

THE BEST OF 2024 *is a Special Publication of*

Herald

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It is with great pleasure that we present the 24th edition of "The Best Of" – our annual publication based on the results of an informal survey in Sint Maarten/Saint Martin from mid-December to early January regarding people's favourite businesses and personalities in various categories during the previous calendar year.

Of course, not everyone can finish first, but all nominees may rightfully be considered winners as well. There are also a number of relatively new establishments that perhaps failed to get enough support this time around, but will hopefully do better in "The Best Of 2025".

Even if a particular existing business was not among the Top 3, they should consider it an incentive to work even harder this year to make a positive impression on the public and get customers to vote for them. If there's one thing "The Best Of" confirms time and again, it's that "The Friendly Island" has a lot to offer.

The Publisher



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Best High-End Restaurant — Best New Restaurant — Jax Steakhouse

When it comes to dining out in comfort and luxury, few experiences rival the ambiance offered at Jax Steakhouse – our reader's pick for Best High-End Restaurant on the island for 2024. At Jax Steakhouse, it's not just about the meal itself, but the experience - the ambiance, the service and the perfectly cooked delicacies that leave diners savouring every bite.

Located on the upper floor of the bustling Maho Village, Jax, in addition to its juicy steaks, serves up a wide variety of delicacies to suit many tastes. Guests can opt to dine in the stylish indoors or outdoors on the patio. The restaurant boasts a fully-stocked indoor bar, as well as an outdoor bar. A section of cosy seating awaits those who just want to lounge and enjoy drinks, appetizers and laughter.

The Jax team is experienced, friendly and fast and is grateful for the honour. "From





the entire staff at Jax Steakhouse, we would like to thank all our friends, followers, regulars, and new patrons for voting us Best High-End Restaurant of St. Maarten. We're very grateful and look forward to welcoming you all soon. Thank you all - and great job, Team Jax!"

Big Daddy's

New restaurant Big Daddy's has added some flavour to St. Maarten's rich culinary scene and is already a big hit amongst hearty appetites. Located at Carrefour Market in Cole Bay, Big Daddy's is a quick-service restaurant that takes diners on a tasty journey with its scrumptious line of tasty burgers, yummy hotdogs, delicious sandwiches, flavoursome frosty milkshakes and, of course, healthy options for veg-

Its burgers are a must-try and a favourite amongst customers. If you're not in the mood for a big treat, try their "munchies" which include sides such as Big D's Fries, or their Exploding Fries with cheddar cheese, sliced jalapenos and bacon bits.



The restaurant has a spacious terrace with seating options located under over-sized umbrellas for comfort and shade, as well as seating at its counter, where diners can enjoy their meals on the spot or order to go. Established since 1989, Big Daddy's chain of restaurants' long service to appetites is now available in St. Maarten.







Best Italian Restaurant Izi

Step into the world of authentic Italian cuisine at Izi, where traditional recipes meet modern sophistication in the heart of Simpson Bay. Voted Best Italian Restaurant, Izi continues to captivate diners with its exceptional culinary creations and warm, inviting atmosphere.

This prestigious recognition celebrates more than just Izi's extensive menu of hand-crafted pasta, wood-fired pizzas, and succulent seafood dishes; it honours the restaurant's dedication to creating a genuine Italian dining ex-

perience. Every dish tells a story of passion for fine ingredients, expert preparation, and beautiful presentation.





The attentive staff, carefully curated wine list, and elegant yet comfortable setting make every visit memorable. Whether you're celebrating a special occasion or simply craving exceptional Italian cuisine, Izi delivers an unforgettable dining experience that has earned them the top spot in the hearts of St. Maarten's food enthusiasts







Grazie Mille!

For voting us the #1 Italian Restaurant AGAIN, it encourages us and we really appreciate it immensely!

Open Tuesday through Sunday 5P.M. - 10P.M. (closed Mondays)



Paradise Mall, Simpson Bay. Next to movie theater. Tel: +1 721 544 3079 WhatsApp +1 721 522 1477 izirestaurantesxm@gmail.com

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Best Breakfast/ Brunch Spot — Réveil Matin

Breakfast is often called the most important meal of the day, and on The Friendly Island, Réveil Matin in Simpson Bay has earned its reputation as the best place to enjoy it – taking the number one spot for the past three years. This beloved roadside eatery has been firing up appetites with its range of breakfast options, from an array of tasty crepes, fresh fruits and omelettes, to delicious French toasts, waffles, Johnny cakes and pancakes. Whether you pair your breakfast with a fresh brew of coffee, tea or freshly squeezed juice, you are sure to enjoy the experience.

The best part? The culinary options offer great value for the price. They open every day, so you can kick-start your day with an award-winning breakfast any day of the week with the view of passing vehicles from the outdoor terrace, or opt for the indoor seating if you prefer a more private setting.



Lunch

Breakfast

Breakfast & Lunch

Waffles Eggs Benedict Crepes Fresh Fruits Sandwich



"It is a great honour for us to have been voted Best Breakfast Restaurant for the past three consecutive years, an accomplishment that would have not been possible without the support of my clientele, as well as the hard work and dedication, of my loving, friendly and committed staff," says a grateful owner Daniel.



Ø

to our patrons and our

dedicated and friendly staff.

Voting our restaurant as #1 BEST BREAKFAST SPOT THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS!

Your support means the world to us, and we're thrilled to know our pancakes, omelets, and morning specials have become part of your routines.

And being named the third-best coffee? That's just the cherry on top! We'll keep brewing, cooking, and working hard to make every visit as warm and delicious as possible.

Thank you for making us part of your mornings!

REVEIL MATIN Breakfast & Lunch, #68 Welfare Road, Plaza Del Lago, Tel: (721) 544-7007 SEE YOU SOON 😊

Best Pizza — Domino's Pizza

When it comes to satisfying those pizza cravings on St. Maarten, the people have spoken – Domino's Pizza reigns supreme! With multiple locations across the island serving both Dutch and French sides, Domino's has mastered the art of consistently delivering hot, fresh, and delicious pizzas that keep customers coming back for more.

It's not just about the pizzas that have made Domino's a household name worldwide; it's about their commitment to serving the St. Maarten community with quick delivery times, friendly service, and a menu that

caters to all tastes. From their Crispy Thin, Hand Tossed, and Pan Crust options, every pizza is crafted with quality ingredients and attention to detail.

Whether you're ordering for a family dinner, a beach party, or a late-night craving, Domino's ensures you're never far from your favourite slice. Their easy-to-use online ordering at www.dominos.sx also sets them apart from the rest. The voters have recognized Domino's dedication to excellence, crowning them #1 in the Best Pizza category.











Bush Road 542-4397 | Cole Bay 544-5954 | Union Road 544-9090 PJIA Departure/Arrival Halls 546-7722



Best Sushi Ginger Sushi & Grill

Ginger Sushi is truly a sushi lover's dream, offering a combination of incredible flavours, great prices, a welcoming atmosphere and friendly staff that are hard to match. Whether you're craving sushi, sashimi, or something else, their menu has something for everyone. From sushi pizzas and maki rolls to creative chef specials, you'll find plenty of options to satisfy your appetite. Not a sushi fan? No problem. Their rice, noodles, and other dishes are just as delicious. A multiple-time winner of the Best Sushi spot, Ginger Sushi is proud to be voted number one for 2024.

"Heartfelt thanks go out to our loyal customers for voting for us," said manager Lisa. "We are incredibly honoured and humbled to be the Best Sushi Restaurant. This is an amazing affirmation of all we strive for and of our efforts to share the art and taste of authentic sushi. Winning encourages us to continue our journey of Sushi in Ginger. We'll maintain the standards of service and food quality for every piece of sushi we serve. Thank you, once again. We look forward to serving you for many years to come and hope to continue earning your trust."





Paradise Mall • Welfare Road #71 • Cole Bay, St. Maarten. (Close to Megaplex Cinemas)

> Opening Hours: Monday - Thursday: 12:00pm - 11:00pm • Friday- Sunday: 1:00pm - 12:00am 1-721-544-4573 OR 1-751-554-3628







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the BEST OF 2024









Best Mexican Food 3 Amigos

If you're looking for delicious Tex-Mex cuisine paired with a lively atmosphere, 3 Amigos is the place to be. Recognised as the Best Mexican Food for 2024 by readers of The Daily Herald, this lively spot is celebrated for its awardwinning menu and unbeatable atmosphere.

Located on the iconic Maho strip, 3 Amigos is the perfect place to people-watch while savouring a tasty meal. Regulars can't get enough of the sizzling fajitas, served with

pico de gallo, guacamole and your choice of veggies chicken, steak, shrimp, or a combination of them all, for those who want it all. From tacos that'll make your taste buds dance, to enchiladas with a bold kick, and quesadillas that will leave you wanting more, 3 Amigos delivers delicious Tex-Mex flavours in every dish.





With festive decor that sets the stage for a fiesta, Tex-Mex has happy hour daily from 3:00 to 6:00pm, offering discounts on the popular classic margaritas and crisp Modelo beer. The kitchen stays open until 11:30pm (10:00pm on Tuesdays and Fridays).



Best BBQ Captain's Rib Shack

Captain's Rib Shack in Simpson Bay is a celebrated BBQ spot, recently awarded #1 for Best BBQ. Located between Kim Sha Beach and the Lagoon, it's a true island gem known for its tender, fall-offthe-bone ribs, slow-cooked over a woodfire grill with a perfect balance of smoky, sweet, and tangy flavours. Beyond ribs, the menu offers BBQ classics like juicy chicken, oxtail, garlic shrimp, and creamy mac and cheese – and the addition of a new Seafood Corner provides fresh, island-inspired catches.

Craving a feast? Then join them on Thursdays for their all-you-can-eat ribs special! The Captain's Flavours Food Truck offers tacos, quesadillas, burgers and more, with a delivery service for easy enjoyment wherever you are.

Open six days a week with extended hours providing a local atmosphere enhanced by live music, the Rib Shack is a favourite destination for families, friends, and solo diners looking for great food and unforget-





table island vibes. With a passion for bold flavours and a dedication to their loyal supporters, Captain's Rib Shack continues to be a go-to spot for BBQ lovers, offering both a delicious experience and fond memories with every visit.



Best Seafood Restaurant — Skip Jack's

If you're a seafood lover, Skip Jack's in Simpson Bay should be your ultimate destination to enjoy tasty delicacies from the sea straight to your plate. Skip Jack's is known for its fresh seafood, featuring live Caribbean and Maine lobsters that you can handpick directly from their in-house tanks.

Their fish is freshly caught, cooked to perfection, and bursting with flavour. They offer sushi grade Yellow Fin Tuna, Grouper, Mahi Mahi,

Salmon, and PEI Mussels, amongst many other seafood choices. Not in the mood for seafood? No problem. Skip Jack's also offers a range of meat and chicken options that celebrate flavour. Diners enjoy their meals in the restaurant's charming, oldfashioned setting, featuring carefully crafted woodwork and nautical-themed décor,





perfect for a seafood restaurant. Adding to the experience is the stunning waterfront view no matter where you're seated.

With a menu that highlights the best of the ocean, Skip Jack's and its enthusiastic team offer an unforgettable dining experience.



Best Place for Desserts La Sucriere





Have a sweet tooth? Satisfy it at La Sucriere in Simpson Bay voted Best Place for Desserts on the island for 2024. Situated on the roadside, with a view of the lagoon, the French bakery offers a wide variety of desserts baked fresh from scratch every single day. That's right! La Sucriere makes its desserts daily, so you are guaranteed freshness every single time.

From their brownies and cakes to their tasty fruit tarts and sweet flaky croissants, there is something for everyone. For something savoury, try the croque monsieur



or a buttery croissant paired with a rich, creamy cappuccino or freshly squeezed juice. Their warm, freshly baked baguettes are amongst the best you will find.

The menu also offers a variety of sandwiches, including a zesty Mexican-style burrito, the classic BLT, and flavourful Italian-inspired creation. The restaurant is a trusted supplier to many supermarkets and eateries across the island – a true testament of their commitment to excellence. Go ahead and treat your sweet tooth at La Sucriere today.



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the **BEST** OF **2024**

GRILL

MARKET

The SkipJack's Crew would like to express their gratitude to our loyal customers and the readers of The Daily Herald for voting us St. Maarten's "BEST SEAFOOD RESTAURANT" of 2024!

FISH

Maarten

Noted Best Geafood Restaurant

SEAFOOD

BAR &

SkipJack's is all about you.... Thank you!!!



SEAFOOD GRILL HURRICANE BAR

A BIG Thank You!

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Daily Herald for nominating Big Fish as one of the best high-end restaurants in St. Martin/Maarten, where we proudly secured the second-place position. Heartfelt congratulations to the outstanding Jaxs, securing the first-place spot, and a special commendation to the esteemed ChesterFields in third place. ChesterField's remarkable 50-year legacy is a testament to their unwavering commitment to excellence, consistency, and local engagement. A profound thank you goes out to the incredible team at Big Fish. The dedication and hard work of our staff have played an instrumental role in establishing the esteemed reputation of Big Fish. Without their unwavering commitment, we wouldn't have achieved the recognition we enjoy today. A big thank you to each and every member of our team. To our valued customers and voters, your support is the cornerstone of our success. Thank you for casting your votes in the Daily Herald. Your trust and loyalty mean the world to us. With much gratitude, we look forward to serving you again this year. Here's to another year of culinary excellence and continued success. Thank you, thank you, thank you for being an integral part of the Big Fish journey.









THE DAILY HERALD • JANUARY 31, 2025

Best Indian Restaurant – Shiv Shakti

Enjoy indulging in bold flavours and intense spices? Then Shiv Shakti Indian Restaurant with locations in Simpson Bay and Philipsburg is the place to be. Voted the number one Indian Restaurant on the island for 2024, Shiv Shakti has

perfected the art of tantalizing palates with its wide array of Indian cuisine.

Indulge in your Indian favourites of curries, tandooris, masalas, tikka, korma, and nans. For those with varied tastes, the menu also

Thank you, Sint Maarten, for voting



Shiv Shakti Restaurant #1 Best Indian Food for 2024!!!

reștaurant



offers a range of options, including fresh salads, soups, and a variety of dishes featuring chicken, lamb, mutton, fish, shrimp, conch, and even Indo-Chinese and South African specialties. scotches, tequilas, bourbons or cordials, as well as refreshing juices and sodas. From the rich curries to the flavourful tandoori dishes, every bite into a Shiv Shakti Indian meal, takes you on an appetizing adventure. Check them out today and discover for yourself.

To complement your meal, choose from their beverage selections of wines, rums,





Dear Valued Customers, We are thrilled to share that we have been voted as the #2 Indian restaurant, and we owe it all to you! Your support, loyalty, and love for our food have been the driving force behind this achievement. We couldn't do it without you and our hardworking team! Thank you for choosing us and for being a part of our journey. We are committed to continuing to serve you with the best Indian cuisine and exceptional service. With gratitude,







Best Place for a Burger The Tap & Still

The best burgers in St. Maarten are more affordable than ever at Tap & Still – our readers' pick for Best Place for a Burger on the island in 2024. At Tap & Still, you can enjoy a loaded, juicy burger for just \$8. Yes, you read that right, a tasty, never-frozen burger, made fresh, starting at \$8, carefully packaged in a charming paper bag for a casual yet satisfying experience.



Located along the main road in Simpson Bay, next to Lotus nightclub, Tap & Still offers a range of burgers. Just fill out an order form specifying the type of burger you want and your preferred sauce and toppings – and the chef will expertly prepare it. Pair your meal with something from their Milkshake bar or enjoy your choice of cocktails/beers or spirits from their stocked bar.

Daily happy hour is from 3:00 to 6:00pm, and before happy hour starts, you receive a free beer with your lunch. Can't go wrong with that!







Best Place for Vegetarian Food Top Carrot

At Top Carrot in Simpson Bay, healthy eating and mindful living are at the heart of the dining experience. Once again voted Best Place for Vegetarian Food on the island, this charming eatery promotes wellbeing through fresh, wholesome meals and a positive atmosphere.

Start your day right by stopping in early for your morning coffee or bush tea, or quench your thirst with a made-to-order juice or smoothie. At their juice bar, the friendly staffers craft drinks right in front of you using the freshest fruits and vegetables, ensuring every sip is bursting with natural goodness.

The food menu features a variety of vegetarian delights, yoghurt, sandwiches, wraps and salads, all made with high-quality ingredients. Whether you're grabbing a





quick bite or sitting down for a meal, Top Carrot ensures a delicious breakfast or lunch with food that's both tasty and cruelty-free.

While you're there, don't miss exploring their colourful boutique, filled with treasures that are perfect for health and wellness enthusiasts.



Best Beach Bar — Buccaneer Beach Bar

Buccaneer Beach Bar in Pelican Key is a popular destination known for its delicious BBQ and vibrant beach atmosphere. Located right on the sand, it offers beautiful views and a relaxed vibe, making it perfect for both for casual meals and special moments. The BBQ menu features smoky, tender meats like ribs, shrimp

skewers, whole snapper, grilled Caribbean lobster, and roasted chicken, all expertly cooked on the beach. The food is complemented by fresh salads, crispy fries, and tangy coleslaw. The friendly staffers add to the welcoming ambiance, making guests feel like part of the family.

The bar is also a great spot to enjoy sun-





set views, live music, and tropical cocktails, including frozen mojitos. A painted school bus serves as an ice-cream bar for dessert or beachside snacks. Additionally, they have recently upgraded the Boutique Gift Shop for T-shirts, hats, souvenirs and much more. Open daily, including holidays, Buccaneer Beach Bar is celebrated for its combination of tasty food, scenic views, live entertainment, and top-notch service, earning it the title of Best Beach Bar. Whether you're stopping by for breakfast, lunch, or dinner, Buccaneer is the perfect place to create unforgettable memories in the Caribbean.





Nestled in the corner of Kim Sha Beach and Pelican Key in Simpson Bay, Buccaneer Beach Bar is a gem that stands out for its incredible Happy Hour offerings, with unbeatable drink specials that make it a favourite for anyone looking to enjoy great cocktails without breaking the bank. Whether you're in the mood for a cold beer, a tropical cocktail, or a classic rum punch, there's something

for everyone – all served with a smile.

Situated right on the beach, this lively bar offers stunning views of the turquoise Caribbean waters, where guests can sip their



drinks with their toes in the sand. The laidback vibe is perfect for both locals and tourists seeking a relaxed spot to unwind. Have a Bloody Mary with your breakfast, enjoy a casual afternoon, or watch the sunset over the water – whatever your option, Buccaneer Beach Bar is the ideal spot for a fun, unforgettable time for a drink on the beach!



Thank you st. Maarten

for voting us

#1 Best beach bar (again!) Best happy hour TOP 3 Best BBQ

BUCCANEERBEACHBAR
+1 (721) 523 0401 - +1 (721) 523 0402
10 Billy Folly Road Kimsha Beach

Best French Cuisine -Villa Royale

For a true taste of French Caribbean cuisine in a Creole-styled environment, Villa Royale, located at the beginning of the bustling restaurant stretch in Grand Case, is a must-experience. Voted "Best French Restaurant" on the island for 2024, Villa Royale offers a dining experience that blends French cuisine with a local Caribbean twist.

With tables draped in cloth bearing traditional Caribbean colours, din-

ing at Villa Royale will make you feel as if you're eating right at grandma's table. They serve a nice selection of appetizers, salads, meats, poultry, seafood, burgers, pastas, and desserts. There's even a special menu for kids, making it a great spot for the whole family.





Chef Leo Saintil has crafted a menu that showcases the best of both worlds, combining his expertise with local flavours to create tasty meals. With its welcoming atmosphere, vibrant Creole décor, and both indoor and outdoor seating options, Villa Royale is the ideal spot in French St. Martin to enjoy a delicious meal in a relaxed, homey setting.



Best Place for Steak Jax Steakhouse

Jax Steakhouse in Maho has cemented itself as the ultimate destination for juicy steaks, rated by readers as the Best Place for Steaks on the island year after year. Winning Best Steakhouse on the island again for 2024 is the icing on the cake, leaving the Jax team feeling both grateful and honoured.

"From the entire staff at Jax Steakhouse, we would like to thank all our friends, followers, regulars, and new patrons for voting us 'Best Place for Steak in St. Maarten'. We are very grateful and look forward to welcoming you all soon. Thank you all and great job, Team Jax," said management.







JAX offers Certified Angus Beef Prime. Their tender Filet Mignon, flavourful New York strip, hearty bone-in ribeye, and classic Porterhouse are all perfectly prepared to bring joy to palates. JAX itself is a dining destination that must be experienced with indoor and outdoor seating; an indoor and outdoor bar, lounge seating and a team of enthusiastic staffers who do their utmost to ensure that every guest is satisfied.



VILLA ROYALE thanks all the people of Saint Martin for their support and thanks them for their vote.

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NK R VOTING US HE BEST SHOAR B. STAFF Ξ

Best Shawarma Place Little Jerusalem

When it comes to shawarmas packed with flavour, Little Jerusalem on the Simpson Bay strip does it best. Since opening in 2012, Little Jerusalem has been satisfying cravings with the best shawarmas on the island. It has quickly become the go-to spot for sha-warma lovers, consistently ranking in the top restaurants on Trip Advisor and given the title of the #1 Shawarma Place on the island by The Daily Herald's "Best Of" voters, year

Their selection of shawarma options include the regular chicken and lamb, and favourites such as "The Famous" Shawarma with chicken, lamb and

after year.

Gouda cheese; the distinctive "Roti" Shawarma; and "The Special" that's perfect for sharing. There are also vegetarian choices for those not into meat, and vegans can be catered to. Little Jerusalem stays true to its





motto, "We are the best there is, the best there was, and the best there ever will be." Rest assured, they are not just talking the talk, they're walking the walk!





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TO OUR ST. MAARTEN/ST. MARTIN & OVERSEAS CUSTOMERS FOR CHOOSING US A WINNER AGAIN AMONG







Best Thai/Vietnamese/ Korean Food ______ Avantika

The authentic flavours of Southeast Asia continues to titillate appetites right here in St. Maarten at Avantika Restaurant in the Puerta del Sol Plaza, voted again as the Best Thai/Vietnamese/Korean Food restaurant on the island for 2024. Winning the title year after year has cemented Avantika's position as the go-to spot when in the mood for Thai, Vietnamese or Korean food.

18

Avantika features an extensive menu with a variety of starters,

soups, salads, fried rice, noodles, curries and stir-fries. You can adjust the spice level to your preference – mild, medium, or authentically Thai spicy – or opt for a nonspicy dish. Catering to gluten-free, vegan, and vegetarian diets, Avantika ensures that everyone can find something delicious.



Enhance your meal with a drink from their impressive beverage list, which includes a curated wine selection. Whether you choose the cosy indoor setting or prefer dining al fresco under the stars, Avantika guarantees a dining experience that delights all the senses.

Best Middle Eastern Restaurant — Little Jerusalem

No one does Middle Eastern dishes quite like Little Jerusalem owner Abraham and his son Jamal. Either of the two can be seen behind the grill at the charming, homey, roadside eatery, whipping up tasty treats for guests, always with a smile and ready for a friendly conversation.

Coming in at the number one spot for Best Middle Eastern Restaurant on the island for 2024 is humbling for the family, who is grateful to their clients and everyone who voted to give them the honour. When it comes to Middle Eastern dishes, Little Jerusalem has several options – from tasty shawarma sandwiches and unique meals to freshly made hummus and baba ganoush.

Abraham and Jamal have created a great balance of spices to craft a flavourful taste unique to Little Jerusalem – one that takes diners straight to the heart of the Middle East. The flavour profile owes much to the





contributions Abraham's wife Cathy, as her expertise has helped elevate the dishes to an entirely new level. Whether it's to grab a quick bite or sit in and savour your meal, Little Jerusalem in Simpson Bay is a delightful spot to enjoy great Middle Eastern food.







SUSHI BAR DIM SUMS WOK KITCHEN RAMEN BOWLS

米

MANDARIN PANASIAN CUISINE & SUSHI

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> WE ALSO DELIVER

Best Sports Bar -**Pineapple Pete**

Pineapple Pete is widely regarded as the best sports bar in St. Maarten for several reasons, making it a top choice for both locals and visitors. First, its vibrant, Caribbean atmosphere offers a perfect spot to unwind after a day of exploring the island. The Pineapple Pete bar has a great selection of cold beers, delicious cock-

tails, and a mouth-watering menu that caters to all tastes, from fresh seafood, to hearty burgers, jerk chicken wings and even sushi! Whether you're a sports enthusiast or just looking for a fun night out, Pineapple Pete has something for everyone.

The bar is known for its extensive coverage of live sports events, including all major leagues and games, ensuring you won't miss any action. They have several pool tables and the largest arcade and gaming room on the island. The lively vibe, regular



+1721-5560978

SIMPSON BAY

#65 AIRPORT ROAD



broadcasting sporting events, and live music ensure there's always something happening. Whether you're catching a game with friends, enjoying a great meal, or just soaking in the energetic ambiance, Pineapple Pete stands out for its consistency, variety, and unbeatable island spirit. It's the perfect spot to relax, have fun, and enjoy everything St. Maarten has to offer.



Be

st

Best Latin Restaurant — **Pollos Hermanos**

Pollos Hermanos *<i><i>cluckingly* has done it again, winning Best Latin Restaurant in St. Maarten for the fourth year in a row! The owner couldn't be prouder, saying, "It's amaz-ing to be on top of such a big category. I think it's all about the flavour and consistency – we try to serve the same great food every day, and it's working!"

Even with challenges in 2024, like power outages from GEBE, the restaurant kept going strong. Enjoy exciting specials, like two-for-one mojitos during happy hour, and Friday-night burger deals where the second burger is half price. Plus, if you're celebrating a birthday with friends, you



can enjoy a few freebies from the menu!

Their loyal customers know they can count on Pollos Hermanos for delicious meals and great vibes. "We're so grateful that people keep coming back," the owner said. We're focused on new promotions, new dishes and to keep all our customers happy." It's clear this local favourite isn't slowing down anytime soon! Bawk baaaawk!!





2019-2021-2022-2023-2024

La tin Restaurant

www.Pollos Hermanos S xm com

#52 CANNEGIETER ST.

White Swan

White Swan Chinese Restaurant in Simpson Bay offers more than just delicious, authentic Chinese dishes; it also has a relaxed setting perfect for enjoying conversations and laughs. Ranked the number one Chinese Restaurant by The Daily Herald "Best Of" readers year after year from 2004 to 2023, it has cemented its position with another win for 2024.

20

White Swan's menu features a wide variety of dim sums, appetizers, soups, beef, seafood, pork, and duck dishes, along with an extensive selection of vegetarian options. They offer eight different types of fried rice, including salmon, eel, and clas-

sic egg and vegetable fried rice. For those looking for vegetarian delights, their special menu boasts 23 unique choices to satisfy every craving.



White Sw

And as for prices, White Swan goes easy on the pockets with options for every budget. For example, their 18 different daily lunch specials are available at an incredibly affordable price range of US \$8 to \$9.50. At White Swan, you're always guaranteed a great meal at fantastic value.



Best Chinese Restaurant — Best Place for a Sandwich — Carl & Son's

Your search for the tastiest sandwich on the island ends at Carl and Son's, voted year after year as the number one spot for a Sandwich. Carl and Son's sandwiches are made with fresh ingredients, and come in a variety of options.

Carl and Son's opens early and has three convenient locations: on the Pondfill (Walter Nisbeth Road); in Cole Bay; and inside the St. Maarten Medical Center (SMMC)

- so there are several options to grab your favourite sandwich anytime you want during their opening hours.



'We are again humbled to have been voted as the Best Place for a Sandwich. Management would of course like to recognize the amazing job of the staff and the general public for their continued support as we try to continue serving the best sandwiches," management said.







Best Chinese Restaurant for the past 22 years

Thank you again for your support!

Sr. Modesta Road #2, Simpson Bay, St. Maarten, Dutch Caribbean Opposite Palapa Marina. TEL: (+1721) 54-52477

Best Fast Food Place McDonald's

Golden arches leading to golden moments – McDonald's has once again proven why it's St. Maarten's favourite fast-food destination! This iconic restaurant continues to serve up smiles along with their world-famous menu items, with locations on both the Dutch and French sides earning them the title of Best Fast Food Place.

What sets McDonald's apart isn't just their efficient service and consis-

tent quality; it's their ability to adapt to the needs of the community. With extended hours, a clean and welcoming dining area, and a drive-thru that keeps the island moving, they've excelled at delivering quick, satisfying meals that fit any schedule.



Accorded to the second second

The restaurant's commitment to the community extends beyond their menu, with regular involvement in local events and initiatives. From breakfast to late-night cravings, McDonald's has become more than just a fast-food restaurant; it's a St. Maarten institution that voters have crowned as their #1 choice.





Thanks to all of our **customers** who voted for us among the top restaurants in St. Maarten for 2024!



THE PART

McDonald's VOTED I °1 ISLAND'S BEST FAST FOOD 2024!





SIMPSON BAY



MARIGOT

Best Place to have Coffee — Best Beer Brand Coffee Lounge

Few things awaken the senses like a great cup of coffee - and at Coffee Lounge, you can satisfy your caffeine cravings with a wide selection of blends. Voted Best Place for Coffee in 2024, Coffee Lounge serves up a variety of coffee drinks, frappes, lattes, Frap-



puccino, and teas, available hot or iced, caffeinated and non-caffeinated. Their frappes feature loved flavours like Coconut Matcha, Caramel Espresso, Mocha and Java Chip – and since breakfast is served until 5:00pm; it's always a great time to enjoy your favourite brew.

For tea lovers, they offer a delightful range of hot and cold brews, including all-natural herb teas, Jasmine with Flowers, Lemon Mango Punch, Cucumber Lemon Refresher, and Chai varieties – all flavours are organic and free of chemicals. The menu



extends beyond drinks to include burgers, tropical smoothies, paninis, cakes, cookies, almond croissants, beignets, salads, quiche, sandwiches, wraps, and pastries. The little ones can enjoy the \$2 Kids' Special, featuring delicious pepperoni or olive double toasties made with the finest Italian pepperoni, creamy mozzarella cheese, and





Corona

With a crisp and refreshing taste, Corona has been voted the #1 most enjoyed beer brand on the island. Best served with a wedge of lime that both complements and intensifies its flavour, Corona is made for enjoying the intimate moments of life with friends and family. This year, Corona invites you to your favourite locations across the island, to enjoy Corona Sunset hours and bucket specials with hot DJs and a variety of activities that inspire people to connect and bond.

Corona has consistently ranked in the top three winners of our annual "Best Of survey over the years, and has once again claimed victory in the title for 2024.



Best Bakery Carl and Son's

When it comes to freshly baked goodies on the island, no one does it quite like Carl and Son's, selected as Best Bakery on the island for 2024. This beloved family-owned establishment has been a staple of fresh, delicious treats since 1982 and has been recognized as Best Bakery on multiple occasions in the past, a true testament of its dedication to freshness and quality.

Homemade bread, including sliced, wheat, sweet and "titi" breads, as well as all types of

cakes and pastries are baked fresh daily. The bakery also caters special events, makes special order cakes however you like, and serves lunch, soups and sandwiches.





CC1 is the official distributor of the largest drinks portfolio on St. Maarten, distributing a comprehensive range of beverages including water, beer, spirits, liquors, and mixers. Its portfolio features renowned brands such as Corona, Coca-Cola, Canada Dry, Grey Goose, Jack Daniel's, Tito's, among many others. The team remains focused on providing you with the best products, the best service and the best memories!





"We are once again humbled to have been voted as the Best Bakery. Management would like to recognize the amazing job of the staff and, of course, the general public for their continued support as we try to continue serving the best and freshest bakery products," an appreciative manage ment said.



23

1/2 1/2 (Jorona Extra ST. MAARTEN HECHO EN MEXICO CERVECERIA MODELO, S.A. DE C.V. **BEER** CONT. NET. 355 ml



the **BEST** OF **2024**

Best Barber Shop MLB

Major League Barbershop (MLB), located on the Pondfill Road, has been crowned the #1 Barbershop for 2024. Known for its exceptional grooming services for men, women, and children, MLB has become a trusted name on the island for top-notch haircare.

Under the leadership of Director Barber Frank, MLB has created a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere that ensures every customer feels right at home. Their skilled team offers a variety of ser-

vices, including precision haircuts, beard trims, line-ups, shaves, and traditional hot towel shaves for men. Women can also enjoy services, such as professional haircuts, eyebrow shaping, hair twists, plaits, hair designs, hair washes, and braids.





In response to this recognition, Frank shared his heartfelt gratitude: "I want to thank God, my wife, who has always believed in me and is part of MLB as a hairdresser; my incredible clients, who are the most loyal clients in the world. Without them, I could never have achieved this goal. I also want to thank Jadon, whose great talent has made him an invaluable part of MLB. I've never considered myself the best, but I've always believed in what I do."



Best Casino **Casino Royale**

Casino Royale stands out as the best casino on the island for several reasons. First and foremost, its prime location in the heart of the lively Maho Beach area offers guests a unique experience that blends luxury and excitement. The casino is part of the renowned Maho Group, ensuring a high standard of service and amenities.

Inside, Casino Royale offers a wide variety of gaming options, including over 300 slot machines, table games like blackjack, roulette, and poker, and a dedicated poker room. The casino caters to all levels of players, from casual to high rollers. Its spacious, modern design enhances the overall gaming experience, with calm lighting and a comfortable atmosphere.

Beyond the gaming, Casino Royale also features a lively entertainment scene, with frequent live performances and events. Its proximity to restaurants, bars, nightclubs





and the famous Maho Beach adds to its appeal, making it an ideal destination for those seeking a full night of entertainment.

With its combination of diverse gaming options, exceptional service, and vibrant atmosphere, Casino Royale is the go-to spot for both tourists and locals looking for an unforgettable casino experience in St. Maarten.



Best Hair Salon Addicted Hair Lounge

Transform your look and elevate your style at Addicted Hair Lounge, the newly crowned Best Hair

Salon in St. Maarten! This cutting-edge salon has earned its reputation as the island's premier des-



tination for exceptional hair care and styling services.

The salon's success stems from their team of highly skilled stylists who combine their expertise with the latest techniques and trends in hair care. From precision cuts and vibrant colours to stunning special-occa-sion styles, Addicted Hair Lounge delivers results that exceed expectations. Their commitment to ongoing education and use of premium products ensures every client receives the highest quality service.

The modern, relaxing atmosphere and personalized



attention create an expe-

have recognized Addicted rience that keeps clients Hair Lounge's dedication coming back. The voters to excellence, making them

the clear choice for anyone seeking the very best in hair care services on the island.





JANUARY 31, 2025 • THE DAILY HERALD

the **BEST** OF **2024**

WE'RE HONORED BY YOUR SUPPORT CAN'T WAIT TO CREATE MORE UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

NOTED #1 CASINO

Celebrating Success — together —

Honoring your votes, elevating our game









Best Live Music Venue -Nowhere Special

Nowhere Special stands out as the best live music venue in St. Maarten for several reasons. Its intimate, street-side atmosphere, top-tier acoustics, and vibrant community make it the go-to spot for live performances on the island. Located in the heart of Simpson Bay, Nowhere Special is known for hosting an eclectic range of music, highlighting Caribbean local talent spanning genres like soca, zouk, reggae, rock, modern pop and classics.

What truly sets it apart is the sense of connection it fosters between artistes and their audience. With its cosy, Caribbean, laid-back vibe, every show feels personal and interactive, as if you're part of something special! The venue also offers stunning views of the lagoon and there is always a welcoming environment where both locals and visitors feel like family as they crowd around the bar, the dance floor, and the performers themselves.

Moreover, the staff's warmth and passion for the music only enhances the experience, ensuring every guest has a memorable time. The excellent sound quality, coupled with the vibrant energy of the crowd, makes every performance feel dynamic and alive. Whether you're a music enthusiast or someone simply looking for a good time, No-

where Special delivers an unforgettable experience, cementing its reputation as the best live music venue in St. Maarten.









Best Excursion/ Activity — Aqua Mania Adventures

Set off on a memorable adventure with Aqua Mania Adventures, the ultimate destination for excursions and activities on the island. Voted Best Excursion/Activity place on the island for 2024, Aqua Mania Adventures offers a range of fun packages that include exciting snorkel and scuba trips, sunset sails, dinner cruises, sailing and powerboat adventures and water sports, and scenic tours around St. Maarten as well as to Anguilla, Saba, and St. Barths.

Choose from fun trips like the Lambada Prickly Pear, Mambo Rendezvous Bay Anguilla, and the Santino Around the Island Cruise. Enjoy stunning sunset views on the Lambada Sunset Sail or Bubbly Sunset Cruise, or indulge in a delicious dinner on the Tango Dinner Cruise. For water lovers, there's Sand Dollar Snorkelling, Catamaran Round the Island, and thrilling water sports, along with Discover Scuba and Dive Packages for certified divers.

You can also take PADI courses, book a private Sundowner Sailing Charter, or spend a relaxing day at Divi Beach and the Underwater Sculpture Park. The possibilities are endless!



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THE DAILY HERALD • JANUARY 31, 2025

Best Spa —— **Indulgence by the Sea**

Escape to paradise at Indulgence by the Sea, St. Maarten's newly crowned Best Spa located at Divi Little Bay Resort! *This haven of tranquillity offers a perfect* blend of luxurious treatments, expert therapists, and a serene atmosphere that

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Angelic Touch to all for choosing Angelic Touch Spa & Beauty Salon as #2 in St. Maarten St. Martin. Welfare Road #5 Unit A, Cole Bay, St. Maarten Tel: 553-0865 or 544-4027

transports visitors to a state of pure bliss.

The spa's success lies in their holistic approach to wellness, combining traditional techniques with modern treatments to create a unique and rejuvenating experience.

Their skilled therapists are trained in a variety of therapeutic modalities, ensuring each treatment is tailored to meet individual needs and preferences.

With the soothing sound of waves as a natural backdrop, Indulgence by the Sea provides a truly immersive relaxation experience. The voters have recognized their commitment to excellence in wellness and spa services, making them the undisputed choice for those seeking the ultimate in relaxation and reiuvenation.



Indulgence by the Sea



VOTED 2024 #1 BEST SPA! THANK YOU SINT MAARTEN!

LOCAL PRICING

AVAILABLE ON THESE SPECIALS, FOR RESIDENTS ONLY.

Signature Aromatherapy Massage & Organic Facials 50 or 80min Ocean Rose Indulgence or Luscious Papaya Body Polish, Massage & Wrap 80min Hot Daddy Whiskey or Island Mama Manicure & Pedicure

> *Offer is valid until February 28, 2025 Selected specials can ners or coupons



The Sna located in Aruha & St. Maarter Mon - Sat 9:00 am - 6:00 pm | www.spastmaarten.com Spa at Divi Little Bay Beach Resort (721) 542-9024 • Resort ext. 3280

Best Night Club Lotus

Lotus Nightclub has been #1 since 2019 and is now again voted as the #1 Nightclub in St. Maarten for many reasons. First, the club's interior is a blend of sophisticated lighting, high-end decor, and top-ofthe-line sound systems, offering an unforgettable sensory experience. The spacious dance floor, VIP areas, and exclusive lounge sections cater to a variety of preferences, ensuring

everyone feels comfortable and entertained. The overall sleek, modern design creates an immersive atmosphere that draws locals and tourists alike.

Another key element of Lotus Nightclub's success is its renowned DJs and live performances. They consistently host world-class talent, bringing cutting-edge electronic music and diverse genres to the island. The club's international reputation for hosting top-tier parties and events makes it a go-to





destination for those seeking a high-energy, upscale nightlife experience. The service is exceptional, with friendly, professional staff providing guests an incredible evening. Whether you're enjoying signature cocktails or VIP bottle service, the level of attention to detail sets Lotus apart.

Additionally, its prime location in the heart of Simpson Bay makes it easy to access, while its blend of exclusivity and openness ensures there's always something for everyone. The ultimate nightlife destination since 2019 on the island, Lotus is also available for private event bookings.





NIGHTCLUB St Maarten

THANK YOU ST MAARTEN FOR MAKING US NUMBER #1 IN 2024

OPEN WEDNESDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY

NUMBER #1 CLUB IN SXM SINCE 2018

LOTUS 7TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY Saturday March 1st



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THE DAILY HERALD • JANUARY 31, 2025

Best Resort/Hotel Simpson Bay Resort

Nestled along the pristine shores of Simpson Bay, the Simpson Bay Resort has claimed its rightful place as St. Maarten's Best Resort/Hotel! This premier destination combines luxury accommodations, world-class amenities, and breath-taking views to create an unforgettable Caribbean experience.

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The resort's extensive grounds feature multiple pools, restaurants, and activities that cater to both families and couples seeking relaxation or adventure. Each room or suite offers comfortable, modern accommodations with stunning views of the Caribbean Sea or marina. The resort's prime location puts guests within walking distance of popular restaurants, shops, and entertainment

venues.

From the attentive staff to the well-maintained facilities, Simpson Bay Resort demonstrates an unwavering commitment to guest satisfaction. The voters have recognized this dedication to excellence, making it their top choice for the ultimate St. Maarten getaway.













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the BEST OF 2024





YOUR SATISFACTION IS OUR **REWARD!**



Thank you!

TO OUR MEMBERS, GUESTS AND WONDERFUL STAFF.





PATRONA







MEXICAN FOOD

WONDERFUL STAFF.

Best Party DJ DJ Outkast

After 15 incredible years behind the decks, DJ Outkast has been recognized as St. Maarten's Best Party DJ – an honour he calls both overwhelming and inspiring. "This milestone is something many don't see, and being viewed like this by the voters is an accomplishment in itself."

In 2024, DJ Outkast's career took him back to Europe, where he headlined festivals and made special appearances, continuing to build his international presence. With unwavering gratitude and a love for his craft, Outkast shares, "There's so much love in what I do, even with its challenges. I'm just taking it one day at a time and living in the moment."







Best Radio/Podcast Personality – Suppa Kid

Kevin "Suppa Kid" Petrona has been named Best Radio/Podcast Personality, and for good reason. As the host of the popular Suppa Duppa Morning Show on Laser 101, he's been waking up St. Maarten with energy, insight, and dedication for years. "I'm grateful that after all this time, people still appreciate what I do," he said.

Suppa Kid reflected on

2024's challenges, from the local elections to addressing the rise in violence and community concerns: "It was a tough year; there was so much happening. My role is to bring people through these moments, to give them updates and keep them grounded."

Even during hurricanes and storms, Suppa Kid has been a reliable voice, often putting his audience before his own needs. "People





Suppa Kid credits his success to staying objective and focused on facts while keeping his show fresh and relevant. "Thank you to everyone who voted for me – it really means a lot."





Best Radio Station

Laser 101.1 FM has been bringing the "attitude" to St. Maarten's airwaves for over 20 years, uniting the community with its upbeat mix of the latest music, talk and engaging segments.

Whether it's the serious debate from the "Question of the Day" on the Suppa Duppa Morning Show (which one could you live without, Johnny Cakes or rum punch?!), staying informed with celeb and sports news and interviews on

Ĝee Money's AM/PM Workload Show, or gettin' on bad with the freshest tracks spun by DJ Outkast in the Power Hour, listeners always have a reason to tune in.



tst Laser 101

> Station owner and director Francis Carty revealed Laser101's secret formula: "Our success is built on professionalism, consistency, and the dedication of a hardworking team that truly loves what they do. Our staffers are the heart of everything. Their passion and drive make it all possible, and I'm thankful every day for their hard work. But above all, I'm grateful for our listeners. The support they show us makes me believe we're doing something right. Thank you for voting for us over the years."





Best Musical Producer – D'mitri

D'mitri, named Best Musical Producer for 2024, credits his authenticity for the win. "Being genuine and staying true to the game," he shares, "is what connects me with people. He believes staying relevant without overdoing it is key. According to him, "Don't force it, but also don't go ghost."

For him, a major highlight of 2024 was building a stage for an event, producing a beat, and performing that beat on the same stage – a full-circle moment. D'mitri expresses gratitude for his journey so far as he looks forward to more music, creativity, and maybe even some dance moves! "What doesn't kill you will build you," he says.









:6

YOUR WORLD WIDE HOME FOR



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Best Non-Profit Organization — Best MC — **SXM** Paws

SXM Paws – a dedicated nonprofit rescuing stray dogs on St. Maarten – has been voted **Best Non-Profit Organisation** in 2024, for making a difference one paw at a time!

In 2019, SXM Paws opened a small no-kill shelter in Cay Bay, creating a safe space for rescue dogs. Unlike traditional shelters where dogs are confined to kennels, SXM Paws allows its rescues to roam freely during the day. This unique approach

helps socialise the dogs, preparing them for adoption both locally and abroad.

Visitors can cuddle, play, and bond with the resilient mixed breeds rescue dogs, affectionately known as "Coconut Retrievers," or even take them on walks, hikes or beach outings. The shelter also welcomes volunteers to assist with cleaning, feeding, and leash training. Want some puppy loving? You can come by the adoption centre to volunteer or meet the lovely rescue dogs. SXM Paws is open



from 9:00am to 3:00pm on weekdays and from 9:00am to 2:00pm on Saturdays.





Best Local Band/Duo Control Band

Control Band has done it again, winning the prestigious title of Best Band/Duo in St. Maarten for 2024. The past year brought challenges, including the loss of a band member, Mr. Vital Carty.

"It shook us. Vital's always in our hearts, but we're together as a strong team that's ready for bigger and better things," shared band member Mirougia Richardson, expressing heartfelt thanks on behalf on the band: "We're so happy to win Band of the Year once more. It's amazing, and

we're so thankful to everyone who voted for us."

With 46 years in the music business, Con-





trol Band knows how to keep the vibes alive: "We aim to please all ages, bringing the latest music and making sure everyone has a good time. Seeing our fans smiling on the dance floor is what makes it all worth



Big Bad XP Band

Gee Money

The people have voted Gee Money Best MC in St. Maarten for 2024, and he's incredibly grateful for the support.

"I just want to thank everyone who voted for me. It means a lot," he shared. Known for his energy and professionalism, Gee Money takes his craft seriously. "I love what I do, and I put everything into it. I don't take anything for granted."

Gee Money is focused on staying creative and avoiding complacency. He likes to think outside the box and to keep doing new, innovative things. He also enjoys traveling and ticking destinations off his bucket list.

To those inspired by his work, Gee Money has some words of encouragement: "Keep doing what you're doing, be consistent, stick at it and you'll keep moving forward."







Best Dancer/Choreographer — **Bianca Dijkhoffz**

Bianca Dijkhoffz reigns supreme for the third time, as winner of the "Best Dancer/ Choreographer" of 2024 – claiming the #1 spot every year since the category was first introduced! The professional dancer, who has appeared in movies and music videos, has been excelling at her newer passion, deejaying. Fusing these two worlds has been an exhilarating and defining aspect of her year, and will continue to fuel her career-trajectory.

It's been a way to define her unique style, centred on Caribbean and electronic music, where she gets to truly create the whole vibe - choreographing, dancing, deejaying and even emceeing on stage.

Bianca moved to LA to pursue her dance career, but visits home often to reconnect and give back. In 2024, she taught some Jazz and Hip Hop lessons for teens at her alma mater, Indisu Dance Theater. She also gave a10-hour deejaying master class over





a span of a week, to a small group of aspiring DJs. Worth mentioning is that she came in at #4 in our "Best Party DJ" category

A true highlight of the year was her headliner performance at the Bonaire Regatta: She choreographed and curated every aspect, held dance auditions in LA, then performed as DJ, dancer and MC for a smash, hour-long performance.



Giovanni "Gio" Webster

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the **BEST** OF **2024**











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APPRECIATE THE LOVE & SUPPORT!

#1 BEST M.C./HOST

#2 BEST RADIO HOST

2024







THANK YOU FOR VOTING FOR US!



Simpson Bay Pharmacy



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JANUARY 31, 2025 • THE DAILY HERALD

RMACY

MAM

the **BEST** of **2024**

Thank you for choosing Philipsburg Pharmacy as your **#1 Pharmacy** and being our valued customers.

Your continued support for the last 23 years is not taken for granted and we look forward to continue serving our community with our move to the new building.





philipsburg pharmacy

Best Pharmacy — Philipsburg Pharmacy

Philipsburg Pharmacy is still going strong, celebrating its 23rd anniversary in February, and is proud to serve the community with expertise and compassion for the public's overall health. Beyond dispensing medications, the pharmacy has always had a proactive approach to helping customers better their health, and has built a strong clientele base. It has featured among our top three winners many times over the years.

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Philipsburg Pharmacy was started by pharmacist Dick Luttekes,

and the small operation quickly grew under his leadership, driven by a proactive attitude, attention to personalised service, and openness to innovation. He acquired Maho Pharmacy in 2010, hiring Joris de Groot to work there. Today, De Groot is carrying on the legacy as the new owner of Philipsburg Pharmacy.

New management has kept the same ap-





proach to innovation and modernisation, and will soon expand the pharmacy's reach yet again. In an exciting move, the pharmacy will soon be located at an even more convenient location – the former SZV building on Walter A. Nisbeth Road (Pondfill Road). As of March, the team looks forward to welcoming the public at the new, more spacious location – with a fresh look and the same trusted service.

3rd

Best Local Food Yvette's

Embark on a tasty adventure with true local food at Yvette's Kitchen, in Quartier D'Orleans, French Quarter. This charming, casual eatery has been serving local dishes just the way our grandparents made them for about four decades, with a rich family tradition passed down through generations.

From fresh seafood like conch and local fish to hearty meat options such as chicken, oxtail, goat, ribs, T-bone steak and pork chops, there's something to satisfy every

craving. And, of course, don't miss their signature local crab-backs and salt-fish cakes – all-time favourites that will leave you wanting more! As for their Johnny cakes, they are a must try, especially when paired with "Conch Yvette".



Yvette's Kitchen has constantly earned the top spot for local cuisine several times in the past. The team is committed to providing consistent quality, generous portions, pouring passion into every dish. Grateful for the support of loyal customers over the years, Yvette's Kitchen promises to continue serving up love with every meal.





Best Insurance Company — NAGICO

NAGICO is humbled to be voted #1 for the 16th time in a row. CEO Kyria Ali says that their People Centric Purpose Driven model has proven to be their winning formula: "There is no greater compliment than the recognition and vote of confidence of our clients – the people who are the reason for our being. You are at the heart of everything

we do. Our purpose is to serve you, designing products that meet your needs and being the insurer you can always count on."

NAGICO was founded in St. Maarten in 1982 and since then, its footprint has expanded to 26 other locations including Metropole France. The Group offers a diverse, competitive suite of General, Life & Health Insurance solutions. Its equity is in excess of US \$100 million and it has a team of more than 425 employees serving the



region, with an incredible track record of settling claims.

"Our vision has always been to be the most trusted insurance company in the Caribbean, while providing the best insurance solutions and exceptional customer service and I am proud to witness this vison being realised," says NAGICO Group Chairman Imran McSood Amjad. "We understand that insurance is not just about policies and premiums; it's about being there for our clients when they need us the most."



Best Accounting Agency – A&A Accounting Business Support and Training Centre

"To our clients and readers, thank you for your trust and support. This recognition belongs to you as much as to us. Your belief in our vision inspires us to excel and continuously raise the bar. We are deeply grateful for your confidence in us.

"At A&A Accounting, Business Support & Training Center, being named St. Maarten's top accoun-

tancy company reflects our deep commitment to excellence. It is the trust we build, the integrity we uphold, and the relationships we nurture that set us apart. Our dedication to accuracy and accountability drives our success and fuels our passion for helping businesses grow. Our slogan – 'We are the business transformers' – resonates deeply with us, reflecting the heart of what we do.





"Our mission is clear: To inspire, educate, and transform. As the business transformers, we will keep innovating, fostering growth, and building strong relationships to create a thriving business community. The journey ahead is bright, and the best is yet to come."



Thank You St. Maarten

for voting us your #1 insurer for the 18th consecutive year! Our people centric purpose driven team set out each day to serve you. So, for us, there is no greater compliment than your recognition and vote of confidence.

CONGRATULATIONS

NAGICO Management and Staff, Agents, Brokers and Board of Directors. Our collective efforts have earned us this prestigious award.



Fast, Fair & Always There

Supercharge your Health!

ocial & Health Insurance

Thank You, Sint Maarten

At SZV, our mission is to provide citizens peace of mind, simplify access to our services, and use state-of-the-art technology.

Traditionally designated for private sector insurance companies, to be included in the "Best of 2024" nominees, is a testament to the impact we are making as a public sector organization. It reflects the collective efforts of our stakeholders, employees, and partners, who work together to serve the people of Sint Maarten.

Thank you for the recognition, we remain dedicated to serving our community with excellence and innovation.

Learn more about Sint Maarten's Social & Health insurance benefits at www.szv.sx

SZV provides access to medical insurance benefits to employees and their families, pension allowances, loss of wages for employers and ensures compliance in premium collection. Our vision is to provide social well-being in the palm of your hand.



Sint Maarten!

We are incredibly honored to have been awarded 3rd Place as Best Insurance Company 2024.

This achievement is only possible because of **YOU**, our valued customers and community, who trust us with what matters most to you.

Your support inspires us to continually improve and deliver the best service and solutions for your insurance needs. Cheers to more growth and continued success.

Thank you, Sint Maarten, for believing in us.





live easy

Fatum

Best Telecommunications Provider ______ Flow

When it comes to internet speed, coverage, and value; a dependable mobile service; or a bundle that won't burn a hole in your pocket; Flow has got you covered. Voted by The Daily Herald readers as the Best Telecommunications Provider on the island for 2024, Flow offers consumers a range of packages that is difficult to beat.

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Flow says the resilience of its network in the midst of last year's extended period of recur-

ring power outages was a key factor in the appreciation expressed by readers. In addition, new features such as the Top Up Flow App enhanced the Flow mobile experience, delivering more convenience, simplified account management and exclusive access to special plans and offers.

Flow expresses thanks to the community



for its support during 2024 and pledges to keep innovations and improvements coming, as it continues to keep the island and visitors connected: "Special appreciation is also extended to the Flow technical team for going above and beyond; working around the clock to ensure alternate power supply to keep the network going and customers connected."



Thanking the voters for choosing us as the #2 best telecommunication provider in St. Maarten/St. Martin for 2024



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We are honored to be voted the 2024 Best Travel Agency on the island. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our loyal clients for their trust and partnership.

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Best Travel Agency Travel Planners

With over 31 years of dedicated service, Travel Planners has earned its place as St. Maarten/St. Martin's leading travel agency, consistently recognized as the island's Best Travel Agency year after year. Since its establishment in 1993, Travel Planners has been powered by a team of experienced and passionate travel professionals, renowned for their commitment to reliability and excellence.

In a world increasingly driven by online bookings, Travel Planners stands out by offering personalized service that places customer satisfaction at its core. The agency is honoured to once again be voted Best Travel Agency on the island for 2024. Managing Director Zaida Franca Urvina and her dedicated team extend their heart-





felt gratitude to their loyal clients for their trust and partnership.

This recognition inspires Travel Planners to continuously enhance its services and remain a leader in the ever-evolving travel industry. Whether by air, land or sea, Travel Planners is here to turn your travel dreams into reality, and we look forward to helping you explore the world and create unforgettable memories. Thank you for choosing Travel Planners, says Franca-Urvina.





Thank you St. Maarten/St. Martin for choosing us #2 Best Travel Agency

93 Walter Nisbeth Road, Phillipsburg, St. Maarten. Tel: 1 (721) 543–8971 Email: info®kktravelssxm.com

Best Auto Dealer —— Motorworld

For the 9th time in a row, Motorworld has been voted as The Daily Herald's readers' pick for Best Auto Dealer on the island. Motorworld's range of brands was expanded in 2024 to include GAC Motor, providing another impressive option of modern,

44

reliable and advanced vehicles to their customers.

Motorworld is a regional distributor and local multi-brand dealership and garage service. Whether you're looking for new or used vehicles, parts, customization and more, Managing Director Tariq Amjad says their certified team of sales and





parts consultants and service advisors and technicians is equipped to assist you with all of your vehicle needs: "We are incredibly grateful to all of you who voted us as the Best Auto Dealer! Your support means the world to us, and we are honoured to serve such an amazing community. As we continue to expand our operations on the island and in the region, providing exceptional customer service remains our top priority. Thank you for continuing to choose Motorworld year after year for all of your transportation needs."



Best Bank Windward Islands Bank (WIB)

today's quickfinancial changing industry and with options several available, choosing the right bank can sometimes feel like navigating a maze. WIB makes this navigation easy with its range of services, professional team of staffers, solid customer support and strict adherence to financial rules. It was therefore an easy

choice for customers to return WIB to the top spot as the number one bank on the island for 2024.

WIB extends heartfelt thanks to the community of Sint Maarten: "We are deeply honoured and humbled to be voted #1 in the category of Best Bank for 2024. This recognition is a testament to the trust and confidence you, our valued custom-





ers have place

ers, have placed in us. Through the years, including times of adversity, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to serving the Sint Maarten community with excellence, innovation, and care. Your continued support and patronage inspire us to keep striving to exceed your expectations. Thank you for choosing us as your trusted banking partner. We remain dedicated to being 'Your Partner in Progress' and look forward to serving you for many years to come."







We sincerely thank you for voting us your #1 Auto Dealer for the 9th time in a row! It is our absolute pleasure to serve you.



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Thank You, Sint Maarten!

We are extremely honored and humbled to capture the recognition once again for "Best Bank" for 2024. This prestigious recognition reflects the continued trust, confidence, and unwavering support you have placed in us.

2006 2011 2007 2012 2008 2014 20102015

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★ YEARS OF THE BEST★

With gratitude,

WINDWARD ISLANDS BANK

2016

2018

2019

2024

* YEARS OF THE BEST*

2021

2022

2023



Republic Bank Thanks You!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the public for voting us among the top three banks in St. Maarten. We would not be able to achieve this after just five years in the market, without our dedicated team. As we always have, we will continue to elevate our standards and deliver exceptional banking experiences tailored to the needs of the people of St. Maarten. With more growth ahead, you can trust we will continue to prove why We're the One for you!







46





Best Construction Company — Sint Maarten Concrete

Established in 2010, St. Maarten Concrete has grown to become the island's largest supplier of ready-mix concrete. With two batching plants – one for dry mix and another for wet mix – as well as a dedicated team of over 30 employees, the company has built a reputation for excellence.

Over the past four years, St. Maarten Concrete has been recognised as the Best Construction Company on the island, a testament to its com-

mitment to delivering top-quality concrete for projects of all sizes. The team is thrilled, grateful and thankful to be named Best Construction Company on the island again for 2024.

Management thanks customers for their continuous and dedicated support and





tipped their hats off to their hardworking team for their commitment to excellence and quality. St Maarten Concrete proudly celebrates 15 years of success this year and looks forward to serving the community of St. Maarten/St. Martin for many more years to come.





loyalty have been the foundation of our success in just two years. We're excited for what's ahead and grateful for the opportunity to help you find your dream home. Congrats to Century21 and Island Real Estate—here's to continued growth and success for all!

Balsam Drive #76, Cay Hill

- info@kwsintmaarten.com
- (<u>1-721-5264385</u>
- (www.kwsintmaarten.com

Best Real Estate Company — Century 21

Dominating St. Maarten's real estate market is no small feat, but Century 21 St Maarten has earned its place as the island's top choice for Best Real Estate Company for 2024. With a team of seasoned professionals, they continue to set the gold standard for property sales, rentals, and investments.

Century 21's success lies in their unmatched expertise in the local market, supported by the strength of a globally trusted brand. Their dedicated agents combine deep local insights with professional excellence, guiding clients seamlessly through every stage of their real estate journey. Whether you're seeking a luxurious beachfront villa or a cosy family home, Century 21 connects you with the perfect property tailored to your needs.



Known for their transparency, integrity, and exceptional customer service, Century 21 has won the trust of both local residents and international investors alike. Recognized by voters for their unwavering commitment to excellence, they remain the definitive choice for anyone looking to buy, sell, or rent property in St. Maarten.





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Best Guest House —

Baker's Suites Boutique Hotel

Experience the perfect blend of comfort, charm, and Caribbean hospitality at Baker's Suites Boutique Hotel, voted Best Guest House in St. Maarten! This hidden gem offers visitors a unique and intimate stay that captures the true essence of island living.

What sets Baker's Suites Boutique Hotel apart is their attention to detail and personalized service that makes every guest feel at home. Each suite is thoughtfully appointed with modern amenities while maintaining a cosy, authentic Caribbean atmosphere. The property's convenient location provides easy access to local attractions while offering a peaceful retreat from the bustling tourist areas.

The dedicated staffers go above and beyond to ensure every stay is memorable, from providing local recommendations to attending to special requests. It's this combination of comfortable accommodations, excellent service, and genuine island charm that has earned Baker's Suites Boutique Hotel the top spot in voters' hearts.







Best Shipping/ Mail Company – West Tech Shipping

West Tech Shipping, within just six years of operation on St. Maarten, has quickly become a customer favourite, and has earned the top spot in The Best Of's first ever "Best Shipping/Mail Company" category. The St. Lucian-born company has gradually expanded to a dozen Caribbean islands, and has already opened six offices here in St. Maarten.

Their multiple locations across the island are just part of what has made their winning formula, which centres on convenience and speed, coupled with great accessibility and affordability. Packages from anywhere in the world are delivered to your nearest location, via Doral, Florida.

Clients benefit from an excellent tracking



Best Bartender Ziggy Chang

Ziggy, is no ordinary bartender; he's a seven-time award-winning vibe creator! He's featured in a catchy viral tune about St. Maarten (set to the tune of Peru by Fire Boy DML) which has tourists singing along before they even hit the bar. "They go home, play the song, and relive their vacation," Ziggy says with pride.

At the bar, he's all about keeping things lively. "No awkward moments. Whether it's two people or 40 people, I make sure everyone's chatting. If you come alone, you'll leave knowing everyone," he laughs. When guests ask, "Who is Ziggy?" his playful response is: "Depends... What did Ziggy do?" And this always gets a laugh and keeps the good vibes rolling.

Splitting his time between Simpson Bay Resort and Secret Seafood House, Ziggy's been a familiar face across the island's best spots, including Replay Bar and La Patrona. "Win-





est reen ompping

system and customer service chat on West Tech Shipping's app, which acts as a personal concierge service. The app is also a handy way to keep track of points which customers earn through the company's reward system. The company makes international shipping hassle-free and accessible, earning it the top spot in our survey.







ning seven years in a row is a blessing and an honour. Thank you so much!" Ziggy says with heartfelt gratitude. Whether it's the music, the laughter, or Ziggy himself, you'll always find something special at his bar.

To our Valued and Loyal Customers,

We understand that you have many options when it comes to selecting a shipping service for your cargo, and we are truly grateful that you have chosen Safe Cargo Services. We do not take your business for granted and sincerely appreciate your ongoing trust in us.

> Thank you for your loyalty. Your support has enabled us to accomplish remarkable milestones, and for that, we are deeply thankful.

> > Safe Cargo Services "Your Friend in the Cargo Business"



Best Visual Artist -

Ruby Bute

50

The island lost a national treasure with the passing of Lady Ruby Bute in late 2024. The beloved artist, poet, and teacher was a friend and mentor to many. She has been voted the #1 Visual Artist in our Best Of series countless times, and her decades of creating art with a deepseeded love for her vibrant Caribbean culture lives on in her Friars Bay gallery, in paintings, videos, books, and in the artists she mentored and students she inspired.

Our two runners-up, when contacted, both expressed that they hoped it was she that claimed the #1 spot, remembering her fondly as a special mentor and friend. She has also been voted the year's Best Writer/ Poet.

Well into her final chapter of life, she remained active in the arts, painting in her home, holding workshops and continuing to be a strong advocate of teaching art in school.

The self-trained painter undeniably became one of the island's most influential artists, shaping our cultural fabric. Her last completed painting, Mango Lady Garden, reflected her signature expressive and vibrant style, capturing the gratitude that comes along with an abundant harvest. It is held, in the photo, by her daughter Jacqueline Vrolijk (left) and granddaughter Gerline Isaac (right) during the late Bute's birthday commemoration in mid-January.

FHANK Y ST. MAART

for choosing SXM Notary Richards as the #1 Notary in St. Maarten and #2 in The Daily Herald's 'Best of 2024: Best Law Firm/Notary Office category'



Best Writer/Poet _____

Ruby Bute

Ruby Bute, who laid down her pen and her brush in late 2024, was best known for her decades of creating expressive and vivid paintings. She was also a beloved storyteller by way of the spoken word, and a published author. In school classes, on film, on paper, in her books, and at cultural events hosted at her peaceful estate, the late Lady Bute shared stories of life, with all of its ebbs and flows, joys and losses.

Her first book, and perhaps the most wellknown, was Golden Voices of S'maatin (1989). The showcase of her poetry and illustrations became an essential part of local literature. In 2024, she both illustrated Soualikids by Association Les Fruits de Mer, and crucially published her autobiography, Rising Spirits - a labour of love that she had been working on in parts, since the 90s.

Rising Spirits recounts the story of her life from the age of six, sharing the story of her journey with the arts, and her family life. In the photo, her daughter Jacqueline Vrolijk





holds a copy of Rising Spirits at the Silk Cotton Grove art gallery, during the commemoration of Bute's birthday earlier this month.











Best Law Firm/Notary Office Brooks & Associates

Founded in June 2009, Brooks & Associates has been a cornerstone of legal practice in St. Maarten for over 15 years. The firm offers a wide range of legal services, specializing in criminal law, administrative law, and civil procedural law, including liens and the execution of judgments.

Beyond providing exceptional legal representation, Brooks & Associates has also become a vital educational platform taking pride in mentoring local and international students, helping to shape the next generation of legal professionals. Its dedication to justice has led to several precedent-setting judgments, particularly in the fields of immigration law and human rights.

The firm says these achievements underscore its commitment to advancing the legal landscape in St. Maarten and protecting the rights of individuals: "We are deeply grateful to our clients for their trust and support, which have been instrumental in our success. As we look to the future, Brooks & Associates remains committed to delivering exceptional service and fostering legal education, ensuring a lasting impact on the community we serve."











hank You, Sint M

We are incredibly honored to be named the Best Law Firm in Sint Maarten for 2024. This recognition means the world to us and is a testament to the trust and confidence you place in our team. Your support inspires us to continue delivering excellence, integrity, and dedication to our community. Thank you, Sint Maarten, for making this possible. Your trust is our greatest achievement.



SPORTSGA PREMIUM FASHION & SPORTS OUTLET SPORTS GALLERY TAKES THE WIN, THANKS TO YOU!

the **BEST** OF **2024**

Sports Gallery is #1! Thanks to You, We've Won Best Sportswear Store on the Island! A huge thanks to our amazing customers for helping us score this win! We're honored to be your go-to sports store. Here's to more victories ahead!







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Best Sportswear Sports Gallery

When it comes to everything sportswear, Sports Gallery on Back Street is the ultimate destination. For over 20 years, Sports Gallery has been dressing clients in quality athletic clothing and footwear from some of the world's top sports brands. As authorized dealers of Nike, Jordan, Puma, Adidas, Under Armour, New Balance, Skechers, On, Converse, Sebago, Hoka, New Era, and more, Sports Gallery has a style for every taste.

So, whether you're hitting the gym, running errands, or simply looking

for stylish comfortable clothing and footwear, Sports Gallery has got you covered. As winners of this new "Best Of" category, Director Umesh Chellani says the team is extremely appreciative: "We, the team at Sports Gallery, are incredibly honoured and proud to be voted the #1 Sportswear Store on the island. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication





of our team, as well as the trust and loyalty of our amazing customers. At Sports Gallery, our mission has always been to provide the best selection of quality sportswear and footwear, paired with exceptional service. Thank you to everyone who has supported us on this journey; we couldn't have done it without you!"



Best Local Products Etna Ice Cream

For the third year in a row, The Daily Herald readers have named Etna Ice Cream their favourite local product! This irresistibly creamy and flavourful treat continues to be a staple in St. Maarten/St. Martin and neighbouring islands, widely available in local supermarkets, grocery stores and top restaurants.

With its roots dating back to 1980, Etna Ice Cream has built a legacy of excellence. Long-time residents may remember the cosy ice cream parlour on Kennedy Avenue in Marigot where it all began. Today, owner Paolo Smiroldo continues to honour his Sicilian heritage through his labour of love, crafting every pint by hand using only the finest ingredients sourced from around the globe - from Madagascar, to the Netherlands, Italy, New Zealand and the United States.

Etna offers a tempting variety of flavours, including creamy Vanilla, indulgent Cookies and Cream, rich Chocolate, and the timeless Gianduia, alongside 15 other op-



tions featuring everything from raisins to nuts. With such an array of choices, there's a flavour to please every palate.

Best Musical Artist -King James

If there's one artist who knows how to captivate a crowd, it's King James, who has once again earned the title of Best Musical Artist. Celebrating 10 years since his breakthrough in the local music scene, 2024 was an incredible year for King James as he prepared to take things to the next level with new music and exciting projects.

Reflecting on 2024, he takes immense pride in the debut of his Carnival concert, Koncert X, hailed as the best show of Carnival 2024. The show featured exceptional performances by local talents alongside himself, leaving attendees in awe. He also delivered standout performances at Bacchanal Sunday, during Carnival festivities, and jammed with Dutty Dawgs J'ouvert Troupe.



the Almighty, his devoted team, everyone who has played a role in his journey, and his loyal supporters.





3" Benjamin Bell



Thank you St. Maarten **Best Local Product**

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Best Women's Boutique —— Affordable

At Affordable Department Store, style and savings go hand in hand. For over 25 years, this go-to Back Street store has been helping women dress their best without digging too deep into their pockets. Whether you're looking for a smart outfit for work, casualwear for the weekend, something to step out in at night, or comfortable clothes to relax in at home, Affordable has you covered with a wide selection of trendy and high-quality clothing at competitive prices.

54

Owners Umesh "Nash" and Mahesh "Morris" Chellani" are both grateful and honoured that the community has voted Affordable their number one choice for women's clothing and laud their hardworking team of enthusiastic and attentive staffers who serve clients with the utmost care and attention. The store, which does its best to have a wide variety of items to suit women's tastes, pledges to continue the journey of dressing women in only the best.



Best Children's Store – Bébé n' Kids

For all your little premaman Kids is the go-to destination, voted Best Children's Store on the island for 2024. multiple-time A winner in this category, Bébé n' Kids offers everything from stylish outfits and footwear for boys, girls, toddlers, and babies, to matching accessories such as bags, purses, watches and hats, to a wonderland of toys for kids big and small. Their collection also includes educational

games that spark creativity and keep kids engaged.

Expectant moms, too, will find everything they need – from baby furniture (cribs,

(JouéClub) playpens, mattresses) to strollers, car seats, and more. It's the perfect place for baby essentials and baby shower gifts. Strolling through the aisles at the Bébé n' Kids store in Zac de Bellevue in French St. Martin is where every mother's needs for dressing

mamar





Best Men's Boutique Calvin Klein

When it comes to the best in men's clothing in St. Maarten/ St. Martin, all roads lead to Calvin Klein, voted the Best Men's Boutique on the island in The Daily Herald's "Best Of" annual poll. Whether you are looking for quality shirts, tops, pants, belts, ties, socks, footwear or other items for men, you can find it all at Calvin Klein.

The establishment is known for dressing men in carefully selected clothing that is stylish and simply the best. So, whether you are

looking to update your wardrobe, or are just in search of the perfect piece, you are sure to find high-quality options to elevate your look and make you stand out in the crowd. The Calvin Klein team is knowledgeable and ready to guide you through their options to help you pick something





that suits your unique taste. Every visit will be greeted with good service and great fashion advice.







THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED TRUST AND VOTING US #3 BEST MEN'S BOUTIQUE



RUE DU GÉNÉRAL DE GAULLE MARIGOT +590 590 520 916 JANUARY 31, 2025 • THE DAILY HERALD

the **BEST** OF **2024**

VOTED #1 CHILDREN'S STORE

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11 YEARS STRONG!

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and support make it all possible.

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we're committed to providing quality, affordability, and style for men, women, and kids.















Best Perfume Store

Penha

56

If you appreciate fine fragrance, then Penha Perfume Store is a must-visit. Voted Best Perfume Store on the island for 2024 – an honour it's received several times in a row - Penha offers a wide selection of luxury perfumes and colognes from top brands and beauty cosmetics such as Sol de Janerio, Creed, Guerlain, Estee Lauder, Clinique, Chanel, Dior, Lancôme, Loewe, Armani, and Victoria's



Founded in 1865, the Penha family has built a legacy of quality that continues today. Penha has locations on Front Street in





Philipsburg, the Princess Juliana International Airport, Cole Bay and at the Maho Beach Plaza. The store's spacious layout allows you to browse at your leisure and discover the perfect scent just for you. Their friendly, knowledgeable staffers are readily available to help you find a fragrance that suits your style.



Best Place for Makeup/ **Beauty Supplies** -**Beautylicious**

Enhancing your beauty routine is always a pleasure at Beautylicious in St. Maarten. Voted the #1 place to get makeup and beauty supplies on the island for 2024, Beautylicious offers a wide selection of products that cater to all aspects of your beauty routine. From top-of-theline makeup brands and luxurious skincare products to hair care essentials, wigs, nails, and perfumes, they have it all under one roof. At Beautylicious, you'll find a vast array of beauty and grooming essentials for men and women, including

hair extensions, wigs, edge controls, and skin creams. They also stock a wide range of clothing and footwear as well as salon eauipment.

The store is known for its great customer service, with knowledgeable staff ready to help guide you through their product se-



lection to find what you need. Owner Gehad Jadallah is grateful that customers have again selected Beautylicious as their favourite place to get their beauty and makeup supplies and thanks everyone for their vote and dedicated patronage, while acknowledging the staff for their dedication, commitment and hard work. Beautylicious has locations on Bush Road and Cole Bay.





Best Photographer / Videographer Elvis Harrigan

Elvis Harrigan has been voted Best Photographer/Videographer and he's deeply grateful for the support. "I think I was voted top based on years of being in the photography field. Over time, I've built lasting business relationships and friendships that have earned me loyalty from many voters and I'm grateful for that."

Elvis describes 2024 as both challenging and rewarding, filled with destination weddings, networking, and personal growth. This journey inspired him to launch a podcast, Aduhlting, where he and friends discuss life topics, from financial literacy to self-awareness.

Elvis is passionate about making clients feel at ease during photoshoots. "Even if it's their first time, I try to assist with posing and ideas." His services include indoor and outdoor packages with digital photos, retouching, hard copies, canvas prints, and even photo albums for weddings.

Elvis likes to share his knowledge with fellow creatives and he encourages St. Maarten's network of talented photographers, videographers, and designers to stay driven: "It's not an easy road, but vou can make it! St. Maarten has so much talent we're not here against each other."





Benjamin Photograph



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Best

the **BEST** OF **2024**

CADIVEU

Arrivals



Mia Secret.

To our incredible Beautylicious family,

We are humbled and overjoyed to be recognized as the **Best Place for Makeup & Beauty Supplies in St. Maarten/Saint Martin!** This achievement would not have been possible without your unwavering support, trust, and loyalty.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank each and every one of you who took the time to vote for us, visit us, and spread the word about Beautylicious. You are the reason we strive every day to bring you the best in beauty.

As we celebrate this milestone, we promise to continue delivering exceptional service and high-quality products that make you look and feel your absolute best. Customer Satisfaction Guaranteed

CADIVEU

veganrepair.

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Here's to many more beautiful moments together!

With gratitude and love, The Beautylicious Team \heartsuit

#BestOf2024 #ThankYou #BeautyliciousStyle #YourSupportMatters #GratefulHeart



Beautylicious Beauty Supply



Beautylicious_sxm







The offer of a truly diverse range of quality products is what makes for a great department store. ACE Mega Center aces that assignment, offering everything from gardening gear, to power tools, from kitchenware to full bed-room sets, and from light fixtures to ladders – not to mention, the meticulously organised selection, spacious setting and knowledgeable staff make it a pleasant shopping experience all around.

Whether you come in knowing exactly what you want, or need guidance in selecting the perfect item, customers find what they need at ACE Mega Center. The selection of top-notch brands in such a diverse range of items can't be beat, and a spontaneous stop is worth it every time!



G US #3 BES



Aside from everything needed for serious home improvement, ACE Mega Center also carries must-have items that add to your everyday life in simple ways, such as jewellery organisers, sweet-smelling candles, specialised kitchen tools, and indispensable cleaning products. ACE lives up to its tag line: "The helpful place."



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Best Hardware/ **Construction Material Provider _ Furniture Store ____**

Kooyman

Whether you're a homeowner, contractor, or need some renter-friendly homeimprovements, Kooyman is a one-stop, must-visit store. With knowledgeable staff and an incredible selection of products, a newsletter to keep you informed of the latest products, deals and events, and not to mention a great loyalty programme with FunMiles, Kooyman has earned its spot as an island-favourite for all your home improvement needs. No project is complete with-

out a visit to this store, with its own dedicated section for construction supplies.

Making this section even better is the ease of shopping for these essential and bulky items. Make your order, use the drivethrough, and you'll quickly be on your way





with lumber, doors, and steel all in tow. If you're a tradesman or contractor, benefit from perks including priority ordering, making sure you get back to business as soon as possible. Whether you're a pro, or weekend warrior, Kooyman has what you need to make your project succeed!



Best Home Supplies & ACE Home Center

The line of ACE stores has been serving the St. Maarten public with top quality products to maintain and beautify homes since 1997, and this year it has once again absolutely dominated our top three winners for "Best Home Supplies & Furniture Store" – Ashley Furniture, part of the family of businesses, has come in third, while ACE Home Center and ACE Mega Center claim places 1 and 2!

Number 1 winner, ACE Home Center, is conveniently located in Cay Hill, and its second floor

boasts a wonderful space dedicated to beautiful and well-made furniture and home décor. Customers can visualise exactly what their home can feel like, browsing through beautifully curated living room and bedroom sets. The store also boasts a dedicated lumber yard.





The selection of home supplies can't be beat, with an approachable and knowledgeable staff to help customers find everything they need. Customers can take their pick of a large variety of electrical and plumbing supplies, power tools, gardening tools, paints, and everything else needed for serious home improvement.



Best Store to Purchase Jewellery -Joe's Jewelry

Established for 45 years, Joe's Jewelry International with three locations, prides itself on its history as a pioneer among family-owned jewellers in St. Maarten. With a rich heritage and unwavering commitment to excellence, Joe's Jewelry offers a personalised shopping experience cherished by a loyal clientele.

60

Specializing in designer pieces, 14kt gold, fine jewellery, Swiss timepieces, certified loose and lab-grown diamonds, and exotic gems – all at duty-free prices – Joe's Jewelry epitomizes luxury and value. Showcasing prestigious brands such as Longines, RADO, Girard-Perregaux, MOVADO, Tissot, Hamilton, Frederique Constant, Baume & Mercier, and Bulova, alongside fashion icons like G-Shock, GUCCI and Swatch, Joe's is a destination for everyone.

Ranked #1 on TripAdvisor with over 3,000 five-star reviews and twice hailed as the Best Jeweller on the island in The Daily Herald's "Best Of" survey, Joe's Jewelry welcomes visitors with complimentary water, wine, champagne, and a warm smile. Guided by experienced staff, they ensure a seamless journey to finding the perfect piece – a symbol of love, appreciation, and cherished moments. Proud sponsors of the 45th St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, Joe's Jewelry is grateful for the unwavering support of its loyal clients.







"We Shine Because of You!

AMA Jewellers is overjoyed to be named one of Sint Maarten's finest jewelers! You inspire us to keep crafting brilliance and celebrating life's special moments. Thank you for letting us be part of your story – you're the real gem in ours!" ® Your Friendly Island Jeweler!! ®

Front Street #20, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten, Dutch Caribbean Email: gold@sintmaarten.net | Phone: +1-721-542-6935 | Fax: +1-721-543-1020









Joe's Jewelry

Est 1980

40, 60, 66 FRONT STREET, PHILIPSBURG, ST. MAARTEN WWW.JOESJEWELRY.COM 1 (721) 543-7020

We extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to our loyal clients and friends for your unwavering support. We are grateful for your loyalty!

A heartfelt "Thank You" to our amazing and loyal friends & clients for voting us: Best Store to Purchase Jewelry.

We are truly honored and privileged to serve you, and are looking forward to seeing you soon!



Best Dance / Yoga Studio — Best Supermarket National Institute of Arts (NIA)

Founded in 2013 by Arlene Hal-ley Newhouse and Clara Reyes, the National Institute of Arts (NIA) has become a leading force in fostering artistic talent in St. Maarten. Offering a wide range of programs in the performing arts, NIA is dedicated to nurturing creativity, innovation, and cultural growth, recently adding Total Theatre (a social-emotional learning initiative through the arts) and an Introduction to the Performing Arts class – both conducted at the University of St. Martin (USM).

NIA, which is located at the John Larmonie Center in Philipsburg, serves over 1,000 students weekly and collaborates with local schools to expand access to the arts. NIA's

diverse classes include ballet, hip hop, jazz, modern dance, Bharatanatyam, music, theatre, and gymnastics. The programs are grounded in classical techniques while encouraging innovation; and the dedicated teachers continue to develop their skills



through workshops and conferences. Additionally, NIA students compete in international dance competitions to remain current. NIA is also proud to have established St. Maarten's first Youth Orchestra, whose talented musicians perform regularly.

Hope Estate Howell Center THANK YOU FOR VOTING SUPER U YOUR **#2 BEST SUPERMARKET** SUPER U WILL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE **OPEN MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS & HOLIDAYS FROM 8:00AM TO 8:00PM** SUNDAYS FROM 8:00AM TO 12:45PM

11/100

Carrefour

Carrefour has proven itself to be an allaround winner once again, being selected as #1 supermarket of the island. With a truly great selection of fare from across the globe, Carrefour is a great one-stop shop for all of your daily or weekly shopping needs, and caters to so many communities. Not to mention, it's got four locations across St. Maarten - two expansive centres and two convenient local marts.

Carrefour offers the island's best selection of specialised products from around the world, alongside big-brand bestsellers, and

the freshest fish, meat, fruit and vegetables. With new items continuously on offer, there's always an unexpected find to be discovered, even for the most loyal customers.

Whether you prefer making everything from scratch, or value convenience and ease, you'll find everything you need at Carrefour. You'll also find products such as quality kitchen ware, cosmetics and cleaning supplies for your home. The daily hot breakfast, lunch, and fresh baked goods might even make you a daily customer, if you aren't one already!











BUSH ROAD, PHILIPSBURG Porto cupecoy, cupecoy

UNION ROAD, COLE BAY Jordan Village, cupecoy

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THE DAILY HERALD • JANUARY 31, 2025



Best Flower Shop Flowers "R" Us

Flowers "R" Us has been voted #1 Flower Shop in St. Maarten for the third year in a Row! Now open for over 10 years, their creativity keeps blossoming with each passing year. Nothing says how you feel like flowers, and no one knows flowers like Flowers "R" Us!

Everyone loves to be gifted a beautiful boutique for any special occasion. Flowers "R" Us offers a wide selection of flowers and custom floral arrangements to fit your particular vibe, style, flower choice, or colour palette. They also offer floral and

fruit baskets and can create stunning centrepieces for galas and holidays. They can handle any wedding requests – from the boutonniere, to stunning floral arch way and, of course, a gorgeous bridal bouquet.

Located at # 79 Bush Road next to Carrefour Market, Philipsburg, between Vision Center and Subway, Flowers "R" Us thanks all their many loyal, satisfied customers and followers for their votes. The store is open weekdays at 9:00am-5:00pm and on Saturdays at 10:00am-5:00pm. Contact info: Phone/WhatsApp +1 (721) 588-6829.



Flowers by Flores







A business is nothing without the support behind it, so thank you to every single client for having voted

> FLOWERS R US #1 Best Flower Shop.



Located Next To Carrefour Market Bush Road, Same Plaza Phone: +1 (721) 588-6829 /+1 (721) 586-8753 Email: flowers.are.sx@gmail.com

Best Electronic Store _____ **Boolchand's**

At Boolchand's, your electronics shopping experience is second to none. Voted the #1 electronic store in St. Maarten/St. Martin for 2024, Boolchand's offers one of the largest selections of electron-ics on the island from all of your favourite reputable brands. From smartphones, gaming consoles and computers, to laptops, tablets, headphones, smart watches, speakers, digital cameras, and smart televisions in all sizes

and brands; Boolchand's has all your electronic needs under one roof.

With 95 years of expertise and a strong presence in multiple countries, Boolchand's has the knowledge to assist you with the best in electronics. So, whether you're after the latest gadgets or in search



of something unique, Boolchand's has everything to help you stay ahead of the latest trends. With great customer service, shopping for electronics has never been easier. "The Boolchand's family is deeply grateful to our loyal customers, dedicated staff, and everyone who voted for us. Your support inspires us to keep striving for excellence," the Boolchand's family expressed.

3rd

Best Gym _____ **Belair Fitness Center**

Belair Fitness Center stands out as the best gym in St. Maarten due to its exceptional combination of top-tier facilities and personalized services, as well as its welcoming community. Located in Belair a central area, it offers state-of-the-art equipment catering to individuals at all fitness levels. The gym's spacious layout ensures a comfortable and non-crowded workout experience, even during peak times, and has plenty of parking spaces.

What truly sets Belair apart is its dedication to member success. The knowledgeable trainers provide personalized programs tailored to meet individual goals, whether it's weight loss, strength building, or

improving overall fitness. Additionally, the gym offers group fitness classes that range from high-intensity workouts to calming yoga sessions, providing something for everyone.

The atmosphere at Belair is another defining feature. It's not just about fitness staffers foster a friendly, motivating envi-



Belair Fitness Center

Belair Fitness Center

ronment where members feel like part of a supportive community. With its modern amenities, expert staff, and inclusive environment, Belair Fitness Center truly earns its reputation as the best gym on the island.



B-Fit Fitness Center Sxm

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your #1 Electronics Store again!







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Management and staff of Shipwreck Shops extend heartfelt thanks to

St. Maarten

For choosing us as your favorite Souvenir & Gift Store, where every visit is transformed into a memorable experience.



11 LOCATIONS ISLAND WIDE

Best Nail Salon —— Vietnam Original Nails

At Vietnam Original Nails, stunning nails aren't left to chance, but are rather crafted with precision and care. This cosy nail salon is home to a team of passionate and skilled artists who turn every nail into a work of art using premium products, from vibrant polishes to intricate rhinestone designs.

Conveniently located on Bush Road, this beloved salon has been a go-to destination for nail enthusiasts since 2014. Recognised as the Best Nail Salon of 2024, Vietnam Original Nails excels in offering an array of modern nail art designs tailored to each client's request, including the popular chrome finish for a trendy shiny look.

From gel and acrylic nails to custom nail designs, pedicures, manicures, massages, and waxing, the salon uses only top-tier products to ensure lasting results. Their commitment to quality and exceptional service makes Vietnam Original Nails the





place-to-be in the island's beauty industry, which was proven once again in this year's survey.



Georgina's Nails

Best Gift/Souvenir Shop -

Shipwreck Shops

Shipwreck Shops – known for its wide array of island souvenirs, travel keepsakes and gifts – has been voted Best Gift/ Souvenir Shop on the island for 2024.

Whether you're looking for a memento of your visit or a thoughtful gift for someone special, Shipwreck Shops provides a delightful shopping experience, featuring resort wear, gourmet items, must-have accessories, and high-end local products, including peppers, jams, and spices. Their stylish

T-shirts, sweaters, and hoodies showcase the iconic "St. Maarten" name, and as the official distributor of Heineken Regatta gear, they also provide an exclusive great line of collectable regatta merchandise.

For those looking for unique finds, Ship-





wreck Shops offers an impressive array of local crafts and island-themed gifts. From beautifully handcrafted jewellery to colourful island-inspired apparel, every item reflects the essence of St. Maarten and the Caribbean. Discover a piece of the island to cherish forever at any of their 11 welcoming locations, where every visit promises something special.





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(+1721) 5423254
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Opening Hours Penha Frontstreet Penha Maho Penha Cole Bay

Mon - Sat 09:00 - 18:00 Mon - Sat 10:00 - 21:00 Mon - Fri 09:00 - 18:00 Sat 10:00 - 19:00