painting at Space Gallery in Gustavia.  
 - Group exhibition of painting by Giorgio Pasqualetti, Nadia Fanelli, Victor Matthews and photography by Marco Glaviano and Isabelle Lindbergh at Jacques Zolty boutique & Le Sereno by Space Gallery  
 - Paintings by Remy De Haenen and photography by Hugh Arnold and Dirk Braun at La Kala by Space Gallery  
 - Paintings : Alain Le Chatelier, Karoline Arcana, Gery Langlais at Les Artisans

### ► Art Galleries

- Almosnino Fine Art Gallery  
 - Antoine Heckly ArtGallery  
 - Camaruche Gallery  
 - Clic Gallery, Gustavia  
 - Eden Fine Art St Barth  
 - Fergus McCaffrey  
 - Galerie Asie, Gustavia  
 - Les Artisans, Gustavia  
 - Space Gallery St Barth  
 - Spirit Space Gallery  
 - Summum Gallery

### ► Artist's Collection

- Hannah Moser, Cul de Sac  
 - Kay Quattrocchi, Pointe Milou



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