



ast weekend there was not only a surfing competition by the beach in Lorient, but it was also the perfect time for a swimmer to try his luck at circumnavigating the island wearing just a swimsuit and googles. He made it, in a little over 9 know of to have accomplished this feat. Can you imagine the time and commitment it takes to be able to do such a the overall mental and physical preparation needed to do such a thing. I have often wondered what makes people tick, the kind of people who can do something like this? Like the young surfer from St Barth, Tessa Thyssen, who almost made it to this year's Olympic Games but had her quest stopped just short of qualifying. I applaud their devotion. Of course, not everyone has the aptitude for extreme sports. Some of us have to settle for more intellectual pursuits, such as reading and writing. Two perfectly good pastimes to keep the mind sharp and escape the sun!

Those with a more artistic bent or a sense of curiosity should make sure to visit the Wall House Museum and the exceptional exhibit of Haitian art that is there through May 1. An interview in this issue of The Weekly with Gaël Monnin, curator of the collection on display, illustrates another kind of devotion and commitment: that of generations of artists creating a strong cultural heritage as they struggle for the soul of their country.

Ellen Lampert-Gréaux

## CM1 Students Go Whale Watching



On Tuesday, March 5, a group of 15 CM1 students from Gustavia went whale watching with representatives of the ATE and biologist Julie Mellinger.

Since early March, the Territorial Environmental Agency has hosted biologist Julie Mellinger, a member of "My School, My Whale," an organization with branches in Guadeloupe, Saint Martin, and Martinique. The scientist visited CM1 classes in the elementary school in Gustavia as well as Ecole Saint-Joseph in Lorient and Ecole Sainte-Marie in Colombier, to teach the students about the characteristics of humpback whales.

This discovery of these large mammals, which measure on average between 15 and 18 meters long, and weigh an average of 30 tons, was not limited to the classroom. The students also went whale watching with excursions at sea organized in collaboration with Saint-Barth Excursion and Salt Life Sailing.

"We had the opportunity to go out to sea and hopefully see and hear the whales," rejoiced Julie Mellinger. "It is their reproductive season, so they arrived in January and will leave in May. The height of the season is March and April, so this is when we have the best chance to see them." The whales come from the North, some from Canada, some from Norway. "Like all

wild species they are threatened, but not endangered," explains the biologist. But there are other dangers such as pollution, hunting, stray nets, reduction of their food supply..." And sargassum, is that another danger? "We don't know enough about it yet," Julie Mellinger. "What we do know is that, as naturalists, we've already observed whales playing in the sargassum! But we don't know yet whether this has any influence on their migratory patterns."

On the Quai de la République in Gustavia, the kids were rather impatient to get on the boats to go see the whales, even if most of them had seen them before. "Where my father works in Lorient, there are always whales jumping, so he took me to where he works, and my brother and I saw the whales jumping and there were dolphins too, it was great," says Lucas. "And when they jump there is a big splash," adds Loanne, with a smile.

Last Friday was Julie Mellinger's last visit to the school in Gustavia, while the students from Colombier went whale watching on Tuesday, March 12.

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## Buy Your Bucket Poster Now



pace Gallery in Gustavia has a limited edition of 250 official posters on sale for the 2024 St Barth Bucket Regatta, which takes place March 21-24. The gallery, which has been a Bucket partner for the past seven years, graciously donates significant time and energy to handling the poster sales. 100% of the proceeds go to support local island associations. This is the third consecutive year that the poster features a different eye-catching design done in-house by Hermes, also a Bucket partner. To request an order form to purchase a poster, email: info@spacestbarth.com

#### MASTHEAD

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Director: Avigaël Haddad avigaeljsb@wanadoo.fr Editor: Thomas Fetrot redactionjsb@orange.fr English Texts & Translations: Ellen Lampert-Gréaux

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SAINT BARTH AND ITS BIODIVERSITY

## The Sperm Whale

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, the sperm whale (Physeter macrocephalus).



## Where are they found?

Found around the world, sperm whales live in the deepest part of the ocean. The females and juveniles prefer warm water while the males enjoy cold water. They unite in the warmer waters to reproduce between January and May. The gestation period is 15 months and a female gives birth to one baby every three to six years.

#### What are its characteristics?

Its size varies from 9 to 20 meters, with the male larger than the female. Its weight? Between 10 and 57 tons. It is the largest of the toothed whales, and the largest carnivore in the world. The head alone can represent the third of the mammal's overall length. Its primary characteristics are its large head and the absence of dorsal fins, which are replaced by a series of ridges. They feed largely on squid, octopus, and fish, in proportions that vary according to their geographic location. This whale is known for its diving prowess, reaching depths of 2,250 meters, a feat that no other mammal can accomplish, except for the Cuvier whale and the southern elephant seal. The whales' clicking vocalizations are the loudest sounds produced by any animal, and are used to communicate, identify and locate each other.

## Do you know?

In addition to its brain, its skull also contains spermaceti: a fatty substance that changes from waxy to oily depending on temperature, helping the animal control its buoyancy. It hunts at great depths, between 500 and 2,000 meters, and is capable of ingesting up to 1.5 tons of food per day.

St Bartholomew's Anglican Church



# THE ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET

for the Bucket Regatta 2024



Wednesday, 20th March at 5pm

by the Anchor opposite the Church followed by drinks afterwards



## "Present The Beauty And Creativity Of The Haitian People."

Through June 1, the Territorial Wall House Museum presents "Haiti, The Soul Of A Country," an exhibit organized in collaboration with the association, Bohio Ayiti, and Galerie Monnin, the oldest art gallery in Port-au-Prince. Le Journal de St Barth speaks with gallery director Gaël Monnin.

## What can you tell us about the works of art on display in Saint Barthélemy?

The exhibit shines a light on emblematic pieces and renowned Haitian artists. We selected 84 pieces from our private collection, representing artists working in all genres from the 1970s until today. It's also an opportunity to spotlight the impact of Galerie Monnin on Haitian art, starting with the work of my father, Michel Monnin, who created a new artistic movement and promoted a new generation of artists such as Zéphirin, the Blaise brothers, Simil, Manès, Carlo Jean-Jacques, Sénatus. Among these artists, to name just a few among the more than 70 in the exhibit, Saint-Louis Blaise, known for his painting "Citadelle," which captures the majesty of the Citadelle Laferrière, symbol of Haitian liberty and resistance. David Boyer, with "Boat People" (2020), reflecting the contemporary challenges and hopes of a people in search of liberty. Yves Michaud and Franz Zéphirin provide a critical look at the history of Haiti. Madsen Mompremier, Lherisson Dubréus, and Camy Rocher explore the spiritualty and beliefs in Voodoo...

## How did you make your selection?

The selection of the art was done meticulously to provide complete immersion in the historic and cultural history of Haiti. Pieces that serves as a preamble to evoke the sentiment of welcome and discovery, introducing visitors to the richness and complexity of Haiti. Con-



cerning the history of Haiti, the selection is concentrated on pieces marking key moments, from the time of the Amerindians through independence. Other pieces highlight the architectural and cultural history unique to Haiti, or the artistic creation that illustrates the diversity and vitality of the Haitian artistic scene with paintings, sculptures, and installations by known and emerging artists.

## Is this the first time the Galerie Monnin has collaborated like this with Saint Barthélemy?

Yes, this is a first for Galerie Monnin and for me in Saint Barthélemy. This exhibit was initiated by the association Bohio Ayiti and the Wall House Museum, to not only spotlight the artistic and cultural wealth of Haiti, but also underline the crucial importance of educating people about Haiti's historical and social context. In spite of its classification among the poorest countries, ranking sixth among independent island states, Haiti has held a central place in world histo-

ry since the discovery of the New World. A former French colony, Haiti stands out for its unique revolutionary status, marked by three fundamental revolutions: anti-slavery; anti-Colonialist; and antiracist. These uprisings not only shaped Haiti's history, but also had a profound impact on the global struggle for equality and freedom.

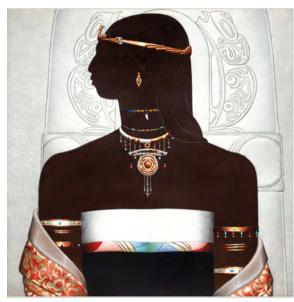
# What can you tell us about the importance of Haitian art at a time when the country seems to have rather severe problems?

One must dive into the rich artistic heritage of Haiti, which began to fully emerge after its independence. This period marked the debut of a quest for self-expression and identity through art, which has evolved and diversified over the years, in spite of political and social turmoil. Since the independence of Haiti, artists began to paint, sculpt, write, and sing, giving birth to an artistic panorama that transverses the centuries. This tradition was reinforced during the 1930's the pictural movement questioning

7

Haitian identity, then again with the emergence of naïve art between 1945 and 1947, creating a discursive space for the visual arts.

This period was marked by the affirmation of two major trends in Haitian art: the first promoting Haitian authenticity through naive art, and the second, more integrative, seeking to understand Haitian identity in all its complexity. Under the dictatorship and governing of our various politicians, Haitian artists have continued to use art as of means of resilience and resistance. Their work reflects the social, political, and economic realities of their time, while at the same time offering a unique perspective on Haitian national identity. This exhibit celebrates this uninterrupted tradition of cultural perseverance, and underlines the importance of art as a pillar of



©DR Anacaona Emilcar Simil (1993)

Haitian identity and a symbol of the island's quest for liberty, from its post-independence period until the present. The exhibit is also a tribute to the capacity of Haitian art

to inspire, bear witness, and persist, by highlighting the force, the beauty, and the essential contribution of Haiti culture to the global cultural heritage.



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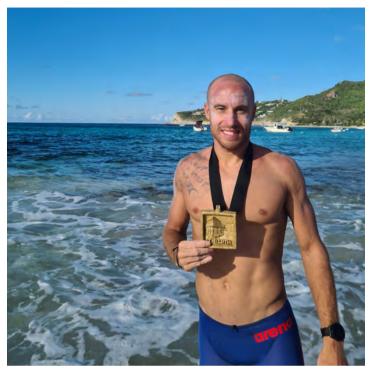
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## Alexis Wozniak Swims Around The Island

lexis Wozniak bet himself he could swim around the island of Saint Barthélemy. A daunting feat he accomplished on Sunday, March 10 in 9 hours and 19 minutes. Clad in just a swimsuit and goggles - no fins on his feet or hand paddles — Alexis Wozniak swam the 28 kilometers between 7am and 4pm, with dozens of people on the beach in Lorient applauding his return. The 32year-old emerged from the water to a standing ovation and an archway of raised surfboards, tired but happy to have won his own bet. "There were lots of highs and lows," admitted the athlete on the beach as he gobbled down some cupcakes. "But I never thought of giving up," he confirms. "I had put so much into this and had asked so many people to help me, volunteers, who gave me their time. I thought of them along the way when I hit a low point. About my family as well.

Last December, Alexis Wozniak was forced to postpone his swimming adventure due to uncertain weather conditions, but on Sunday, March 10, the sea was ideal. "I am not going to lie, I had my doubts when I started out," he explains." Even with all the swimming I did to prepare myself, it was always shorter distances, a maximum of 12 kilometers, often before or after work,



Alexis Wozniak on the beach in Lorient after swimming around the island on Sunday, March 10. This 32-year-old, who has lived and worked in Saint Barth for six years, accomplished this fear in 9 hours and 19 minutes.

so when I set out to swim more than double the distance, naturally I was somewhat apprehensive. Would I break down, collapse halfway around? I was mostly afraid of having physical problems. For nourishment along the way, I was afraid to either eat too much or not enough. The issues with such a long distance, even more the mental challenge, are digestion, cramps, etc." Other than some numbness, Alexis Wozniak escaped the worst, even

at those spots where the sea was at its roughest.

Sunday, after his arrival and before leaving the beach, he confided: "Now I have to find another challenge." A goal for which he has already apologized to his wife, whose support was essential during the long prep time required. "I thought of her as I was swimming," he admits.

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Duplex apt in residence w/ nice terrace and garden view. Quiet. Spacious bd (can be divided in 2) + dressing room. Perfect condition. 1 parking space. Co-ownership comprises 12 lots, no ongoing proceedings.



## Anglican Church Blesses The Bucket Fleet On March 20

n age-old tradition is alive in Saint Barth. Centuries ago, Mediterranean fishing and boating communities saw their local priest bless the fleet, praying for a bountiful catch and safety for all those at sea. Predominantly Catholic in the beginning, this tradition is now practiced by churches and ports all around the world. Many harbors hold annual Blessing of the Fleet events, complete with parades, services, meals, and music to attract the local community.

St Bartholomew's Anglican Church in Gustavia



will hold its annual Blessing of The Fleet in honor of the 2024 St Barth Bucket Regatta. The event takes place on Wednesday, March 20 at 5pm by the large anchor across the street from the church, with drinks served directly after in

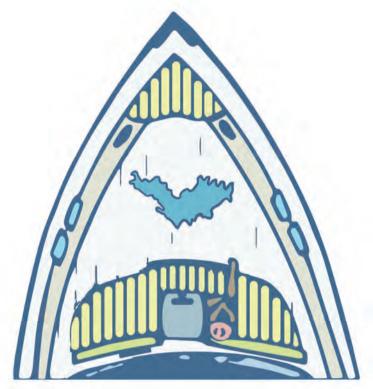
the Brook Lacour Garden. The general public is invited to attend, as well as all members of the Saint Barth International Property Owners Association, and all owners/organizers and captains/crew of The Bucket.

Led by the Reverend Charlie Vere Nicoll, the service comprises a bible reading, hymns, The Lord's Prayer, and a final blessing by John O'Donohue that includes the verse: "When the canvas frays in the currach of thought, and a stain of ocean blackens beneath you, may there come across the waters a path of yellow moonlight to bring you safely home "

For additional information about The Anglican Church in St Barth: www.stbartholomewsanglicanchurch.com







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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.

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.

With a total of 3.429 photographs, the publication 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 2,100 Species, Families, Genuses...

The thousands of photographs represent more than 2,100 illustrated taxa (that is to say taxonomic unities: the family, the genus, the species), including 1,602 animals and 545 plants, mushrooms, algae,



and other examples. "It's the kind



Strymon acis (© Karl Questel ATE)

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.

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 identifying the unknown.

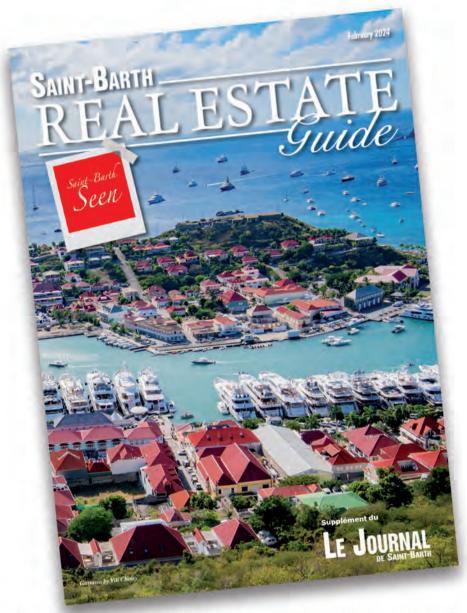
On the homepage of the guide, visitors will find a questionnaire. Easy to fill out and which allows them, if they so desire, to be alerted as to the exact time of future updates to the guide, which can be downloaded on a computer but also on a

smartphone. One must have the space for size of the guide, because, as the author points out: "There are 574 pages and there will be even more in the next edition!"

This guide with its scientific ambitions may still have room for improvement, such as adding more precise characteristics, for example. But in version 1.2, this photoguide 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:





After our special issues dedicated to the hurricane scason and the Paprec Transat, a guide to cultural and sporting activities, and the Saint-Barth Weekly, Le Journal de Saint-Barth has now published Saint-Barth Real Estate Guide.

Available at various locations on the island, as well as on the websites

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## **G**ASTRONOMY

Gustavia		Public	
Arawak Café	05.90.27.53.23	Sella	06.90.56.15.22
Atelier de Joël Robuchon	05.90.77.30.30		
Bagatelle	05.90.27.51.51	Saline	
Bar de l'Oubli	05.90.27.70.06	Esprit Jean-Claude Dufour	05.90.52.46.10
Beef Bar (Carl Gustaf)	05.90.29 79 35	Grain de Sel	05.90.52 46 05
Bête à Z'Ailes (BAZ Bar)	05 90 29 74 09	Tamarin	05.90.29.27.74
Black Ginger	05.90.29.21.03	Anse des Cayes	
Burger Palace	05.90.51.27.74		05 00 27 (( 55
Bonito	05.90.27.96.96	Manapany	05.90.27.66.55
Café Gloriette	05.90.27.13.71	Lorient	
Casa	05.90.27.63.77	Buns	05 90 51 34 33
Eddy's Restaurant	05.90.27 54 17	Caribbean Tasty	06.90.31.55.71
Fish Corner	05.90.51.36.33	Jojo Burger	05 90 27 50 33
Heiko St Barth	05.90.29.37.07	Le Bouchon	05 90 27 79 39
Īta	05.90.77.68.86	La Bohème	05 90 27 52 52
Kaz A Juice	05 90 29 36 64	La Bollelle	03 90 21 32 32
Kinugawa	05 90.51.13.55	Toiny	
L'Isola Ristorante	05.90.51.00.05	Beach Club & Le Toiny Restaurant	05.90 27.88.88
L'Isoletta	05.90.52.02.02		
La Crêperie	05 90 27 84 07	Grand Cul de Sac	
La Cantina	05.90.27.55.66	Al Mare (Le Sereno)	05.90.29.83.00
La Guerite	06.90.27.09.91	Amis (Le Barthélemy)	05.90.77.48.48
La Petit Plage	05.90.27.73.00	La Kala	06.90.76.62.20
La Quintessence	05.90.27.63.61	Beach House Rosewood Le Guanahani	05.90.52.90.08
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Martini	05.90.01.02.60	Kiki e Mo	05.90.27.90.65
Megumi	05.90.29.13.13	Koi Sushi bar	06.90.57.16.46
Ocean Club	05.90.51.25.36	L'Envol (Airport)	05.90.27.71.40
Shellona	05.90.29 06 66	La Guérite Beach	06.90.34.50.45
		Le Glacier	05 90 27 71 30
Flamand		Le Diamant	05.90.29.21.97
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La Case & La Cabane (Cheval Blanc		Le Piment	05.90 27.53.88
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Nyama	00.30.36.34.03	Papa's Pizza	05.90.29.87.76
Colombier		Papillon Ivre	06.90.73.25.30
Les Bananiers	05.90.27.93.48	Peter MC Cool Irish Pub	05 90 52 08 36
Gyp Sea	05.90.77.52.52	Pearl Beach	05.90.52.81.33
Gyp oca	05.70.11.32.32	Romi (Tropical Hotel)	05 90 27 55 67
Pointe Milou		Sand Bar (Eden Rock)	05.90.29.81.64
Le Ti	05.90.27.97.71	Sayolita	05.90.27.13.30
Rivyera (Christopher Hotel)	05.90.27.63.63	So Cuisine	05.90.77.15.70
/		Zion	05.90.27.63.62

## 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

## Night Club @ Modjo St-Jean @ Casa Night Club

## Live Music

▶ Thursday March 14 - Back to the 2000, Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5pm -7pm at Christopher Hotel - Live music by Soley from 7pm at l'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 - Private Showcase with DJ set by Klingande at Romi restaurant, Tropical Hotel. Friday, March 15

Orange Vibes with DJ Set,
5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel
Apero is French with DJ Set Sébastien Roche at Arawak café, Gustavia

- Desiderata in live at Romi restaurant (Tropical Hotel) from 7:30pm to 9:30pm. -After Work Monday to

-After Work Monday to Friday 5pm-7pm at Modjo - Live Music with

- Live Music with Thiphanie, from 7pm at Pearl Beach,

▶ Saturday, March 16
- Saint-Patrick Week-end with Live music Maudit Triskel from 7:30pm at Peter Mc Cool, Irish Pub

- Live Music by Ti Luna violoniste from 7pm at Arawak, Gustavia

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

-After Work Monday to Friday 5pm-7pm at Modjo

- Live Music by Stella & Laurent from 7pm @Arawak

Sunday, March 17

- 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 2pm - 5pm 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

- 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, March 18

- 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 Hotel

Tuesday, March 19

- 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 Eveny Tuesdau White dinner from 7pm with DJ Set Sébastien Roche at Gyp Sea Beach Club.

Wednesday, March 20

Orange Vibes with DJ Set,5 - 7pm at Christopher hotelCinema club at

Christopher, Pointe Milou
- Live Music with The
Shamans Duo from 7:30pm
at Amis St. Barth restaurant

<u>Name of Dataset 21</u>

- Back to the 2000', Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5pm -7pm at Christopher Hotel - Live Music 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

Beach Club, Toiny -After Work Monday to Friday 5pm-7pm at Modjo

## **Exhibitions**

March 19 to 24
The Gustavia Yacht
Club organize an exhibition of photographs by
Michael Kurtz of the
winners of the last ten St
Barth Buckets at the
Hotel Cheval Blanc Isle
de France de Flamand.

**▶** Thursday March 21

- Art Party at Christopher Hotel from 7pm with 18 artists from St Barth

- Exhibition of pictures of Hugo Allard at Christopher Hotel, Pointe Milou

Marco Glaviano
 «St Tropez Séries» at Space
 Gallery St Barth

- Through June 1st: « Haiti, The Soul Of A Country,» at The Wall House Territorial Museum.

Kay Quattrocchi:
A Retrospective
The various periods of her work can be seen throu March 17 at Le
Barthélemy Hotel.

- Something About The Sea by Tony Caramanico at Summum Gallery

- 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 St Tropez Series: Marco Glaviano 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

Alain Le Chatelier: Artist Botanicus Painting of Alain Le Chatelier At Les Artisans,

## Art GalleriesAlmosnino Fine Art Gallery

- Antoine Heckly ArtGallery

- Camaruche Gallery

Clic Gallery, GustaviaEden Fine Art St Barts

- Fergus McCaffrey

Galerie Asie, GustaviaLes Artisans, Gustavia

- Les Artisans, Gustavia - Space Gallery St Barth

- Spirit Space Gallery

- Summum Gallery

