

# DESTINATION **HUB**

S I N T M A A R T E N | S A I N T M A R T I N



THE YACHT CLUB AT PORT DE PLAISANCE • PALAPA MARINA

**VOL. 02**





*Welcome to*

# DESTINATION **HUB**

**A**t the heart of the Caribbean lies St. Maarten, a vibrant island where turquoise waters meet world-class marinas, and where every horizon promises adventure. Destination Hub Magazine was created to highlight not only the beauty of this island, but also the experiences anchored around The Yacht Club at Port de Plaisance and Palapa Marina.

From the culinary delights and lively festivals to the ease of island-hopping between St. Maarten, Anguilla, and St. Barths, we bring together the best of what this region has to offer. Our goal is simple: to inspire, to showcase, and to connect travelers and yachting enthusiasts with the spirit of the Caribbean.

Every page is an invitation—whether you're exploring by sea or by land, let Destination Hub be your guide to unforgettable moments and the destinations that make them possible.

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## **Destination Sint Maarten**

***16 Square Miles***

**Capital:** Philipsburg

**Language:** English

**Currency:** XCG / USD

**Inhabitants:** 43,923

*St. Maarten is known for its vibrant nightlife, duty-free shopping, and the famous Maho Beach plane landings.*



# The Friendly Island

## *Gint Maarten*







**C**radled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, French Saint-Martin is a gem where cultures, flavors, and landscapes collide in the most captivating way. Often called the “Friendly Island,” Saint-Martin effortlessly blends French sophistication with Caribbean charm, creating a destination that feels both worldly and warmly familiar. With 37 beaches lining its shores, from the tranquil coves of Anse Marcel to the lively stretches of Orient Bay, the island offers a perfect escape for every kind of traveler.

The heart of the French side beats in Marigot, the Creole-infused capital. Here, pastel-colored buildings, bustling markets, and the historic Fort Louis overlook the bay, reminding visitors of the island’s layered history. From Marigot’s waterfront to the panoramic views atop Pic Paradis, Saint-Martin is as much about natural beauty as it is about cultural vibrancy.

Nature lovers will find sanctuary in the Saint-Martin Nature Reserve, a 3,060-hectare haven protecting coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, coastal forests, and pristine islets such as Pinel and Tintamarre. It’s a living showcase of the island’s commitment to preserving its rare ecosystems,

where sea turtles nest and colorful reef fish dart through crystalline waters. But Saint-Martin’s soul shines brightest through its people and traditions. Each February, Carnival bursts onto the streets in a kaleidoscope of feathers, sequins, and music, turning the island into a stage of joyous celebration. Local artisans and chefs add their own creative flair to everyday life, from handmade perfumes at Tijon Parfumerie to sizzling dishes at the open-air “lolos” of Marigot. Guavaberry rum, journey cakes, and crab and rice embody a culinary heritage that tells its own delicious story.

Unity is at the heart of Saint-Martin’s identity. Every November 11, Saint-Martin Day commemorates the shared history of the French and Dutch sides of the island, bringing communities together in a festival of pride, heritage, and celebration.

French Saint-Martin is more than just a destination; it’s an experience that marries elegance with authenticity, luxury with laid-back island living. Whether you come for the beaches, the flavors, the festivities, or the unshakable warmth of its people, Saint-Martin leaves every visitor with a story worth telling.

# DISCOVER *Saint Martin*

## Destination Saint Martin

*21 Square Miles*

**Capital:** Marigot

**Language:** French

**Currency:** EUR / USD

**Inhabitants:** 43,923

*French St. Martin is known for its gourmet cuisine, stunning beaches, and vibrant French-Caribbean culture.*



**F**rench Saint-Martin is often hailed as the culinary capital of the Caribbean, where French elegance meets Creole tradition in a fusion that delights every palate. Along the French side, flavors come alive in smoky Creole BBQ, spicy accras, fresh seafood, hearty crab-and-rice, and the island's beloved Johnny Cakes. This rich gastronomy is as much a cultural expression as it is a dining experience, blending generations of Caribbean heritage with the refinement of French technique.

Each year, the island celebrates this vibrant food culture during the Festival de la Gastronomie, a lively event that transforms Saint-Martin into a stage of culinary creativity. The 2025 edition will be held from November 11 to November 22, bringing together chefs, locals, and visitors for tastings, cooking workshops, mixology competitions, and island-wide celebrations of food.

From the bustling market stalls in Marigot to the sizzling grills by the sea, French Saint-Martin's cuisine is more than just a meal—it's a journey into the very soul of the island.







## Destination Anguilla

*35 Square Miles*

Capital: The Valley

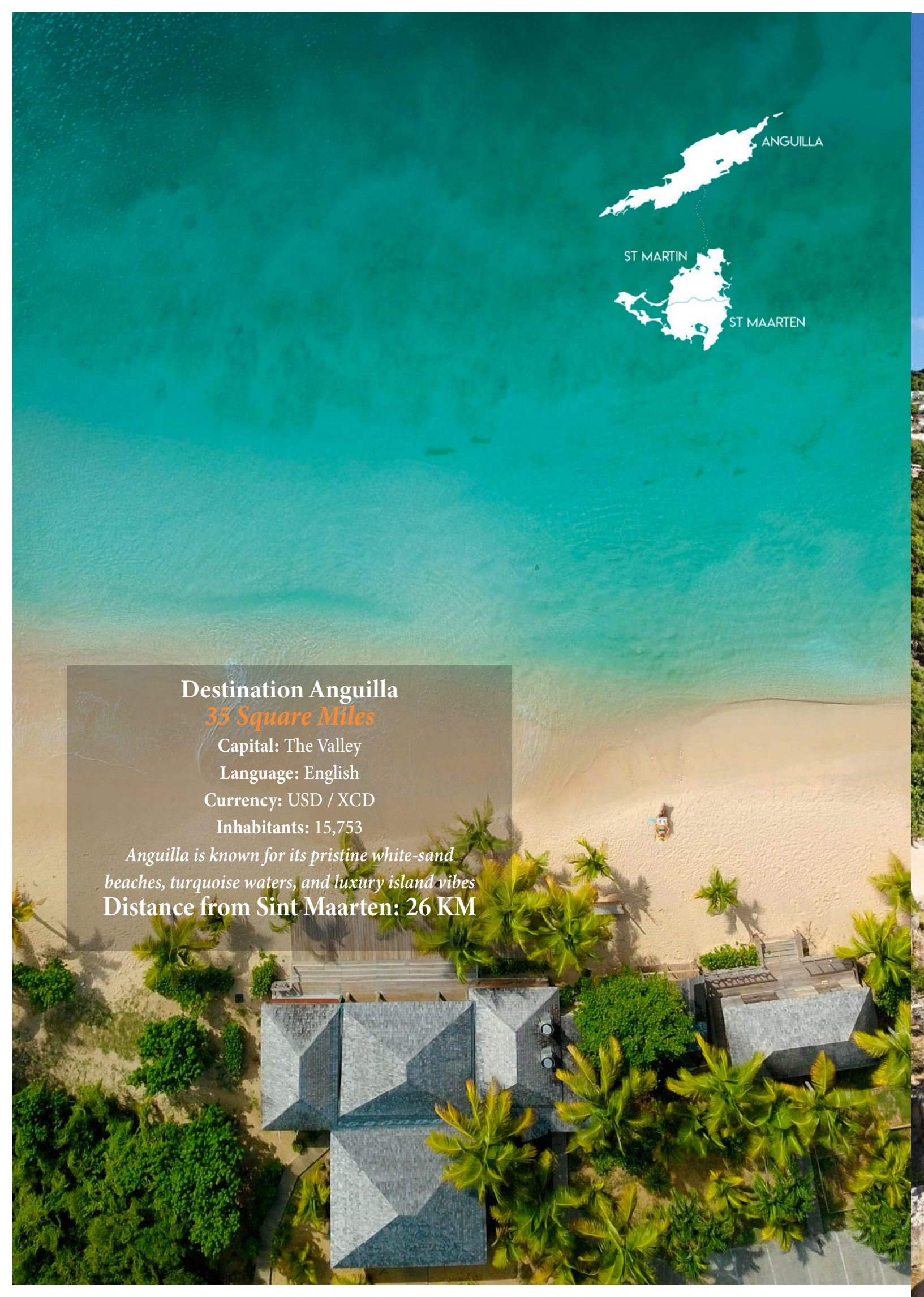
Language: English

Currency: USD / XCD

Inhabitants: 15,753

*Anguilla is known for its pristine white-sand beaches, turquoise waters, and luxury island vibes*

**Distance from Sint Maarten: 26 KM**





**Destination Saint Barth**  
**9.7 Square Miles**

**Capital:** Gustavia

**Language:** French

**Currency:** EUR

**Inhabitants:** 9961

*St. Barths is known for its luxury lifestyle, designer shopping, and celebrity-filled beaches.*

**Distance from Sint Maarten: 31 KM**





# THE YACHT CLUB AT PORT DE PLAISANCE

A BLUWATER DESTINATION  
SINT MAARTEN



Nestled in the heart of Sint Maarten's Simpson Bay Lagoon, The Yacht Club at Port de Plaisance stands as a beacon of luxury and convenience for yachting enthusiasts. As the #1 Homeport in the Caribbean, it offers over 90 slips accommodating vessels from 40 to 260 feet, with drafts up to 16 feet, making it an ideal haven for both cruising and ultra yachts.

Beyond its prime location with access via the Simpson Bay and Sandy Ground bridges, the marina boasts a suite of world-class amenities. Guests can indulge in a five-star hotel, savor gourmet dining, try their luck at the casino, or stay active at the full-service gym and tennis facilities.

For those seeking exploration, the marina serves as a perfect launchpad to the Leeward Islands, including Anguilla, St. Barths, and Antigua, as well as the USVI and BVI cruising grounds.

With over 3 decades of excellence, The Yacht Club at Port de Plaisance remains a top choice for yachtsmen seeking unparalleled service and a luxurious base in the Caribbean.



# The #1 Homeport for Cruising the Caribbean

## Our Services

### Waste Disposal

Disposing of oil, gray water and black water

### Yacht Provisioning

Top Quality Supplies and Fresh Produce

### Fueling

Refuel your vessel with the option of gasoline refills, diesel bunkering

### Arrange Transport

We offer a wide range of options to help with transportation

### Care Services

Book a babysitter, pet care, physiotherapy, medical services etc.

### High Speed Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available to stay connected

### Reservations

Dockage Reservations can be easily booked both online or by calling our marina office

### Yacht Clearance

We'll provide port clearance services to expedite your arrival or departure

### Restroom Services

We're equipped with restrooms and showers

### Laundry Services

We offer the opportunity to get your laundry done



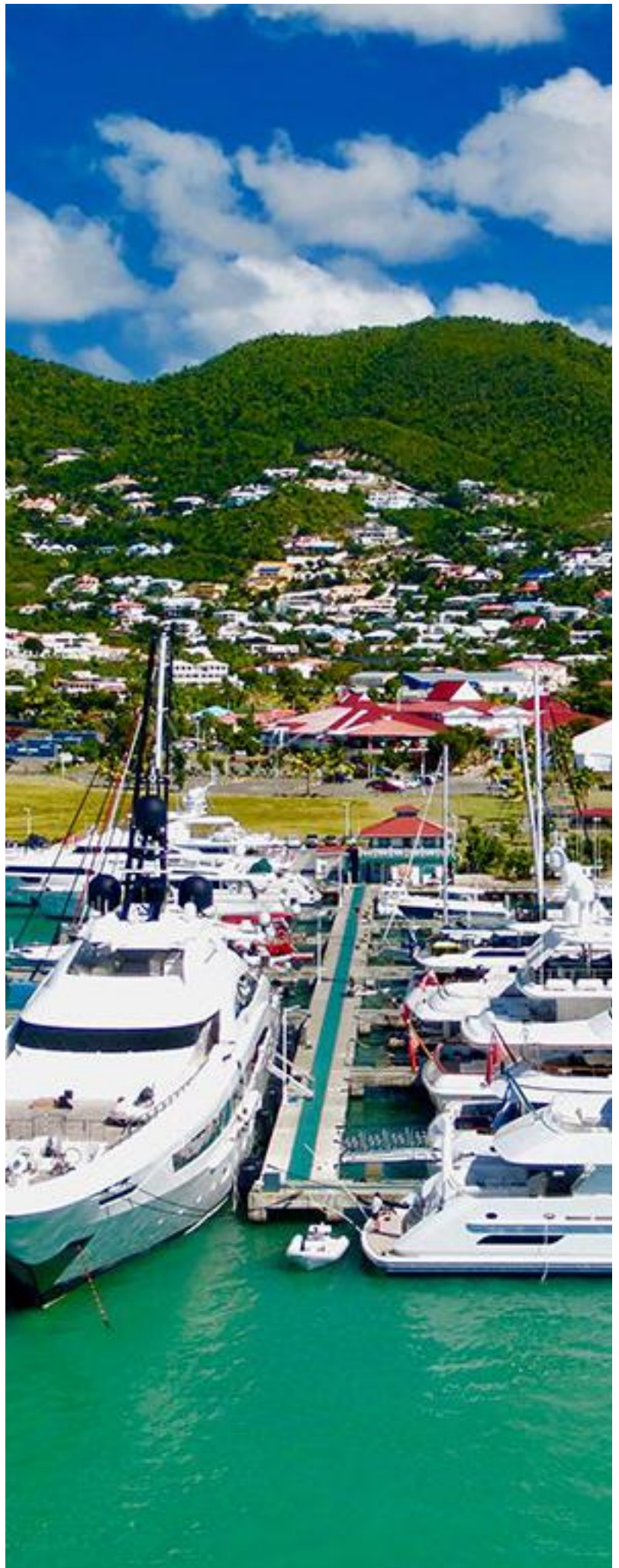
For yachts docking at The Yacht Club at Port de Plaisance, the experience doesn't end at the marina. Just steps away lies The Country Club at Port de Plaisance, a world-class facility that adds an extra layer of luxury and wellness to life on shore. Best of all, captains, crew, and yacht guests enjoy complimentary access — making it the ultimate perk after long days at sea.

Inside, the Country Club feels like a retreat designed with seafarers in mind. The state-of-the-art fitness center spans three exercise rooms and two specialty studios, offering everything from high-energy spin classes to restorative yoga and Pilates. It's a chance for crew to stay fit on the move, or for captains to unwind in between voyages.

Outdoors, the scene shifts to leisure and play. Seven professional tennis courts, lit for evening matches, invite friendly games or competitive rallies. The luxurious pool deck sets the tone for pure relaxation — lined with loungers, umbrellas, fresh towels, and attentive service from the Courtside Café. Guests can cool off with a dip, stretch out in the sun, or enjoy fresh juices and light bites poolside.

For those seeking total rejuvenation, the Impulse Spa delivers massages and treatments designed to ease away travel fatigue and refresh the body. It's the perfect reset after long passages or intense workdays aboard.

The Country Club isn't just an amenity — it's a sanctuary. As an extension of The Yacht Club, it turns a stop in Sint Maarten into a complete lifestyle experience, blending fitness, leisure, and luxury. For yacht owners, captains, and crew, it's an invaluable addition to life on the water — and an irresistible reason to make Port de Plaisance a home port in the Caribbean.



# 2026 EVENT SCHEDULE

**Thursday, January 8th**  
Crew New Year & Fireworks

**Friday, January 16th**  
Happy Hour

**Thursday, January 22nd**  
Cocktail Party

**Thursday, January 29th – Saturday, January 31st**  
CMC - Caribbean Multihull Challenge

**Friday, January 30th**  
Happy Hour

**Thursday, February 5th**  
Themed Party

**Thursday, February 12th - Sunday, February 15th**  
St. Maarten Lagoon Festival

**Thursday, February 19th**  
Themed Party

**Friday, February 20th**  
Happy Hour

**Thursday, March 5th – Sunday, March 8th**  
Heineken Regatta

**Thursday, March 5th**  
Themed Party

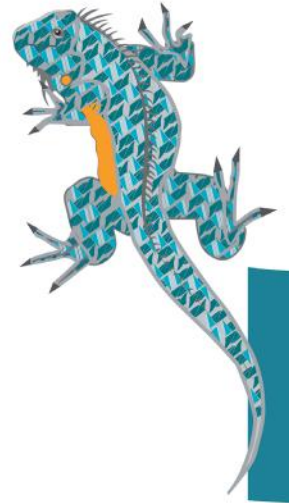
**Thursday March 12th – Sunday, March 15th**  
St. Barth's Bucket

**Friday, March 13th**  
Happy Hour

**Thursday, March 19th**  
Themed Party

**Friday, March 27th**  
Happy Hour

**Thursday, April 16th**  
Themed Party



  
**THE YACHT CLUB**  
AT  
**PORT DE PLAISANCE**  
A BLUWATER DESTINATION  
SINT MAARTEN







Nestled in the heart of Simpson Bay on the vibrant island of St. Maarten, Palapa Marina stands as a beacon for yachting enthusiasts seeking world-class service, prime location, and unmatched facilities. As a family-owned business with over 35 years of dedication, Palapa Marina has established itself as a leader in the Caribbean yachting industry, welcoming vessels of all sizes to enjoy the ultimate marina experience. The authentic, Mexican Caribbean wooden structure and tropical vibes give Palapa Marina a distinct, welcoming atmosphere. Boho-inspired surroundings combine with a friendly, professional staff ready to assist guests with every need, including access to highly rated dining options on the island.



Established in 1991, our family-owned marina has been a pioneer in the marine industry on the island of St Maarten. With a rich history and a warm, welcoming atmosphere, we pride ourselves on providing top-tier services to our clients and their vessels.

We specialize in handling vessels up to 250 feet, with a deep draft of up to 17 feet, ensuring safe and efficient mooring for a wide range of boats. Our gated marina features modern amenities including pool, gym and a selection of bars, restaurants, lounges, services and shops.

Our dedicated and professional staff is ready to assist our clients to get ready for their next charter

by providing fuel bunkering, yacht support, provisioning, crew placements, concierge services. Our marina boasts a beautiful, well-maintained setting with plenty of space for relaxation and entertainment. We offer a variety of activities, including live music, dining options, and recreational facilities, making it a perfect place for memorable moments.

Our team is dedicated to providing the best services, ensuring your vessel is well cared for and your experience is seamless. We are always available to attend to your needs, making our marina your trusted partner on the water.



# Facility & Services

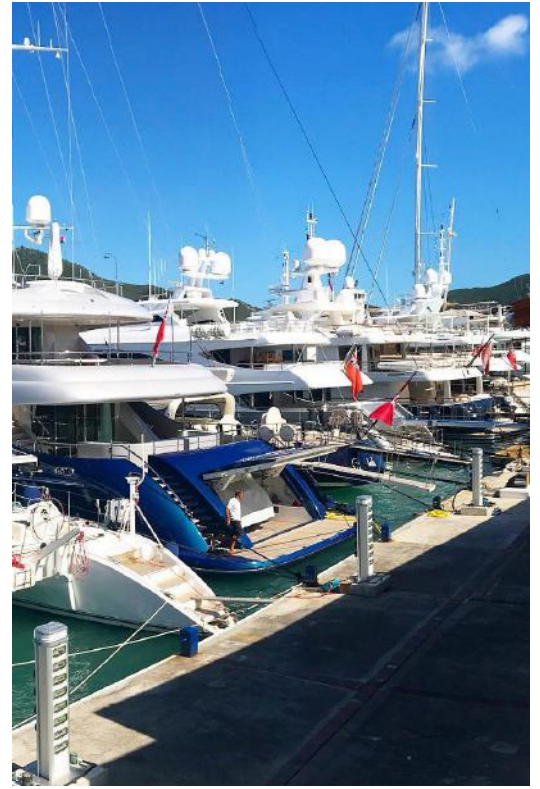
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At Palapa Marina, every detail is designed with captains, crew, and guests in mind. Offering both stability and sophistication, the marina accommodates vessels up to 250 feet with stern-to slips and a deep 17-foot draft — ensuring peace of mind for even the largest yachts.

Beyond the dock, guests can indulge in the marina's luxury amenities, including fine dining restaurants, a stylish lounge bar, a refreshing

swimming pool, and fully equipped gym access. For marine needs, Palapa partners with leading specialists — from shipwright services and air-conditioning experts to provisioning support tailored for yachts.

With private, gated access secured by coded entry and ample parking on site, Palapa Marina delivers the perfect balance of convenience, security, and world-class comfort.



Palapa Marina isn't just a place to dock — it's a strategic choice for yacht owners looking for reliability, convenience, and value in the heart of the Caribbean. With stern-to slips accommodating vessels up to 250 feet and utilities available right at the pedestal, every berth is designed to make life onboard seamless. From metered electrical power up to 200 amps to fresh water and direct fueling at each berth, captains can count on smooth operations without leaving the dock.

What sets Palapa apart is its exclusive long-term and seasonal programs. Yachts planning extended stays — 90 days or more — unlock attractive discounts and flexible options, including non-consecutive stays. For owners who return season after season, this creates a true homeport advantage in Sint Maarten.

Accessibility is another hallmark of Palapa. Just 20 minutes from the airport, the marina makes crew changes and guest arrivals effortless. On-site parking, coded entry, and discreet facilities keep privacy and security at the forefront, while pool-side lounges and fitness access provide welcome relaxation off the yacht.

With over 35 years of trusted, family-owned experience, Palapa Marina continues to deliver a rare blend of professional expertise and personal service. For yachts seeking not just a berth, but a reliable base in the Caribbean, Palapa stands out as a marina that understands both the practical and lifestyle needs of its clientele.





“Where  
Memories Are  
Anchored”



# **SXM LAGOON FESTIVAL**

MARINE INDUSTRY TRADE EVENT & CELEBRATION

## **ST MAARTEN**

**T**he St. Maarten Lagoon Festival was born from a shared vision among the four major marinas in the Simpson Bay Lagoon—The Yacht Club at Port de Plaisance, Palapa Marina, IGY Marina, and Skyport Marina. Recognizing the island’s role as one of the Caribbean’s premier yachting destinations, these marinas joined forces to create an event that not only celebrates the maritime industry but also connects it more closely with the local community.

What emerged is a one-of-a-kind festival that blends the glamour of the yachting lifestyle with the warmth and creativity of St. Maarten. Guests can expect a vibrant mix of culinary competitions where top chefs showcase their mastery, mixology showdowns that highlight the island’s spirited energy, and exclusive yacht parties that light up the lagoon.

Timed to coincide with the opening of the yacht season, the festival offers both seasoned seafarers and curious newcomers an irresistible reason to set their sights on St. Maarten. More than just a party on the water, the Lagoon Festival is a bridge—uniting locals and visitors, luxury and culture, adventure and elegance.

With its dazzling combination of world-class yachts, Caribbean flair, and unforgettable experiences, the St. Maarten Lagoon Festival is quickly charting a course to become a signature celebration of the island’s maritime spirit.





**SXM LAGOON FESTIVAL**  
MARINE INDUSTRY TRADE EVENT & CELEBRATION  
ST MAARTEN

# Save the Date

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 - February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**THE YACHT CLUB AT PORT DE PLAISANCE**

BEST OF THE BEST CHEF COMPETITION  
KICK-OFF PARTY

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**PALAPA MARINA**

COCKTAIL COMPETITION  
ELECTRO JUNGLE PARTY

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**SKYPORT MARINA**

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**IGY MARINA - ISLE DE SOL**

CARNIVAL BY THE BAY





## **BEST OF THE BEST** *Chef Competition*

The Chef Competition has quickly become one of the highlights of the SXM Lagoon Festival. Set against the backdrop of an open-air garden transformed into a outdoor kitchen, the event brings together local talents and yacht chefs in a sizzling head-to-head battle.

Across three rounds—appetizer, main course, and dessert—chefs are challenged with surprise boxes that push their creativity and culinary skills to the limit. With Nestlé and Maggi partnering to spice up the action, spectators get more than just a front-row seat; they're treated to mimosas, cinnamon rolls, ice cream sundaes, and plenty of bites to keep the energy high as the competition unfolds.

As the chefs race against the clock to impress the judges, only one will walk away with the coveted title of "Best of the Best." After another successful showcase this year, all eyes are already on February 2026, when the fourth annual Chef Competition promises to raise the bar even higher.









**SOGGY DOLLAR BAR**  
**COCKTAIL**  
COMPETITION

Palapa Marina shakes things up with the lively Soggy Dollar Bar Cocktail Competition. This spirited showdown invites talented mixologists to put their creativity on display as they craft three signature drinks: two built around surprise key ingredients revealed at the start, and one entirely of their own invention.

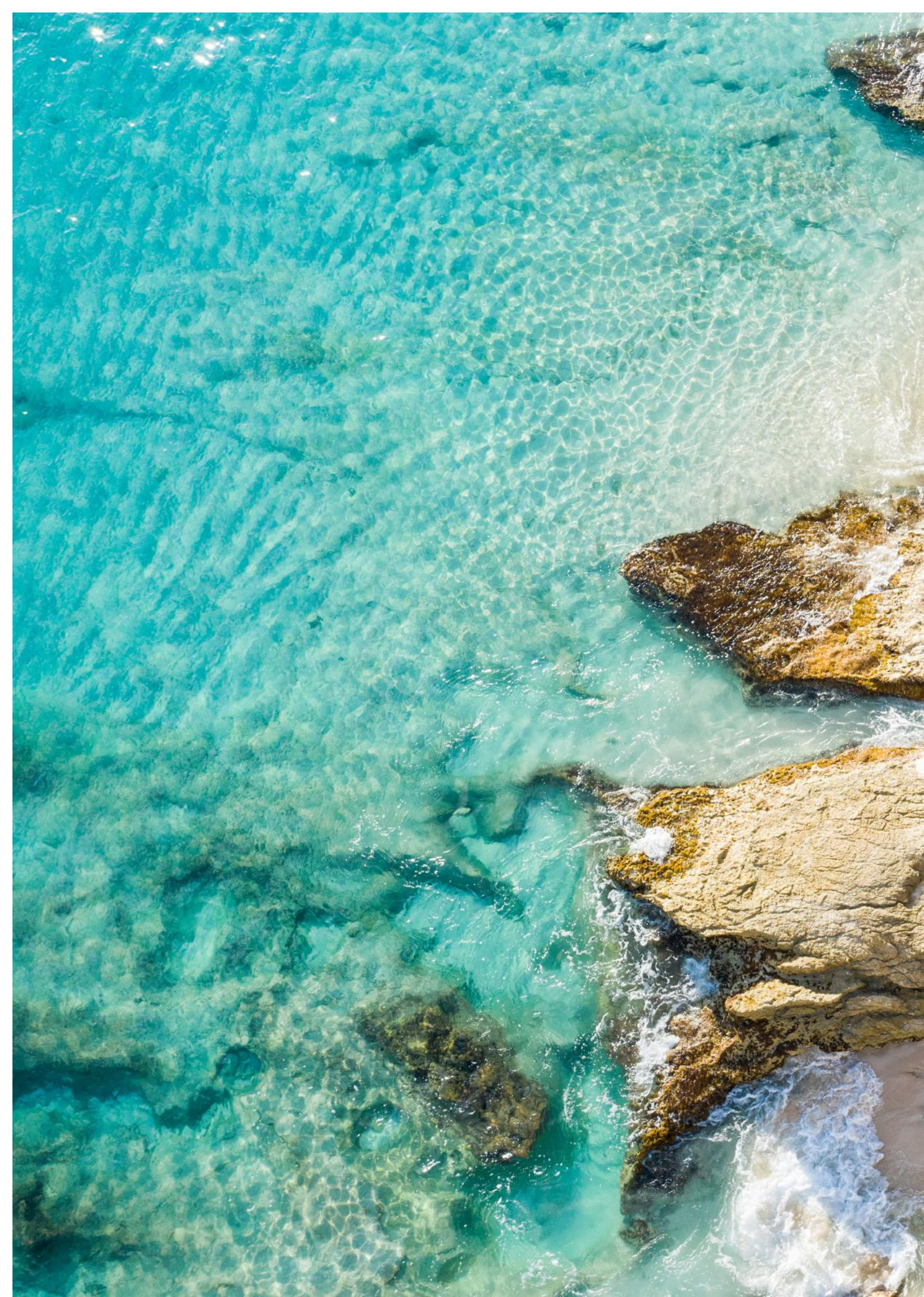
Armed with their own tools and garnishes, competitors work against the clock to impress the judges with presentation, originality, and—most importantly—the perfect balance of flavors. The atmosphere buzzes with excitement as each cocktail is unveiled, raising the bar for island mixology one glass at a time.

With prizes ranging from cash to gift vouchers and more, the competition keeps both participants and spectators on their toes. Whether you're sipping from the sidelines or cheering on your favorite bartender, the Soggy Dollar Bar Cocktail Competition serves up an unforgettable mix of skill, style, and island spirit.











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