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HEINEKEN REGATTA

46TH EDITION

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Race Officer Irene McNeill honoured with Order of Canada membership

By Robert Luckock

The Sint Maarten Heineken Regatta was extremely proud to learn that International Race Officer Irene McNeill was inducted as a member of the Order of Canada in January for promoting sailing in the country, one of 80-100 Canadians each year who are honoured with the decoration.

To be in such distinguished company cements the Regatta's reputation for selecting the highest calibre of race management to run its offshore racing programme.

McNeill is no stranger to the Caribbean Sailing Association (CSA). From 2016 to 2023, she was a member of the race management team at Antigua Race Week. She was also part of the race management team for the Optimist North American Championships held in Antigua in 2016 and again in 2023.

In 2024, McNeill was invited by Regatta Chair Cary Byerley to volunteer at the Heineken Regatta and is now the Heineken's Race Officer on the finish boat, heading a team with the responsibility to allot boats a finish time for their races as most boats are racing under handicap ratings, except for a few one-design classes.

"We have a very experienced team on the finish boat. Basically, it's about identifying the boat, sail number and recording the finish time. It can be hectic if boats are finishing very close together. As the finish boat, we also ensure that all boats are accounted for before heading in for the day.



Irene McNeill pictured at the WASZP one design foiling dinghy championship at CORK Sail/, Kingston, Ontario, in 2025.

"With boats coming to finish from two courses, we have to set up a finish line to accommodate boats arriving from different directions as well. Last year, we were able to use the Seiko Mark Set Bot for the first time as

our finish mark and that helped a lot, a great addition to the Regatta."

She says she was very surprised about the Order of Canada award. It was her husband's crew who submitted her name. Three ref-

Still going strong

The much-anticipated 46th edition of the annual St. Maarten Heineken Regatta takes place in the next few days, and expectations are once again running high.

In addition to the sailing competition, great parties with quality live concerts make the event interesting also for non-participants, including thousands of visitors who come to enjoy such

What's more, entrance to the Regatta Village at Port de Plaisance will be free this year, so nobody has to feel left out. Capacity is limited; however, so arriving early makes sense.

The Daily Herald wishes all involved smooth sailing, spirited racing and – above all – a good time.

Paul De Windt
Publisher



erences were also needed to support the application, and the process takes about two to three years to work through. The Governor General's committee has strict criteria and is very thorough in its examination of the information submitted.

"I'm still overwhelmed by why I was selected; there are so many others in the sailing community who are also deserving," she says very modestly. She cites two other women race officials as her mentors and with encouraging her to continue officiating.

The fact is that Irene is a passionate advocate for women and girls in sailing. She and three other women co-founded the Leadership, Empowerment, Advancement Programme (LEAP).

"We noticed that in sailing programmes, the attrition rate for girls was at a higher

rate than boys. There are many reasons for this, and our group is in the process of making those reasons known to the powers that be, so maybe we can change some of the sailing culture in our country. We want to help facilitate and keep girls sailing and having fun on the water.

"Basically, it comes down to the size of the boats we are training in. They are quite large and heavy for kids. Smaller kids tend to struggle. We want to have sailing schools consider the use of smaller boats that fit these kids better so they have more fun."

Irene has a very extensive résumé – too long to mention entries here – but she has spent 35 years in Sailing Race Management. She also teaches race management and, of late, race management courses for women only.

An addition to her stellar career has been her appointment as Canada's first female International Race Officer by World Sailing in 2012. She has described that role as "challenging" in a male dominated sport.

She is looking forward to coming back to St. Maarten from frigid Toronto. "I love it there, I get to speak Dutch – my parents are Dutch – French and English. I love the technical part of running the races but also the social part of sailing and meeting people."

Fellow International Race Officer David Sprague summed her up best in his congratulations to Irene:

"She is a tireless volunteer, teacher, and administrator of so many of the components of sailing and race management. Her leadership has improved the value of sailing both in Canada and abroad.

"She has run many international regattas in Canada, the US, the Caribbean and Europe. Along with Sail Canada, she has championed many initiatives to increase the number of women in race management and improve skills development.

"Irene has served on or chaired committees at Sail Canada, Ontario Sailing, and Canadian Olympic Regatta Kingston (CORK). Most notably, she was Chair of the Race Management Committee and currently sits on the Sailing Appeals Committee of Sail Canada."



Irene McNeill testing the wind at the JIO5 Women's Championships in August 2024 (Photo Sharon Green – Ultimate Sailing).

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Krispijn Teunissen – Challenging First Year for the new Director

By Robert Luckock

With the 46th Annual Sint Maarten Heineken Regatta approaching, this edition will mark the second Regatta with Krispijn Teunissen in the driving seat as Director since he was selected for the job in May 2024, on the departure of former director Michele Korteweg.

Possessing a successful background and track record in event management in the Netherlands, he was a good choice to take over the reins.

The job puts him responsible for coordinating and assisting with all committees, for the smooth running of the whole event – off-shore and on-shore – working closely with the race committee, volunteers, obtaining permits, contact with French and Dutch sides, budgeting and marketing.

And on the land side, supporting the team with advice on music and entertainment, helping guide key decisions, assisting with the village permit process, and soliciting sponsors and stakeholders. Maintaining sponsor satisfaction and visibility is a crucial ongoing responsibility.

The scope of the job sounds vast. Was he intimidated by that in the beginning when it was proposed to him? “No, the only thing I said

was I am not a sailor but I can run events.”

His ability to multi-task also allows him to keep tabs on his other day-job: President of St. Maarten Roadrunners. He’s an accomplished runner and triathlete, but there’s no conflict of interest as he has a competent Roadrunners board that keeps things running in his absence. However, he has to be involved in the Roadrunners’ most important event of the year – the St. Maarten International Marathon that comes around in December.

It brings to mind a joke of when he was asked why a runner is managing a sailing Regatta. His answer? “I’m good at running things.”

As Regatta Director, he reports to Regatta Chair Cary Byerley, but works mostly alone. He has autonomy for small decisions but must consult the board on major issues and expenses. A new intern, Lars, is a right hand man for him and Sint Maarten Yacht Club (SMYC) Manager Saskia Revelman. His internship is 60% with the Regatta foundation and 40% with the SMYC sailing school.

When Krispijn reflects on his first year, he says the most challenging part was working for two events – a sailing Regatta and music festival – and dealing with

two separate and very diverse committees.

“Heineken and Sunny Khatnani from DIVICO get credit for free entry to the village, whereas myself and the Regatta team were able to build on Saint Martin Tourism Office’s work in 2024 to get the French side back into the Regatta, resulting in the *Diam 24* racing in Grand Case.”

He jokes about sometimes getting lost in translation during meetings or debriefs:

“English is not my native language, so I’m not always familiar with the nuances of English speech, certain phrases and keeping up with how fast Americans talk. In my head, I have to translate into Dutch first then I understand it. Sometimes, I have a hard time explaining what I want to say in English.

“On a scale of 0 to 10, I think my success rate was six or seven. The 2025 Regatta was a success, the racing was very good, and the on-shore was good, and that is the outcome that was most important. We achieved a financial break-even for both the racing and the party side due to over 150 volunteers that support the entire event. It couldn’t be done without them.”

Asked what the differenc-



Krispijn Teunissen

es are between running a company and running the Heineken Regatta, he says: “With the Regatta, it’s nice to work on your own and not have to keep strict office hours, but I miss not having a daily big office atmosphere.”

As far as deadlines go, application for the Government funding has to be submitted by the end of February one year ahead, so 2026 for 2027. The goal is to have all the sponsors say “yes” and sign contracts before October.

“This can be difficult because you have to be aware of the lead-in time to pre-

pare flyers, art work, advertising, and to make sure all sponsors are mentioned on screens and banners.”

Does he have thoughts about the future direction of the Regatta? “I think we should keep growing with what we have and keep up to date with the trends of race management and the needs and wants of racers.”

He continues: “I don’t see any changes needed to the on-shore entertainment side. It should continue to remain focused on Caribbean cultural music like Reggae and Soca and a big name act on the final evening. The Wailers, for ex-

ample, and Inner Circle fit well with local audience expectations. This approach aligns with sponsor and local stakeholder preferences to keep the event authentic and community-rooted.”

What degree of satisfaction did you get out of your first Regatta? “I would say my personal satisfaction comes from 80% per cent of the work, the interaction, and especially when everything gels together as a team. After the debrief, when you realise it’s been successful, that’s very satisfying. I’m very grateful to all the people who helped me get through my first Regatta. It’s been quite a learning curve.”

Sustainability Initiative EXOWATER & WIB

On the island, meaningful action continues to take shape. This year, the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta is expanding its water filtration initiative in partnership with local water solutions company EXOWATER. What began as a single filtration station at the Regatta Village has grown into two easily accessible refill locations, making it simpler than ever for sailors, staff, and visitors to reduce single-use plastic consumption.

Joining the initiative is Windward Islands Bank (WIB), which is providing every team and

staff member with a reusable water bottle to further extend the program’s impact. During the previous edition, the initiative is estimated to have prevented more than 5,000 single-use plastic bottles from entering the island’s waste stream and fragile marine ecosystem. By actively reducing single-use plastics, promoting circular practices, and collaborating with environmentally responsible partners, WIB reinforces its commitment to broader sustainability goals.

Last year marked the introduction of EXOWATER’s custom-built filtration system at the Regatta. This

year’s expansion to two stations reflects the event’s ongoing dedication to practical, scalable solutions. The Regatta is particularly proud to have sourced this system locally. Comparable international sailing events have reportedly paid upwards of \$10,000 to rent similar filtration setups, whereas EXOWATER designed and built a tailored solution specifically for the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta.

Local sourcing of sustainable solutions can be challenging in the Caribbean, making this partnership especially significant. EXOWATER’s continued collaboration demonstrates



how local expertise can drive impactful environmental change. The Regatta hopes this initiative will inspire other events across the region to adopt water filtration systems and prioritize reusable alternatives, helping to build a more sustainable future both on land and at sea.

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Official Scorer Pam Fuller – model of quiet, behind the scenes efficiency

By Robert Luckock

The St. Maarten Heineken Regatta has countless volunteers and contributors who fly under the radar, but whose work is vital to the successful running of the Regatta each year. They don't seek the spotlight, preferring mostly to remain anonymous and to simply carry out the work that they love.

The official scorer, Pam Fuller, is one of these loyal, unsung heroes. She has an association with the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta stretching back to 2008.

"Before the Regatta starts, I get familiar with all the entries and I also help with registration," she explains. "For the Heineken, I don't go out on the committee boat anymore, which I did for a long time, but I sit at a desk all day – in case there are problems – and do whatever I can to support the event."

That desk she refers to is beside the protest desk used by the protest secretary, usually situated off to the right as one enters Port de Plaisance's south marina.

"The committee boat enters the finish times, but if they can't because it's too rough or hectic, they will WhatsApp the finish sheets to me and I will enter them on shore, and we will make



Pam Fuller (right) pictured with Measurer and CSA President Bastien Pouthier at the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta.

sure to handle properly any scoring changes that happen there."

The scorer needs to have an understanding of handicaps that are applied to the boats and that requires working closely with the measurers to know what the handicaps are and that they are correct. The mathematics of it is done by computer programme so she doesn't have to do any calculations.

"It's a matter of making sure the data entry is correct and making sure the results make sense from a racing

point of view to catch any input or scoring errors."

When she first started with the Heineken Regatta in 2008, she was on the signal boat, taking finish times, raising flags – whatever was needed.

"At that point, the scorer was Paul Miller who developed the scoring programme Regatta Guru that we used then. And then in 2020, I worked with Luis Kahl who developed Yacht Scoring that we use today – and when he passed away,

I became the official scorer because I had worked so closely with him, and I knew how it worked.

"During the day, I'm not extremely busy, but I start work from about 6:30am, making sure all the paperwork – entry lists of boats, classes, timing sheets and so forth – that has to go out to the committee boats is ready because they leave at 8:30am. It's about four to five printouts each day. Then in the afternoon, say from 3:00pm until 9:00pm, I'm pretty busy.

"The pressure is on from 3:00pm because you have to get the results up on the internet as quickly as possible and iron out any problems," she adds. "The programme automatically puts them up, but you have to double check the results to be sure they make sense."

As sailors all have smart phones, results can be seen in real time, and if there is a mistake, it has to be corrected. Protests also cause delays, and a dispute might not be resolved until later in the evening.

Pam is also the official scorer for two other regattas – Antigua Racing Week and the BVI Spring Regatta – and was part of Grenada Sailing Week a long time ago.

"I actually started working for the BVI Spring Regatta in 2003, and Antigua was about the same time as Heineken, in the late 2000s. I was introduced to scoring in the BVI by Paul and Debora Miller and they asked me if I was interested in doing it. That was the invitation and it's been going strong ever since.

"The Heineken Regatta has worked over the years to fine tune ways to figure out the Most Worthy Boat of the Regatta and other Best Boat categories. They'll give me parameters and I'll make a spreadsheet to calculate the results. That's how I spend a lot of my middle of the day.

"It's a big deal. I start from the first day because each day, the results get refined. Results can be different each day and sometimes a very small difference in one day's racing can change the combined result when you are looking at it from a Best Boat comparison.

"You can't wait until the last day to figure it out because you'll never make it happen in the two to three hours you have to finalise the prizes and be ready for the awards ceremony at 6:00pm."

Elsewhere, Pam was on the board of directors for the Caribbean Sailing Asso-

ciation (CSA) for six years as Treasurer and Secretary, and helped plan and run their annual meetings among other things. Those appointments were for three-year terms. "I'm potentially still involved with CSA, I know all the players."

She has lived in the Caribbean for 15 years, in Tortola, BVI, before moving back to the USA when she was displaced by Hurricane Irma in 2017. Her house was destroyed.

"But I continued to fly down to these regattas and that was very healing." She now lives on the west coast of Florida, near Tampa.

Pam grew up as a weekend sailor in New England where her family had a boat and for a while she owned her own boat, sailing in Chesapeake Bay on the East Coast. Today, she likes to do some casual club racing in Florida on *Ideals*, *Sonars* and *Capris*.

"The most important take away from this is all the friends I've made over the years, among the sailors, race committee members and the organisers. I'm just always there to make it happen. It's a labour of love for me. There's nothing better than making a racer happy," she says with a smile.

Follow the race live on Island 92

The countdown is on for the 46th edition of the legendary Sint Maarten Heineken Regatta, taking place from Thursday, March 5, to Sunday, March 8. Of course, the best way to experience every tack, jibe and finish-line thriller of the Regatta as it happens, is LIVE on Island 92 Radio – the Northeast Caribbean's #1 source of ROCK, BLUES and all things REGATTA!

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Olympic Gold medallist comes to St. Maarten to sail Heineken

The Olympic Games have come to a close. Most athletes are returning home – some with medals, most with new friends and dreams of future games. On The Friendly Island, an Olympic champion is preparing to enter St. Maarten Heineken Regatta.

On board the 44-foot Catamaran, a VDZ named Bellatrix, will be gold medalist Eduardo Penido. You probably did not hear his name in Italy. That is understandable as he is a sailor and did not compete in the winter Olympics.

Ironically, Penido began his water career on a surfboard and later transitioned to sailing. The gold medal seemed to spark even more interest in sailing. He went on to be a crew reserve for Brazil's America's Cup challenge in the 2000s. Penido served as chairman of the Rio de Janeiro Sailing Federation from 2005 to 2009. In 2015, he tried offshore



Brazil sailor Eduardo Penido.

racing and finished sixth in the 2015 Transat Jacques Vabre double-handed race aboard the Class40 Zetra. He also placed fifth in the 2015 Grand Prix Guyader. Now he is traveling to The Friendly Island to sail in the Heineken Regatta.

Bellatrix is two years old. This will be Penido's first Regatta with it. He will be supported with seven others on the crew. While the crew is new to Bellatrix,

according to Penido, crew members are "long-time friends" so everyone should watch out. He also claims they are doing the Heineken just for "fun."

Penido was born in 1960 in the coastal city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He teamed up with Marcos Soares in the 1970s to compete in the 470 class. By the time Penido turned 20 and Soares 19 they were competing for a spot on the Brazil Olym-

pic team. The pair ripped through the 470 fleet and rose to the top. They competed in international regattas in Australia and Europe completing 300 hours of competition racing between regular training sessions. The hard work paid off at the Olympics where the

team edged out Germany for the Gold Medal.

After winning gold, Penido dedicated a lot of his time teaching young Brazilians how to sail. He was also an activist pushing for clean water to ensure sailing venues stayed clean and safe.

He encouraged top sailors and sail instructors from around the world to visit Brazil, train there, and help the up and coming Brazil sailors. So, be on the lookout for the Brazil flag as it races around St. Maarten during the Heineken Regatta.



The 44-foot Catamaran, a VDZ named Bellatrix, is set to be on the start line of St. Maarten Heineken Regatta.

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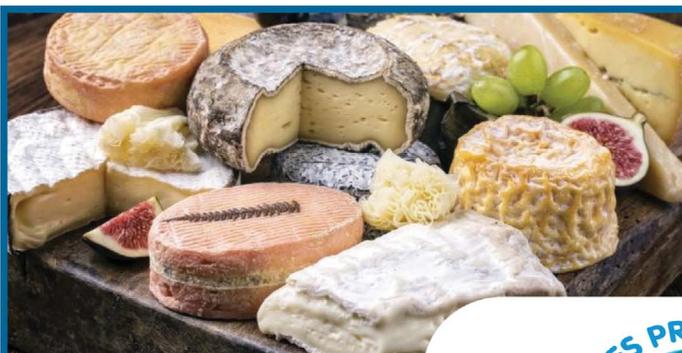
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Trimaran Sophia and the Greek mythology connection

By Robert Luckock

The sleek, racy, lines of the trimaran “Sophia” caused quite a stir among yacht observers when she slipped silently through the Simpson Bay Bridge sometime around Christmas, along with another early arrival, the Volvo 65 JAJO. But no one expected her to spring out of the blocks quite as spectacularly as she did for the Caribbean Multihull Challenge (CMC), winning CSA 1, as well as receiving the coveted accolade Most Worthy Performance of the Regatta. Can’t get better than that! The results certainly bode well for the Heineken.

“This is really for my crew,” owner Marcos Sirota was quoted as saying on receiving the trophy at the CMC awards ceremony. “They kept the boat moving, kept everything calm and I just kept steering.”

No stranger to St. Maarten, “Sophia” marks a significant upgrade for the Argentinian sailor who previously raced the Corsair 37 trimaran “Honey Badger” in a handful of St. Maarten Heineken regattas with various degrees of success. He bought it in 2021.

“Honey Badger was a lot of fun but more of a cruising



“Sophia” flying her hulls alongside “Falcon” during the Caribbean Multihull Challenge (photo Andre Dede Knol).

trimaran,” Marcos clarifies. “Some models – the Corsair 31 in the BVI, for example – are very fast, lower and lighter. I have a little Corsair 24 in Maryland, where I also race, and that one is very fast and a lot of fun.”

Racing “Sophia,” on the other hand, is a far more exhilarating experience, especially on the long legs where she can really let loose. A Nigel Irens one-off design with ORMA 60 hulls, she was formerly called “Paradox.”

“This is my third trimaran, each one is bigger than the one before. Sophia I found in Europe last year. It was called Paradox 3 before I renamed it, and its original

name was Paradox. She was built in 2010, staying with one owner for about eight years.

“Then it was bought by an Australian and renamed Shockwave. It was actually here for the 2020 Caribbean Multihull Challenge. They broke their boom in the middle of the Regatta and did not finish.”

Marcos has two former professional skippers from Paradox racing with him for the Heineken, for a total of six crew members depending on wind and conditions.

“Sophia has a smaller rig and is therefore more stable and a stronger build than the ORMA 60s,” he explains. “She is very fast on



Marcos Sirota and his crew celebrate with the Most Worthy Performance trophy at the CMC awards ceremony. (Photo by Quentin de Montille – Akhan Productions)

a reach and very good upwind too. It’s quite surprising how well she points. It’s why she was called Paradox in the first place.

“The ORMA 60s were really racy boats, with larger rigs, and capsized more easily,” he continued. “After the ORMA 60s came the MOD 70s. There is one here in Philipsburg, Zulu, and also Argo. We will be competing with both of them in the Caribbean 600,” he said at the time of the interview.

Argo made headlines when she took line honours on January 16 in the RORC Trans-Atlantic Race from the Lanzarote to Antigua. Brian Thompson, who was at the helm on Argo, described the astonishing

speed that was reached during the crossing: average speed 28 knots, top speed 38 knots and best day’s run 680 miles. They set a new record of four days, 23 hours, 51 minutes, and 15 seconds.

Now we know that Argo also took line honours in the 2026 RORC 600, but Sophia finished ahead of Argo and Zulu on corrected time getting second place for the Multihull class at the podium, not a small feat.

Marcos named Sophia after the Greek word Sophia, symbol for “wisdom.” The owl, perhaps the most famous of academic symbols, also embodies wisdom and intellect. A drawing of the owl can be clearly seen on

the hulls and mainsail of Sophia.

An engineer by trade, Marcos divides his time between St. Maarten and the USA where he has lived for 40 years. He first came to the Caribbean on a boat delivery. He liked the island so much that he purchased a house in Lowlands on the French side in 2021.

Career-wise, he studied electrical engineering in Argentina before obtaining a Master’s and PHD in aerospace engineering, first working in Seattle, Washington, and then with NASA for nine years, working on Lasers and instruments made with lasers, before starting his first aerospace company.

“A year and a half ago, we started a new company call Sophia Spatial AI, which produces artificial intelligence together with augmented reality through wearable glasses to get information and feedback from surroundings,” Marcos discloses. “The owl is also the logo for the company.”

After the Heineken Regatta, Sophia and crew will do the BVI Spring Regatta. The wisdom of the owl is clearly bringing good fortune to Marcos and crew.

MAËLIA READY TO SAIL IN HER FIFTH ST. MAARTEN HEINEKEN REGATTA

The all St. Barths-crewed Maëlia is set to be at the start line for the 2026 St. Maarten Heineken Regatta on March 5-8. Known for its serious fun, St. Maarten Heineken Regatta will be celebrating its 46th edition and enjoys the reputation as the largest regatta in the Caribbean. The 34-foot X-Yachts was built in 2010 and set sail in its first Heineken Regatta in 2011 in what has become the first of its many Heineken regattas.

The owners and co-captains explained that the boat’s name comes from a mix of their father Raphaël and their own small children, Maëva and Celia.

While the name may be a combination of names, the word does have a Celtic origin. According to Google, Maëlia means “princess,” “chieftain,” or “noble.” It is popular in France, often associated with meanings of bravery and strength.

At the helm of Maëlia will be Anthony Magras and his brother Rudy. While some brothers do not get along well, the Magras pair are a team to be reckoned with. “My brother and I share the steering of the boat, I do the start and the upwind legs, he does the reaching and downwind legs. As a gentle reminder to the race committee, they offered “The leeward-windward course is our favourite.”

Anthony continued, “When I’m at the wheel, he does the tactics and the other way around, so we never loses focus – and at the end of the day, there is no jealousy!”

Not leaving anything to chance, he added, “Our father makes sure the atmosphere is always fun; we take our time to go fast. We like to sail as quiet as a library!”

Maëlia has been sailed by the same crew of nine since the beginning. “We are all friends and come from nine different neighbourhoods of Saint Barths. It’s like we have all the island supporting us.”

The two love visiting: “It’s



Maëlia, a 34-foot yacht sailed by an all St. Barths crew, is ready for the 46th St. Maarten Heineken Regatta.

always a lot of fun to visit The Friendly Island and participate in the Regat-

ta. This year, we will be chasing our fifth victory with this boat. Let’s hope

one day there will be two Heineken regattas per year!”

Refurbishing the Swan 65 “Ilios” – Passion project brought to life

By Robert Luckock

One of the entries for the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta is the Swan 65 “Ilios” – competing in the Regatta for the first time since the yacht’s extensive refurbishment. This Swan has an interesting back story since she was abandoned for 16 years in a Trinidad boatyard before being purchased by new owners Sanne and Marijn Lemmers-Bast in 2024.

Marijn is an experienced rigger, who has worked on traditional Tall Ships, and Sanne is an environmental scientist. Both share a deep love for the ocean and beautiful yachts.

“Ilios” was originally built at the Nautor Swan shipyard for a wealthy Greek businessman who sailed her occasionally in the Mediterranean with a crew during holidays. In the 90s, she was sold to a Dutchman, who sailed on her in the Med and went around the world, before the yacht ended up in Trinidad where she remained on the hard from 2008 to 2024. As far as we know, this owner had a girlfriend who was not that interested in sailing. However, the couple did come back to the boat from the Netherlands now and then,” Sanne explained.

“They stayed on the boat for a month or so, did some work on her like varnishing and other jobs. Then when COVID came, he stopped coming altogether. He also stopped paying the bills at the boatyard. A broker then put the boat up for sale on the internet.” At the time, the couple and their dog were in

Indonesia, travelling around the world on their previous boat, a Philips 43 designed by Holman & Pye, built in Dartmouth, England.

“We had been looking out for a Swan 65 for about a decade. In our opinion, it’s the most beautiful yacht ever built, sea worthy, beautiful lines, comfortable to live on...We thought this was our best opportunity. After some bad experiences with brokers, we were able to get around that by negotiating a good price with the second owner.

“With the purchase price agreed, my husband flew from Indonesia to Trinidad to inspect the boat and he said it looked good. So we then had to move with all our stuff from our boat in Indonesia to Trinidad, and with our dog, who, by the way, is the best ship-dog ever. He can climb ladders, even on the hard, he climbs up to the deck. Of course, he is in a harness most of the time. He can put himself in between the stay and the railing and pee overboard. And he knows when dolphins are out there before we do, and likes to bark at booby birds.”

They had to leave their boat behind in Indonesia. Marijn returned later to sail the boat to Malaysia and sell it, but found it was hard to sell and practically gave it away. But they made sure they had no debts attached to it. As new owners, they stayed on “Ilios” for about seven months, still in the shipyard in Trinidad, to get her back into sailing condition. The priorities were first, to get her into the water and sec-



“Ilios” on the hard in a Trinidad boat yard.

ond, to get her sailing.

“We found she was in better condition than we expected. After a month, we were able to get her afloat and from there, we could continue working on her in the water. My husband and I have a lot of experience working with classic yachts. Everything had to be inspected thoroughly, the keel, rigging and sails. We replaced all the standing and running rigging. We also had to get the engine working again.”

That engine is a Perkins H6354, which interestingly as Sanne reveals is the same engine that was used by the red double decker buses in London. The reason that engine was used is because it can be mounted on its side, presumably so the driver can sit on it. The cylinders run horizontally, not vertically. And on the boat, it sits under the floor which saves space.

“It’s just a really decent,

simple engine with no complicated electronics. They are built so well you can just keep repairing them.”

Currently, the couple is offering charters on “Ilios” in the Caribbean and have a long-term goal of chartering around the world. They formed a Dutch company to do charter trips all over the Eastern Caribbean, starting from Trinidad & Tobago, Grenada, Martinique, St. Vincent, and other islands.

“We are sailing all-year round. We have a website (www.skylarkingilios.com) and some booking agencies that advertise our charters. A lot of our new guests come by word of mouth. We can accommodate six guests very comfortably.

“For the Heineken Regatta, we will have charter guests on board. It’s our first time participating and as far as we know, the first time for “Ilios.” Last year, we did the Antigua Classic and this year Grenada Sailing Week. For Heineken, I hope we are in a class with similar boats. It was very nice in Grenada because we sailed against the famous Kialoa 3.”

Depending on how much guests like to be involved in sailing “Ilios,” if need be, she can be sailed just by two people because, as a Ketch, she has multiple sail setting options – an advantage for short-handed crew.

“To join us, no sailing experience is needed and we can definitely put all the sails up with inexperienced hands. However, for the regattas, we do like to find guests who at least have some sailing experience – not least because you have to be a bit crazy about sailing to actually enjoy regatta sailing. It is hard work on a classic Swan 65!”

Sanne and Marijn both agree it has been a life-changing project bringing “Ilios” back to her former glory. “I like to think of it as waking up a beautiful ocean going queen from her sleep. She was built to sail the oceans, not to be looked at in a yard,” Sanne concludes.



“Ilios” racing in the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta 2025 (Tim Wright photo).



Sanne and Marijn Lemmers-Bast with their dog Heros.

Bill Titus – 30 years of serious fun memories

By Robert Luckock

The name Bill Titus is synonymous with Sint Maarten Heineken Regatta and arguably its most consistently loyal supporter. It's not uncommon for Titus and company to charter big yachts, come down to the island with two families and friends, numbering around 30 persons, and have the time of their lives. It's almost like a military campaign in its planning every year.



Racing on the Swan 76 "La Loevie" in the 2025 St. Maarten Heineken Regatta (Laurens Morel photo).

“My wife Carolyn and I started coming down for the Regatta in 1992. Carolyn was the representative for Nautor Swan USA,” Bill recalls. “It was a magical time and that’s how we got involved with Kass and Eddie Johnson. Kass and Carolyn were friends. Kass goes back with us 32 years, but she has not been racing with us since we’ve gone a bit more private with father and son team, but she is very much a part of our history.”

Over the years, these are the yachts that have been raced at the Heineken Regatta: *La Loevie* (Swan 76), *Aragon* (Marten 72 (X2)), *Yagiza*, (First 53), *Umiko* (Nautor Swan 80), *Highland Breeze* (Nautor Swan 112), *Simple Harmony* (Nautor Swan 68), *Prospector* (Farr 60), *Safara* (Andrews 72), *Venomous* (Farr 60), *Selene* (Nautor Swan 80-private), *Virago* (Nautor Swan 100), *Bharlin Blue* (Hoek 82), *Volador* (Frers 82), *Tattoo* (Farr 72), *Alexandra B* (Nautor Swan 65), *Act One* (Swan 45), *Splash Tang* (Nautor Swan 51), *Inca* (Swan 53), and *Gerda* (Nautor Swan 46).

In 1993, the group split into a racing team and a cruising team, and won their respective classes within the same family; 30 people on two boats – *Splash Tang* in racing class and a Swan 53, *Inca*, in cruising class.

“We’ve done the regatta in two ways, with two groups of friends, but now it’s an individual charter. It’s come back to life in the last five years with father and son teams. Carolyn manages the charter set up. Last year, we raced on the Swan 76, *La Loevie*, and this year we will be on a Wally 94, *Vantana*. I will be helmsman and crew boss.”

Bill recounts one memorable year in 2012 when they entered CSA1 non-spinnaker with the Swan 100, *Virago*.

“We broke our jib halyard 20 minutes into race one but came back to win all the

remaining races, and won the class at the awards ceremony, receiving the trophy from the then Minister of Tourism. We had the Minister and her husband as guests at a private dinner in our villa and they represented that trophy to Jocelyne Levenstone, who is the former Head of Immigration.

“Jocelyne is a coveted team member of ours, racing with us for 30 years. He and Chief Harbour Pilot Eddie Johnson have always been key players in the team with their local knowledge. They are both amazing guys. Eddie’s role is local knowledge navigator and tactician.”

There was a regatta in 2018 after Hurricane Irma attracting 93 entries – a good number considering the dire circumstances, the island was barely recovering and accommodations were very limited. Titus and his group did not enter but wanted to continue to support the event in any way they could. One of the crew members, Billy Burke, lent the race committee his Protector 28 to move the marks around with the help of four Dutch marines.

“The only thing was I had to go down to Antigua to bring it to St. Maarten. That was a seven hour, wet ride, upwind, not fun. As soon as we arrived (myself and the other older guy) we couldn’t wait to jump in the water to warm up,” Bill remembers with a laugh.

The problem of the traffic is well known and sadly has got worse, but the idea to move the whole entourage around to any part of the Lagoon in a 30ft RIB, to get where they want to go quickly and on time has been a great decision.

That includes proximity to Mary’s Boon Hotel in Simpson Bay which has become a second home to the team and guests when they come down each year.

“The hotel has been very supportive in accommodating us

and our guests. It completes the whole package to have a location so close to the boats. We have been around 30 persons staying there, but this year we’ll be just over 20.”

It will be the team’s first time at the Heineken on the Wally 94.

“The availability is what makes the Wally appealing. We are always looking for a boat that’s bigger than it needs to be, and for comfort and safety for the team to handle the Caribbean elements of big seas, big breeze, and sunshine and that we can learn on as quickly as possible, because they are all charter boats. It has to be manageable for an amateur/novice crew.”

The Wally is a Mediterranean cruiser racer so will be in a class with other performance cruising boats.

“For us, success means sailing better every day and going for the podium, knowing that we don’t have a professional crew. It’s father and son, family-orientated, and it’s a learning, enjoyable, fun week. Our focus has always been on the Heineken Regatta and that will remain the focus.

“What draws us down every year is that slogan “serious fun.” The camaraderie and participation of our team members are all about that, enjoying the island and all it has to offer. Heineken as the title sponsor has been fantastic and consistently supportive. The committees that organise the regatta have that drive to keep on making it better. They welcome input and understand what sailors want and need. The other shout-out goes to the yacht club bar. It’s just the best place to hang out with your friends and talk about the day’s racing.”



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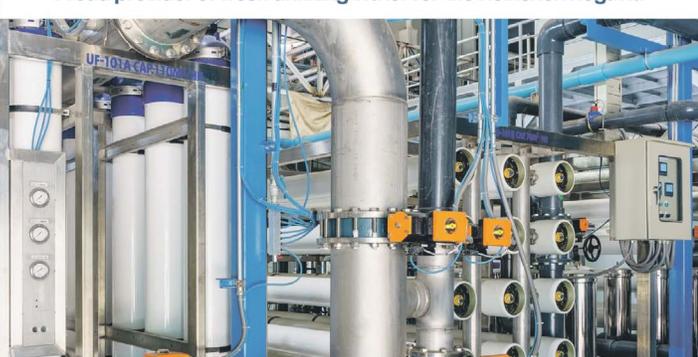
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Sint Maarten Heineken Regatta debuts acoustic whale monitoring

By Robert Luckock

The Sint Maarten Heineken Regatta is delighted to announce that for the first time, acoustic whale monitoring will take place during race days.

This initiative is made possible in partnership with the Marine Mammal Advisory Group (MMAG) and JASCO Applied Sciences. MMAG is a global cohort of organisations who work together to reduce marine mammal strike risk in the recreational boating sector through science-based data and strategies. They are co-authors of the Marine Megafauna in Sailing Guidelines released by World Sailing (governing body of the sport): https://d7qh6ks-dplczd.cloudfront.net/sailing/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/09111049/Marine_Megafauna_in_Sailing_2025.pdf

“Together with MMAG and JASCO, the scientific team specialising in marine acoustics, we are launching the region’s first acoustic monitoring solution for a race event,” said Sint Maarten Heineken Regatta Marketing Chair & MMAG Group Programme Development Consultant, Meghan Reilly.

“As many humpback whales – in particular a

mother and calf – have been spotted frequently in the waters surrounding St. Maarten this past month, this is an especially important initiative to reduce risk to these resident animals,” she stressed.

“With over 100 boats estimated to be sailing in their breeding grounds, this acoustic monitoring solution will help understand when a whale is communicating (whale songs/sounds) and present in the race course area.”

Reilly added that as far as she is aware, this is the first regatta in the region ever to deploy this level of technology and acoustic monitoring during an event.

“There will be no other events doing this in Caribbean this year, but we hope to inspire other events to take action and consider risk mitigation solutions for marine mammals. Originally, we were exploring the hydrophone to be deployed on the remote buoy, but we figured out that would be too complicated to be able to deliver live monitoring. So the final solution/plan is to deploy the hydrophone acoustic monitoring device on the race committee boat only, so the scientist can do live monitoring right on the committee boat and alert race commit-

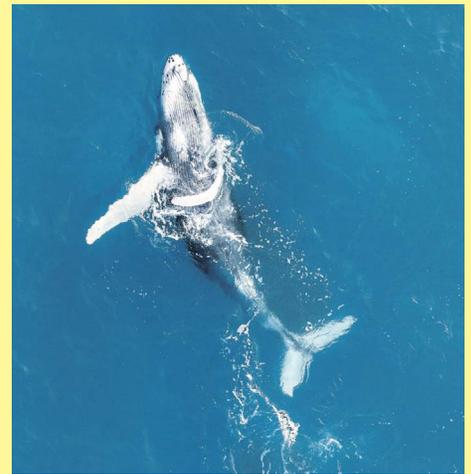
tee directly if any whale activity detected.”

A JASCO scientist will be on board a Race committee boat doing live monitoring during the Regatta, and if there is indication there is a whale in the area, they will coordinate an alert to the fleet via race committee, VHF radio and WhatsApp groups to be on high alert and boats instructed to take necessary actions to avoid

collision.

Sailors are also instructed to be alert and participate as citizen scientists by downloading the Whale Alert App and logging any sightings of whales they have while on the race course. This also supports visual monitoring across the fleet, and further reduces risk to these animals.

continued on pg.23



Humpback whales in St. Maarten waters (photos by Andre Dede Knol).



Humpback whale mother and calf (photo courtesy of Andre Dede Knol).



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Sponsors in for a thrill ride on the VO 65 Team JAJO

By Robert Luckock

The Volvo 65 "Team JAJO" is entered for this year's St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, having just finished the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) Caribbean 600 Race where she was chartered by an American team, finishing in an elapsed time of 2 days, 5:30:14 on February 25.

JAJO last raced in the Heineken Regatta in 2023, finishing third in CSA 1, and before that she competed here in 2022, and in 2020 under the name "Childhood 1". For this Heineken regatta the Volvo will be sporting a new mainsail.

JAJO is short for Janssen de Jong, a construction company made up of multiple companies, the biggest of which is Windward Roads in St. Maarten. The Volvo was built in 2013 in Persico, Italy, and refitted in 2022 by Royal Huisman Yachts. Since June 2025 she is owned by Jelmer van Beek who is also the skipper.

He has the distinction of racing in two Ocean Races on JAJO, and as skipper finished the 2023 Ocean Race in second place. Aside from the Ocean Race he has crossed the Atlantic eight times. Van Beek has a degree in law and accounting but his profession is as a yacht skipper.

"It was a great experience,

a lifelong dream coming true," says Jelmer of the Ocean Race. He bought JAJO as a project to do race charters, to give people the thrill of racing on a Volvo 65. For the Heineken Regatta, JAJO will be racing with sponsors on board, and some professional crew, and Jelmer as skipper.

The Volvo arrived in St.

Maarten around Christmas time by way of the Netherlands to Canary Islands and then joined the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (ARC) from Las Palmas to St. Lucia where as "Nextgen by Team JAJO" she won line honours in 10 days, 48 minutes, on December 3, 2025.

"Everyone who joins us on board as crew, we are

14 normally, is fully expected to be in race mode, and participate in the four hours on, four hours off, shifts," says Adriano who works the foredeck and is in charge of maintenance and catering.

"It's just amazing racing on this boat. Coming here from the Netherlands we clocked 33 knots of boat speed, and I've heard that she reached 40 knots at some points in the Ocean Race," he adds.

As expected below deck there is absolutely zero comfort anywhere, after all this is the Formula 1 of yachts designed to race around the planet in the fastest possible time. When crew have their turn to catch some sleep they have to pull up the bunk and tie themselves in to prevent from falling out when the yacht is heeling. Is it even possible to sleep because the noise must be horrendous?

"Oh yes, you will sleep

because you are so tired," Adriano says ruefully. "This is extreme sailing so you have to be into extreme sports. We've even had a few people on board who have never sailed and they loved it."

To keep everything organised each crewmember has a number for his personal possessions like tooth brush, sunglasses, life jacket, sailing wet suit. The number system is also used for the head count. With no fridge, it's a diet of dried food and desserts in packets mixed with hot water.

Cylinders for the canting keel are located below on port and starboard sides and they push the keel 40 degrees to one side, used all the time for sailing upwind.

After the Heineken Regatta Team JAJO goes to the ABC islands (Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao) with the sponsors before going back to the Netherlands in April.



Team JAJO racing the 2023 St. Maarten Heineken Regatta. (Laurens Morel photo)

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KRG Band, DJ Drino,
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MARCH 7, 2026

Jeon

BRG Hollywood, DJ Killerz
DJ Eyedol & Speyenol, JONNYGUY
DJ Pauly, DJ Classy D, Sugar Apple & more

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MARCH 8, 2026

Inner Circle

D Kullus, DJ Outkast
DJ Big Boss, Maestro, Deeblaze
DJ EM, Nolrez & more

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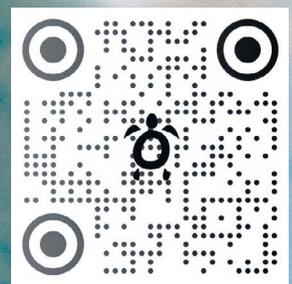
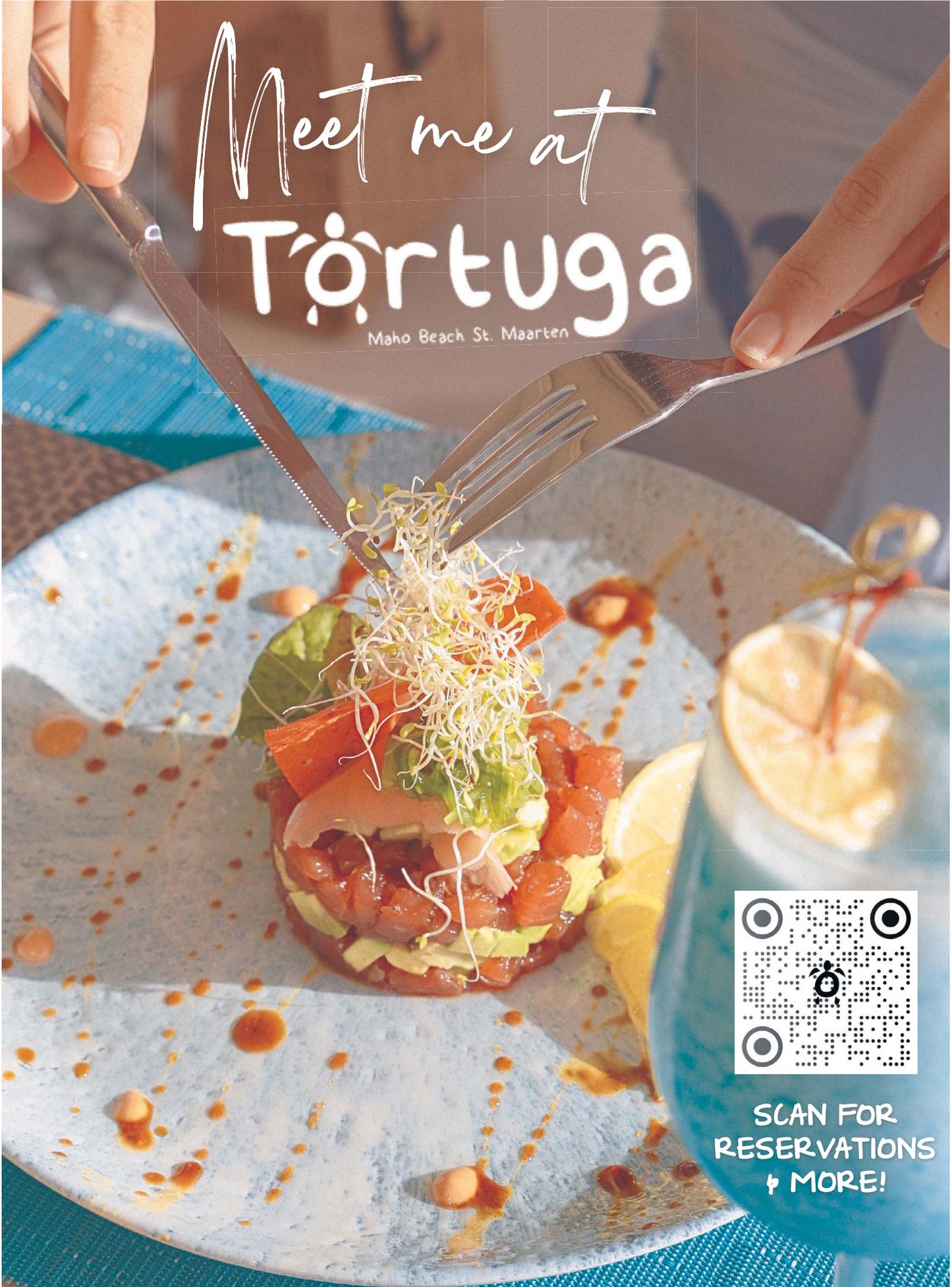
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So, everyone can come to enjoy the village food and a few ice-cold Heinekens and experience some serious fun at the evening concerts. The line-up is stacked with amazing musicians and performers every night!

THURSDAY, MARCH 5 – OPENING NIGHT ENERGY

The festivities kick off in true Caribbean style with the sweet sounds of steel pan at 4:00 PM, setting the tone for an electric evening.

Then, DJ Ika takes over, leading into the 6:00-7:00 PM prize-giving celebration. After prize-giving, the spotlight shifts to

Karma Killswitch, a dynamic new band by Lee Hardesty and Gian Franco, bringing fresh rock energy to the stage. DJ Ika keeps the momentum flowing before SEE5 Band takes over. The night closes with DJ Prince ensuring the dance floor stays alive into the evening.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 – SAILING SPECTACLE & SOCA VIBES

Friday begins on the water with the highly anticipated “Sailing around the Island.”

- 10:30 AM – Boats pass Fort Louis in Marigot
- 11:30 AM – Boats glide by Orient Bay Beach
- 1-3:00 PM – Spectators can catch the action off Philipsburg

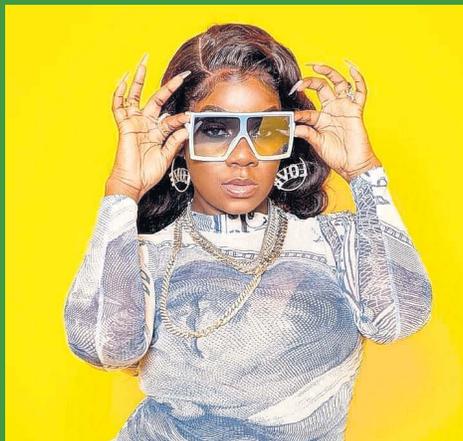
As the sun sets, the Soca-Bouyon theme takes over. DJ Drino starts the party at 4:00 PM, followed by False Idols, a new rock band led by Lee Hardesty. Prize-giving returns at 6:00-7:00 PM before Fire Coral Band ignites the stage.

The night builds with DJ Siw'Roo followed by a series of high-energy

collaborations featuring KRG Band with Wahnyé, Ebony Empress, LYTE, and CIIO The Artist. DJ King Kembe closes out a high-impact Friday night celebration.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 – GRAND CASE & CARIBBEAN NIGHT

Saturday brings racing and rhythm to Grand Case at Les Temps des Cerises, complete with live race commentary and a buzzing DJ atmosphere. The afternoon begins at 4:00 with DJ



Tharon at the Fountain Stage.

The tempo rises with your host, MC Gee Money, setting the tone for an electric night of entertainment. The energy builds as DJ Eyedol and Speyenol take control of the decks, followed by a dynamic performance from the Funtopia Dance

Group. The crowd keeps moving with live music from Johnny Guy before the vibe shifts seamlessly back to the turntables with DJ Classy D.

The Sugar Apple Band brings vibrant island flair leading into high-energy sets by DJ Pauly, before the Aruba-born headliner Jeon takes the stage.

The momentum continues as Miss Leila teams up with Ice T, and then it's “Time to Grind” with BRG Hollywood. Closing out the night in style, DJ KillerZ, official DJ for Kalash, keeps the energy soaring and the dance floor packed.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 – REGGAE NIGHT FINALE

The final day brings afternoon racing excitement at Mullet Bay Beach, followed by a reggae-powered grand finale. At 4:00 PM, Connis Vanterpool and friends open the Fountain Stage. DJ EM carries the rhythm into the Final Prize Giving at 6:30 PM.

The evening intensifies with KRG Band performing with Nolrez, then with Tanya Michelle & Adrien Nicasio, and then again with D Kullus before DJ

Outkast gets behind the turntables.

Then the moment we are all waiting for! The legendary reggae group Inner Circle headlines the night, delivering timeless hits and pure island energy, followed by the sounds of DJ Blaze. The highly-anticipated 46th St. Maarten Heineken Regatta closes with DJ Big Boss and Maestro, ensuring the celebration ends on a high note.

Entry to the Regatta Village is free until capacity is reached and entertainment starts at 4:00 PM daily. So, come early to enjoy great music, food, and of course ice-cold Heinekens – and upgrade your night with Ultimate VIP for the best way to experience the Regatta atmosphere in comfort and style. VIP tickets and tables are limited, so quickly secure your spot via booking. heinekenregatta.com

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The 46th St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, taking place from March 5 to 8, is ready to bring world-class sailing, music, and unforgettable island energy back to St. Maarten – and this year, locals and visitors alike can elevate their Regatta experience with Ultimate VIP access at the Regatta Village at Port de Plaisance.

Open Saturday, March 7, from 6:30pm to 2:00am, and Sunday, March 8, from 6:30pm to 2:00am, the Ultimate VIP Deck offers great views and VIP comfort – the perfect way to enjoy the biggest nights of the Regatta without the crowds.

Ultimate VIP tickets are available for \$175 per person, offering access to the VIP Deck with the best views of the stage and festival grounds, plus a welcome drink on arrival, light snacks served during the evening, and a semi-

open bar including beer, wine, seltzers, and sodas. Guests also enjoy added comfort with access to a private VIP restroom, making it the perfect upgrade for those who want to enjoy the Regatta atmosphere in style while staying close to the action.

For the ultimate group experience, Ultimate VIP Tables are available at \$2,750 per table (\$750 table fee plus \$2,000 minimum spend), accommodating up to 10 guests with reserved seating all night in an exclusive roped-off section of the VIP Deck with the best views. Tables include bottle service, complimentary beer, wine and seltzers, welcome drinks, light snacks, and dedicated table hosts, along with private VIP restroom access. With only four tables available per night, these tables offer the most premium way to experience the Regatta with friends, family, colleagues or clients.

Saturday night brings an

exciting Caribbean line-up led by Aruban artiste Jeon, whose hit Bluewave became the anthem for Curaçao's historic World Cup qualification, alongside DJ Killerz, Kalash's official DJ, St. Maarten's very own BRG Hollywood, and local favourites DJ Eyedol & Speyenol, Johnny Guy, DJ Pauly, DJ Classy D, and Sugar Apple Band.

On Sunday, the legendary reggae band Inner Circle, known worldwide for Bad Boys and Sweat, closes the Regatta in style, joined by D Kullus, Nolrez, Wahyné, DJ Outkast, DJ Blaze, DJ Big Boss, DJ Maestro, and DJ Em, while the final prize-giving ceremony, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, celebrates the sailors who journey from around the world to compete in our waters.



Ultimate VIP tickets for Sunday are officially sold out. A limited number of Saturday Ultimate VIP tickets remain, along with a small selection of VIP tables for both nights. With demand at an all-time high, and only four tables available per evening, now is the time to secure your spot

and experience the Regatta at the highest level. Book now before they're gone.

Entry to the Regatta Village is free until capacity is reached. Entertainment starts at 4:00pm daily, so come early to enjoy great music, food and, of course, ice-cold Heinekens. And

upgrade your night with Ultimate VIP for the best way to experience the Regatta atmosphere in comfort and style.

VIP tickets and tables are limited, so to secure your spot, book via booking.heinekenregatta.com

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The Headliners on Sunday: Inner Circle



For anyone familiar with the band's global popularity and its reggae-history of 50+ years, there's far more to Inner Circle than meets the eye. This Jamaican-bred, Grammy-winning quintet is one of the world's most respected reggae groups, with a string of successes dating back to the mid-1970s. Their signature blend of pop-infused Jamaican rhythms and

high-energy live performances has allowed them to transcend the traditional reggae niche and achieve worldwide crossover appeal.

We interviewed the band's lead singer, Roger Lewis, to dive deeper into his journey, inspirations, and insights from decades in the music industry.

1: What inspired you to start making music?

Listening to the radio was my first inspiration, but what really changed everything was going to my first live concert in Jamaica. I was only eight years old, and after that experience, I completely fell in love with music.

2: How has your sound or

style evolved over the years?

We've always stayed true to our roots – the foundation of reggae music. Of course, there are outside influences from different genres over time, but we remain grounded in reggae, which carries a message. Our music is about peace, love, and positivity. No matter how things evolve, that core stays the same.

3: Can you tell us about some of the artistes or experiences that have influenced your career?

In the early days, R&B had a big influence on us – artistes like Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, and The Four Tops. Later on, I admired musicians like Carlos Santana, Sly and the Family Stone, James Brown, and Prince. And, of course, reggae legends shaped us – Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, The Wailers, Alton Ellis, Barrington Levy, Bob Andy, and so many others. Those artistes helped define the sound and spirit of reggae.

4: What has been one of the biggest lessons you've learned in the music industry?

Ownership – that's the biggest lesson. When you create something, when you sweat and fight to make music, you need to protect it. If you enter into partnerships without understanding the business, you can lose creative control. Others can make decisions about your work, and they get paid first while you get paid last. Own your publishing. Own as much as you can. Maintain creative control. And, most importantly, avoid bad contracts. Know what you're signing.

5: What motivates you to keep creating and perform-

ing?

It may sound cliché, but it's true – we love music. We love the camaraderie. Performing is who we are. It's better to be doing what you're meant to do than trying to be something you're not. Music is in our blood.

6: How do you approach writing or creating new music?

Ideas can come from anywhere – a personal experience, a conversation, a situation you find yourself in. Sometimes you hear something and think, "Wow, that's powerful." Then you're inspired to create something just as strong, or even stronger. Creativity comes in many ways. Inspiration is everywhere if you're open to it.

7: Is there a particular song or project that feels especially meaningful to you?

One of the most meaningful experiences was playing on Bob Marley's first international album, *Catch a Fire* in 1971 – the first Island Records release that brought Bob Marley global fame. We played on the track "Stir It Up." Working with Bob, Bunny, and Peter was an incredible experience and a memory I'll always cherish.

8: How do you balance staying true to yourself while evolving as an artist?

Everyone should aspire to stay true to themselves. Fame can influence you – sometimes in good ways, sometimes in bad ways. For us, it's about being conscious and grounded day by day. Staying connected to your roots helps you navigate growth without losing yourself.

9: What can fans expect from your music this year?

We recently released a song

called "Stay Strong," inspired by the hurricane damage that impacted about 30% of Jamaica. It's a message of resilience and unity, encouraging Jamaica to stay strong.

10: How would you describe your live performance style?

Entertaining and uplifting. When we perform, we want people to dance, feel happy, and have a great time. At the same time, a few songs might make them reflect on social, economic, or political realities. But above all, we promote universal love – one universe, one love. It may sound simple, but treating each other with genuine respect and kindness is powerful.

11: How does performing in the Caribbean compare to other places?

Caribbean audiences deeply understand reggae. They know the roots style and truly connect with the culture. The response in the Caribbean is always special – sometimes even stronger than anywhere else in the world. African audiences also connect deeply, but in the Caribbean, reggae is part of the culture. It's the heartbeat of the people.

12: What advice would you give young artistes trying to break into the industry?

You have social media now – that's something we didn't have. It gives you a powerful platform to build your audience. Believe in your craft. Learn your instruments – piano, guitar, the fundamentals of music. Believe in yourself, work hard, and keep pushing forward. Stay focused and never stop fighting for your dream.

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JEON IN CONCERT: ALL ABOUT ENERGY AND CONNECTION

“If my songs can lift someone up or make their day better, then I’ve done my job.”

Aruban sensation Jeon is one of the bright stars gracing the stage in the upcoming St. Maarten Heineken Regatta. Jonathan Thiel, a passionate and accomplished musician, composer, and producer, continues to spread the island’s pride through music, and is a proud ambassador for the ABC Islands and the region. His talents continue to bring him exciting opportunities and recognition in the region and beyond, having performed with major stars and earning him multiple Latin Grammy nominations. One of his most recent songs, “Blue Wave”, became an overnight sensation – a powerful anthem that is carrying the Curaçao football team through to the World Cup.

“My live performance style is all about energy and connection. I love engaging with the audience – singing with

them, dancing with them, and feeding off their vibe,” he told The Daily Herald in the lead up to the Heineken Regatta. “I bring a mix of smooth vocals, island flavour, and high movement, so every performance feels like a celebration.”

He describes his musical journey as a blessing – a mix of discipline, inspiration, and nonstop growth. “Coming from Aruba, I’ve always carried my island’s identity with me, and that has shaped the way I write, perform, and connect with people. Every stage of my career has taught me something new, and I’m grateful that my music keeps reaching fans across the Caribbean and beyond.”

Music has always been a part of Jeon’s life. He was born into a family of musicians and started learning the piano from his father at the age of eight. Besides the piano and the lyrical prowess that he has become known for, he’s also



mastered many instruments including bass, cuatro, wiri, and conga. “Growing up, I was surrounded by rhythms – Caribbean sounds, Latin influences, and global music that shaped my curiosity. I started making music because it was the only thing that truly felt natural to me. It became my way of expressing emotions and telling stories people could relate to.”

Emotion is in fact what he leans into when creating new music. “I always ask myself: ‘What am I feeling, and what do I want people to feel?’

From there, I build melodies and rhythms that capture that vibe. Sometimes, inspiration comes from personal experiences, sometimes from the world around me, but I always try to keep the process honest and organic. I hope my music leaves people feeling connected and inspired. Whether it’s joy, strength, nostalgia, or motivation, I want listeners to walk away with something real. Music is powerful, and if my songs can lift someone up or make their day better, then I’ve done my job.”

Experimenting with different genres early on in his music journey helped him to develop a unique blend of Caribbean flavour, urban energy, and melodic sensibility. Over the years, he has continued to become more confident and refined in his style and approach. He also describes becoming more intentional with his lyrics, production choices, and the messages he wants to share through his music.

Connection is definitely what he enjoys the most when it comes to performing on stage. “There’s nothing like seeing people sing your lyrics back to you, feeling the rhythm together, and sharing a moment that’s real and unforgettable. Performing on stage reminds me why I chose music — it’s where everything comes alive.”

And that’s exactly the energy that you should expect when he hits the stage for the Heineken Regatta. He is looking forward to the performance, represent-

ing Aruba on such a bug stage – recognising it as one of the Caribbean’s most iconic events. “The Regatta brings together culture, music, and energy from all over the world, and I’m proud to bring my island’s flavour to that celebration.”

The artist continues to focus on releasing new music and exploring fresh collaborations. “I’m working on projects that push my sound forward while staying true to my Caribbean roots. Fans can expect a lot of movement this year—new songs, new visuals, and new moments to share together.” And fans, your support means everything. “My career has grown because people believed in my music and shared it with others. Every message, every show, every voice singing along—those moments keep me moving. I’m grateful for the love, and I never take it for granted.”



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Interview with **LYTE** 2026 Heineken Regatta

On Friday, March 6, the main stage will be ignited by a performance by LYTE with the KRG Band. This interview provides insight into his personal journey in the music industry.

1. How has your sound or style evolved over the years?

In the beginning, I was a part of the Odd Brothers and the music was mostly rap, where we would attempt to sound like Americans. Today, I have shifted to soca, zouk, and afro and I'm more focused on pushing the St. Martin accent as it's easier for me to be natural.

2. What has been one of the biggest lessons you've learned in the music industry?

Nobody is coming to save you, it's important to know the ins and outs of the music business, and learn to do things for yourself outside of just creating music.

3. How do you usually approach writing and creating new music?

I stopped writing around the COVID pandemic time-period. I usually say the first thing that comes to mind on the mic and then build from that. So, basically, I would record a line, step out the booth to think for a minute, and then go back in to record another line until the verse is done. It's less pressure, more organic, and works best for me.

4. How do you balance staying true to yourself while also evolving as an artiste?

That's the most difficult part, especially on a multicultural island like St. Martin where we are influenced by so many different sounds and styles of music. I try to create what feels natural to me. I try to stay up-to-date with whatever is current and adapt it to my flows or instrumentals.

5. What do you enjoy most about performing on stage?

My favourite part of performing would be seeing people be free and letting loose – that's how I personally feel on stage. Seeing the crowd singing along word for word to my songs is also an amazing feeling.

6. Do you approach festival performances differently than club or concert shows?

Club performances are more limited for me; it's usually just me and D'Mitri. I rather perform with my band just for the live aspect, I get more freedom on bigger stages and it creates a better experience for the fans.

7. What does performing at the Heineken Regatta mean to you?

The Heineken Regatta stage has been on my bucket list for a few years now. I believe it's the only stage on the island I haven't been booked to perform yet, so this performance means a lot to me. The crowd is different to what I'm accustomed to, so I'm excited to display my music on March 6.

8. How does performing in the Caribbean compare to other places you've performed?

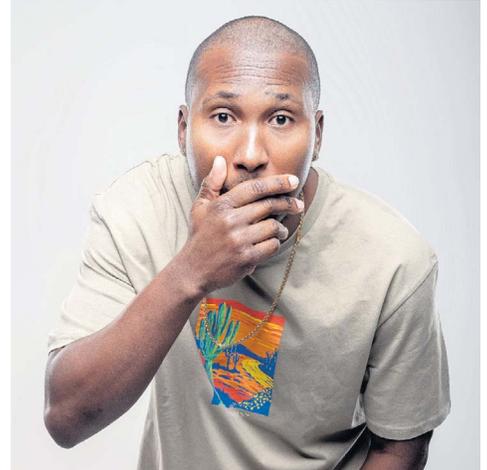
The crowd is tougher in the Caribbean [laughs].

9. What message do you hope your music leaves with listeners?

I just want to be as relatable as possible. I want listeners to feel like a personal connection with my lyrics no matter the topic.

10. What advice would you give to young artistes trying to break into the industry?

To any upcoming artiste, my advice would be to set short, realistic objectives for yourself; lock in; stay focused; and don't take anything personal.



Spotlight shines on Cherienne Bardfield

St. Maarten's local rock band, Fire Coral, will take the stage for Regatta this year on Friday evening, March 6. Tune in to this interview for a closer look into the band and its lead singer Cherienne Bardfield.

1: How would you describe your musical journey so far?

My journey has been a real growth story. In the beginning, I was focused on

getting everything perfect – lyrics, vocals, stage look, every detail. Over time, I learned that the magic is in balance. I still take the craft seriously, but now I'm much more comfortable on stage, more confident with the mic, and more present in the moment.

Every show teaches you something. You deal with sound issues, you improvise, you adjust to the

crowd, and you learn how to connect. That connection is the part I love most, and it's what keeps the whole thing exciting.

2: What inspired you to start making music?

Music always felt like the most honest way to express what I couldn't always put into regular conversation. It was a space where emotion makes sense and where you can turn life into something

people can feel together. I also grew up watching how a song can shift someone's mood instantly. That power stuck with me. I wanted to be part of that.

3: Who are some artistes or experiences that have influenced your career?

I'm influenced by artistes who are strong vocally, but also fearless on stage – the kind of performers who can make a crowd feel like one



Serious Fun Saturday BRG Hollywood & DJ KillerZ

The countdown is on for one of the most anticipated nights of the Regatta – Saturday, March 7. It will be a night of serious fun, a celebration of rhythm, culture, and high energy. Electrifying the stage as the headliners are BRG Hollywood followed by DJ KillerZ.

Guiding the vibes from the very first beat of the evening will be our dynamic local, Gee Money, setting the tone with his unique charm, charisma, and crowd interaction. Earlier in the evening will be a special set by Ice T with Miss Leila. Hailing from Saint-Barthélemy, Miss Leila is a talented DJ and singer whose sound is rooted in heritage and heart.

Raised in a musical family and inspired by her late father, Miss Leila brings a deeply personal touch to every performance. Her sets are a vibrant fusion of zouk, kompa, dancehall, shatta, bouyon, and soca. Her collaboration with Ice T will provide a true Caribbean soundtrack designed to move both body and soul.

BRG Hollywood – Bouyon's Rising Star

Born in Atlanta and raised in St. Maarten, BRG Hollywood is one of the Caribbean's most exciting emerging voices in Bouyon – his high-energy, carnival-rooted genre that was born in Dominica and is now capturing global at-



tention.

Though he officially stepped onto the scene in March 2025 with his debut performance at Nowhere Special in St. Maarten, BRG's rise has been nothing short of explosive. In under a year, he has graced major stages including Bacchanal Sunday (SXM), All Day In Festival (Guadeloupe), Breakfast Fete (Dominica), and One Love Festival (Paris).

With infectious hooks, an



electric stage presence, and influences ranging from Playboi Carti to DJ MJ, BRG Hollywood delivers a performance that's hype, clean, and unifying. His mission is clear: Push Bouyon forward while staying true to its Caribbean roots. With a debut EP slated for Carnival 2026, he's just getting started and March 7 will be another major milestone.

DJ KillerZ – The "Killer of Bad Vibes"

Closing out the night in spectacular fashion is internationally renowned Caribbean powerhouse DJ KillerZ. Originally from Martinique, DJ KillerZ has become one of the most influential Caribbean DJs of his generation. Known for his showmanship and eclectic style, he has built a reputation for instantly connecting with audiences worldwide. He enjoys spreading joy, love, and pure positive energy through every set. It's a philosophy that earned him his iconic nickname: "Killer of Bad Vibes."

Since launching his career in

the mid-2000s, DJ KillerZ has taken his sound from the Caribbean to major cities including Paris, London, Montreal, New York, Barcelona, Budapest, and Saint Barth. As the official DJ for Kalash since 2016, he has performed on some of the biggest stages in Europe, including Olympia (2017), Bercy (2022), Accor Arena (2025), La Cigale (2025), and the historic Stade de Dillon in Martinique before more than 23,000 fans.

He has also shared stages with global stars such as Vybz Kartel, Gims, Dadju, Shenseea, Ne-Yo, Aya Nakamura, and Koffee, further cementing his international status. Beyond the decks, his production success – including the viral hit Comptine Pour Pussy with over 5 million YouTube views – showcases his ability to create music that unites crowds worldwide. From solo shows at the Hippodrome de Vincennes to launching his own Golden Caribbean Festival, DJ KillerZ continues to elevate Caribbean music on the global stage – and he's bringing that world-class energy straight to the Heineken Regatta.

From the powerful hosting of Gee Money, the soca sounds of DJ Miss Leila and Ice T, to the explosive performances by BRG Hollywood and DJ KillerZ, our Caribbean culture meets international flair at Regatta Village this Saturday!

big moment. I'm also influenced by the energy of live bands that bring real rock intensity but still keep it melodic and fun.

Experience-wise, performing in the Caribbean has shaped me a lot. Crowds here are honest. If they feel it, they're with you. If not, you know. That pushes you to bring your best every time.

4: What motivates you to keep creating and performing?

Connection. When you look out and see people singing along, dancing, or just fully locked in, it reminds you why you do it. I'm also motivated by growth. Each performance is a chance to improve; each new song is a chance to say something better than I said before. Music keeps me moving forward.

5: Where do you draw inspiration from when creating songs?

Real life. Relationships, pressure, joy, heartbreak, healing, all of it. I try to write from a place that's honest but still uplifting. There's so much music out there with dark, negative, or toxic messages. I prefer to focus on love, strength, hope, and solutions. I want the words to land in a way that motivates people or helps them breathe a little easier.

6: How would you describe your live performance style?

High-energy, interactive, and feel-good. We're pop-rock with an edge, and the goal is always to create a vibe where people can sing, move, and let go. For the Regatta, we're bringing a powerful set of crowd favourites like Foo Fighters, Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Police, Kings of Leon, plus a few surprises and originals to show what Fire Coral is really about.

7: What do you enjoy most about performing on stage?

Crowd participation – 100 percent. Whether people are singing along, dancing, clapping, or shouting out a lyric, that energy feeds the band. It turns the performance into something shared, not just something we're doing "at" the crowd. It becomes one big exchange.

8: How do you prepare mentally and creatively before a performance?

A couple of solid rehearsals really boost my confidence. When I know the band is locked in and I'm comfortable with the lyrics and cues, it frees me up to perform instead of overthink. Mentally, I try to arrive grounded, hydrated, and focused. Then once we hit the first song, it's all adrenaline and trust.

9: What does it mean to you to perform at the Heineken Regatta?

It's a full-circle moment. It's been almost 25 years since I last performed at the Heineken Regatta, so coming back now feels special and, honestly, a little emotional. The Regatta is iconic on St. Maarten. It's not just a gig; it's a cultural moment where locals and visitors all celebrate together. Being part of that again is an honour.

10: What kind of energy are you bringing to the Regatta stage?

Big, positive, and unforgettable. We're coming with good vibes, a solid band and a set that keeps moving. We want people singing the choruses, dancing through the hits, and leaving feeling lighter than when they arrived. Fire Coral is about bringing people together through music, and the Regatta is the perfect place for that.

SERIOUSLY FUN EATS & TREATS

Heineken Highlights Local Cuisine

The sails won't be the only thing drawing crowds to the village this year. Spectators, sailors, captains, and party-goers may arrive thirsty, but they'll want to bring their appetites, too. The 2026 St. Maarten Heineken Regatta promises an unparalleled culinary line-up, showcasing some of the island's most loved food trucks and exciting new flavours.

Captain's Rib Shack – Bold Caribbean BBQ

Recently crowned #1 for Best BBQ, Captain's Rib Shack is setting sail for the Regatta with its food truck – Captain's Flavors. Known across the island for mouth-watering, fall-off-the-bone ribs slow-cooked over a wood-fire grill, this Simpson Bay favourite is bringing its signature smoky Caribbean flavours straight to the festival grounds. All "meals" are served with fries and coleslaw. Come for the race, stay for the ribs – and discover why Captain's remains the island's go-to for legendary BBQ!

Captain's Flavors will be serving all weekend long with a Regatta-exclusive street food menu:

- Tacos – Chicken, shrimp, or beef, perfectly seasoned and packed with flavour.
- Loaded Fries – Smothered in crave-worthy toppings of beef, chicken and shrimp.
- Ribs & Fries – Signature ribs with crispy fries and coleslaw.
- BBQ – Flame-grilled jerk wings or Orgasmic Ribs.

Ceviche Central – A fresh Dutch-Latin fusion

Making its Regatta debut, Ceviche Central introduces a vibrant blend of Dutch comfort food and bold Latin flavours – a menu as dynamic as the event itself.

At the heart of the menu is authentic Peruvian ceviche crafted by Ms. Raquel. Guests can choose fresh mahi-mahi or succulent shrimp, marinated in citrus, herbs, and spices. Bright, refreshing, and full of flavour, it's the perfect dish for sunny race days and lively evenings.

Balancing the Latin flair are beloved Dutch specialties:

- Hotdogs made with authentic smoked rookworst
- Dutchdogs featuring classic frikandels



No festival is complete without dessert, and Ceviche Central will also serve soft-serve Italian ice cream in five irresistible flavours: Chocolate, Vanilla, Coffee, Strawberry, and Mango.

For founder Nila Hoogenboezem, this marks an exciting milestone. After participating in the Regatta since 2009, this year will be her first year running a food stand but it's only the beginning of what promises to be a growing culinary venture.

Delmas 31 – Taste the diversities

Making its Regatta debut, Delmas 31 brings bold Caribbean fusion street food to the forefront. Known for reinventing island classics into crave-worthy creations, this dynamic pop-up brand continues to build a loyal following both locally and online. If there's one thing Delmas 31 is known for, it's unforgettable flavour and fully loaded creations that keep crowds coming back for more.

Signature favourites include:

- Oxtail & Jerk Chicken Eggrolls with their famous "O.G. Sauce."
- Loaded Oxtail Plantain Fries or Plantain Boat.
- Honey Rum Chicken Fries.
- Voodoo Loaded Fries topped with conch and shrimp.

Domino's Pizza – a Regatta favourite returns

Domino's Pizza is ready to fuel the festivities once again and they are excited to support the Heineken Regatta with their beloved pizza truck. Recently crowned #1 for Best Pizza, they are thrilled for another year of great food and serious fun.

At the Regatta, Domino's will be serving up a variety of Sint Maarten's favourite pizzas (big slices and by the box) wings, stuffed cheesy bread, pastas, and sandwiches. If you are looking to grab a quick bite while enjoying the festivities, Domino's is the perfect stop for all of your cravings. Come by, grab a slice, and fuel up for another incredible Heineken Regatta experience!

La G terie SXM – Gourmet dessert truck

La G terie SXM brings handcrafted sweetness back to the Regatta. Specializing in gourmet cupcakes, custom cakes, and cupcake bouquets, this island favourite is known for flavour, quality, and beautiful presentation.

After proudly serving the community for five years – and participating in the 2024 Regatta – they're excited to return in 2026 with even more indulgent creations. For founder Letizia Flanders, desserts aren't just a business, they're a passion.

Jamillean On Wheels – Bursting with island flavour

A proud participant for the past four years, Jamillean is back for the 46th edition of the Regatta, bringing its signature blend of local and international cuisine to the heart of the celebration.

Known for serving up flavourful, filling dishes packed with island soul, the Jamillean Regatta menu will feature crowd favourites like juicy burgers, crispy wings, savoury kebabs, fresh fish, and hearty steak & fries – all prepared with the bold taste they're famous for. And when it comes to standout dishes – simply put, everything.

Not new to the island and not new to the Regatta scene, Jamillean has built a strong following over the years. In addition to their Regatta presence, they also operate from their established location across from the former Carousel in Cole Bay.

Memento – Fresh island seafood

New to the Regatta, Memento is a charming seafood truck serving fresh, island-inspired seafood dishes. It's set to become a must-visit stop for seafood lovers looking to savour ocean-fresh ceviche and flavours in the heart of the action.

Mousse BBQ – Smok-ey favourites

Looking for bold Caribbean BBQ with local flair, plan to visit Mousse BBQ Food Truck during the Regatta. Known island-wide for its generous portions and rich, home-style flavours, this food truck has become a go-to destination for both locals and visitors craving authentic smokehouse goodness. Mousse BBQ delivers comfort food with island soul.

At the heart of Mousse BBQ's menu is its signature BBQ chicken, perfectly grilled and slathered in a tangy, Creole-style sauce that's packed with flavour. Pair it with classic sides like Johnny cakes or scalloped potatoes.

P tes-atra – Italian street food makes waves

Bringing something entirely new to the Regatta, P tes-atra introduces handcrafted Italian street food with heart. Specializing in fresh pasta bowls and homemade sauces, P tes-atra highlights bold Mediterranean flavours including vegetarian options. Their signature experience features hot pasta tossed inside a hollowed wheel of aged Parmesan, melting into a creamy, indulgent coating that clings to every strand.

It is comfort food elevated and perfect between races. Located year-round in Hope

Estate, this rising culinary venture is poised to become one of the must-visit vendors of the 2026 Regatta.

Taste of Joy

Taste of Joy is a popular food truck and local vendor serving creole-style Caribbean barbecue and comfort fare with bold, home-style flavours from fresh ingredients. It's known for grilled meats and laid back vibes, often spotted at markets, waterfront spots, and festivals like the Gastronomy Festival.

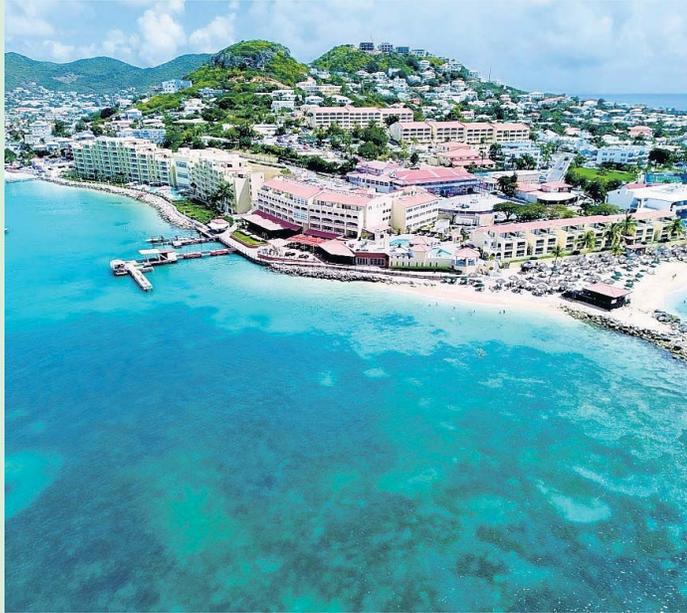
Taste of Joy even placed well in private chef/BBC competition events celebrating island food culture.

Shieka's Bistro

This year will feature Shieka's Vegetarian & Caribbean Cuisine, a casual Caribbean bistro serving authentic local dishes like jerk chicken, oxtail, rice & peas, and veggie options at reasonable prices for hearty home style meals.

From smoky BBQ and Dutch-Latin fusion, to Caribbean street food, fresh seafood, gourmet desserts, and indulgent Italian pasta, the 2026 St. Maarten Heineken Regatta isn't just a celebration on the water, it's a celebration of flavour. So come hungry and ready to have some Serious Fun!

SIMPSON BAY RESORT MARINA & SPA



There is no better place to celebrate the Regatta weekend than at Simpson Bay Resort Marina & Spa. Enjoy front-row dining, ice-cold Heineken and unbeatable views during the world-famous St. Maarten Heineken Regatta. The Resort is in the heart of Simpson Bay Beach, where most of the starting line markers and finish lines are set.

Spectators are welcome, and the action unfolds right before you. Make it a complete weekend escape by staying at the island's recently voted #1 resort.

Set along an expansive beachfront, Simpson Bay Resort blends comfort and relaxation with spacious suites, tranquil pools, and upscale amenities. It is perfect for couples, friends, crew, and sailing enthusiasts looking to experience the Regatta in style with their BEER PROMO ALL DAY – from

Thursday, March 5, to Sunday, March 8. This promotion is all day, so it includes brunch, lunch and dinner.

Order any main course at one of the resort's participating restaurants and receive two complimentary Heineken beers with your meal:

La Patrona: Located directly on the water, La Patrona was recently voted #1 Best Mexican Food and #2 Best Latin Food on the island. With panoramic Caribbean Sea views, vibrant Mexican cuisine, and signature margaritas, it is the ideal setting to enjoy the races in style. During Regatta weekend, every main course includes two Heinekens – the perfect pairing for bold

flavours and ocean views. Be sure to save room for dessert.

Reservations: 1-721-544-2503 ext. 5500

Replay Sports Bar: As the sun sets, Replay Sports Bar becomes the go-to destination for cocktails, great food, and lively evenings. It is the perfect place to celebrate the day's races with friends, great energy, passion for sports, and your two included Heinekens.

Reservations: 1-721-544-2503 ext. 5513

Juliette's Bistro: Start your morning at Juliette's Bistro with a relaxed and inviting brunch. Known for its cosy atmosphere, hearty breakfast favourites, and freshly brewed coffee, Juliette's Bistro is the perfect way to ease into another exciting day of Regatta action. And on Regatta weekend, it is never too early to enjoy your two complimentary Heinekens with your main course.

Reservations: 1-721-544-2503 ext. 5520

Watch and experience the races up-close and sail into the action with Aqua Mania Adventures for an even more immersive experience. Their spacious catamarans offer front-row access to this legendary four-day sailing spectacle for just US \$50. Choose between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM sailing adventure options.

After your time on the water, return to any participating restaurant at Simpson Bay Resort Marina & Spa, leave the stress behind, and prepare for a Regatta weekend filled with racing, entertainment, amazing views, waterfront dining, and refreshing Heineken Beers!

Heineken Green Zone Rainforest Adventure Park

As part of the regatta weekend celebrations, the official Heineken Green Zone Edition, powered by Sole Luna on Saturday, March 7, takes place at Rainforest Adventure Park, Emilio Wilson Park, Philipsburg. This special collaboration marks the only electronic dance music event included in this year's Green Zone programming, bringing an elevated sunset-to-moonrise experience to one of the island's most scenic hilltop venues.

The event runs from 3:00 to 9:00pm, with guests encouraged to arrive early to experience the full sunset atmosphere and international DJ line-up. The final lift up to Sentry Hill will be strictly enforced with a cut off at 6:00pm, and attendees are advised not to arrive late.

This edition features an international line-up alongside local talent. Colombian progressive house artiste, KhoMha, known for appearances at Tomorrowland, Ultra Music Festival, and A State of Trance, will headline the event. Joining him is Miami-based DJ LUCCIO, recognized for his residency at the iconic Club Space and performances across major global festivals like EDC, Ultra

& Tomorrowland.

Representing Sint Maarten is local DJ Ajay Raw, who continues to build an international presence while remaining rooted in the island's evolving electronic music scene. His sound blends Afro-progressive Carib house, tribal rhythms, IndoIndo house, and melodic influences shaped by both his Caribbean and Indian heritage. Opening the event will be up-and-coming female artiste, SINNER-G, kicking off at 3:00pm.

The experience will once again feature panoramic views, curated décor, and the renowned Funktion-One sound system and light show that have become synonymous with the SoleLuna events at Rain Forest Adventures. Advance tickets are strongly recommended and available online via the SoleLuna ticketing site and official social media channels. VIP table reservations are also available in limited quantities.

With Regatta energy in full swing and capacity capped, Green Zone organizers anticipate another sold-out hilltop celebration under the Soualigan sky.



whale monitoring continued from pg.11

According to the scientist, a GTI M36 hydrophone – which has a flat response over the frequency range to be analysed, and which will include baleen whale vocalisation and dolphin echolocation – will be used.

Data will be recorded using a JASCO Ocean Sound Monitor (OSM) which has automated detectors capable of identifying potential whale and dolphin vocalisations, including whistles, tonals, clicks, and pulses, among others.

The OSM consists of three main components: the hydrophone, a deck top case with electronics, and a laptop. The hydrophone is connected to the pelican case via a single cable. A load bearing line will be connected to the hydrophone cable with a catenary system with minor

weight and buoyancy and ensure the hydrophone stays at depth.

The laptop and pelican case are connected via an ethernet cable. The OSM and laptop can be connected to 120 V power to extend monitoring endurance. The hydrophone can be hand deployed over the side of the vessel.

JASCO's in-house acoustic analysis software PAM lab will be used. The software can be used for real-time analysis and review of detections as well as analysis of recordings after deployment. This technology will permit greater awareness to the presence of vocalizing whales and dolphins.

As the data are processed, if a signal exists that meets certain conditions that indicate a whale or dolphin vocalisation is present, the software identifies that section. And

the user can review to confirm or reject the vocalisation. These technologies provide greater situational awareness.

"My career has been focused on balancing concerns about the environment with human activities," commented Senior Scientist and Project Manager, Sam Denes. "By providing greater knowledge, stakeholders can make more informed decisions.

"By leveraging passive acoustic monitoring, we are enabling greater stewardship of the environment from these events. We can provide information that can support decisions that will increase safety for participants and marine life. It's a win-win and I am excited to be a part of this endeavour"



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